

Minutes

Name of meeting	FULL COUNCIL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2017 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Charles Chapman (Chairman), Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Paul Bertie, Bob Blezzard, Rodney Downer, David Eccles, Paul Fuller, Conrad Gauntlett, Jonathan Gilbey, Luisa Hillard, John Hobart, Alan Hollands, Richard Hollis, John Howe, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, Phil Jordan, Gordon Kendall, Geoff Lumley, John Nicholson, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Richard Priest, Bob Seely, Shirley Smart, Ian Stephens, Dave Stewart, Steve Stubbings, Ian Ward, Ivor Warlow, Roger Whitby-Smith, Chris Whitehouse,
Apologies	Cllrs Ray Bloomfield, John Medland, Wayne Whittle

49. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meetings held on [18 January 2017](#) and [1 February 2017](#) be confirmed.

50. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Councillor Phil Jordan declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 54, as his wife ran a domiciliary care business on the Isle of Wight. He was not present during the discussion and voting thereon.

Councillor Ian Stephens declared a non pecuniary interest in Minute 54, as his partner worked in social care field linked directly to the Isle of Wight Council.

Councillor Graham Perks declared an interest in Minute 54, as he was a local business man in Ventnor.

A question was raised as to whether Councillor Jordan should leave the chamber as his group believed that his not being present would significantly impact on the outcome of the vote relating to the budget.

The Monitoring Officer advised that it was a matter for a member to determine whether they had an interest and whether therefore they could remain and take part in the meeting or not.

51. **Public Question Time**

Questions were put to the Chairman as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Stephen Hastings of Newport	Asked a question in relation to the Solent Devolution Deal.	The Executive Member provided a written response which was available on the following link (PQ 02/17)
Ian McKie of Totland	Was not in attendance to ask his question on the Transport Infrastructure Taskforce.	The Executive Member provided a written response which was available on the following link (PQ 03/17)
Christopher Quirk of Shanklin	Asked a question in relation to the Shanklin Lift.	The Executive Member provided a written response which was available on the following link (PQ 04/17)

52. **Adjournment**

Members asked for a 5 - 10 minute adjournment whilst clarity was sought on a member's potential interest.

53. **Chairman's Report**

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information.

54. **Suspension of Council Procedure Rule 14(4)**

A proposal to suspend Council Procedure Rule 14(4) was proposed and seconded, which would extend the time limit on speeches from the Leader of the Council and Group Leaders. Following the vote it was

RESOLVED:

THAT Procedure Rule 14(4) be partially suspended for the duration of the following item of business to increase the time limit on speeches from the Leader of the Council and Group leaders (or their nominees) to up to 15 minutes.

55. **Budget and Council Tax Setting 2017/18 and future years forecasts**

Members were advised there had been some typographical and technical amendments to the two amendments to the budget and to Appendix B of the report. Corrected copies had been circulated to all members prior to the start of the meeting.

Council had received a report from the Leader of the Council and the Executive Member for Corporate Resources on the 2017/18 Budget and Council Tax Setting Report. A number of amendments were received from other members, which were all debated.

The Leader spoke on the budget proposals recommended by the Executive.

The Leaders of the other groups then spoke in turn on the budget proposals.

Other members of the council also made comment on the budget proposals.

The leader and all other group leaders summed up.

- (1) The motion attached at [Appendix 1](#) (attached to and forming part of these minutes) was then moved by Councillor Dave Stewart and duly seconded.
- (2) The amendment to the motion attached at [Appendix 2](#) (attached to and forming part of these minutes) was then moved by Councillor Julia Baker-Smith and duly seconded.

A named vote was taken the result of which was as follows :

For (12)

Councillors Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker-Smith, Rodney Downer, Paul Fuller, Luisa Hillard, John Howe, Gordon Kendall, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Shirley Smart, Ian Stephens, Ivor Warlow, Roger Whitby-Smith,

Against (18)

Councillors Paul Bertie, Bob Blezzard, David Eccles, Conrad Gauntlett, Jonathan Gilbey, John Hobart, Richard Hollis, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, John Nicholson, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Richard Priest, Bob Seely, Dave Stewart, Ian Ward, Chris Whitehouse

Abstention (3)

Councillors Reg Barry, Alan Hollands, Geoff Lumley

The amendment fell.

- (3) The amendment to the motion attached at [Appendix 3](#) (attached to and forming part of these minutes) was then moved by Councillor Geoff Lumley and duly seconded.

A named vote was taken the result of which was as follows :

For (16)

Councillors Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Rodney Downer, Paul Fuller, Luisa Hillard, Alan Hollands, John Howe, Gordon Kendall, Geoff Lumley, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Shirley Smart, Ian Stephens, Steve Stubbings, Ivor Warlow, Roger Whitby-Smith

Against (18)

Councillors Paul Bertie, Bob Blezzard, David Eccles, Conrad Gauntlett, Jonathan Gilbey, John Hobart, Richard Hollis, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, John Nicholson, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Richard Priest, Bob Seely, Dave Stewart, Ian Ward, Chris Whitehouse

Abstention (0)

The amendment fell.

- (4) Voting was taken on the substantive motion as shown at [Appendix 1](#) (attached to and forming part of these minutes) as follows:

For (18)

Councillors Paul Bertie, Bob Blezzard, David Eccles, Conrad Gauntlett, Jonathan Gilbey, John Hobart, Richard Hollis, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, John Nicholson, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Richard Priest, Bob Seely, Dave Stewart, Ian Ward, Chris Whitehouse

Against (16)

Councillors Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Rodney Downer, Paul Fuller, Luisa Hillard, Alan Hollands, John Howe, Gordon Kendall, Geoff Lumley, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Shirley Smart, Ian Stephens, Steve Stubbings, Ivor Warlow, Roger Whitby-Smith

Abstention (0)

RESOLVED :

THAT COUNCIL agree

- a) The revised Revenue Budget for the financial year 2016/17 and the Revenue Budget for the financial year 2017/18 as set out in the General Fund Summary Appendix A (attached to and forming part of these minutes);
- b) Any underspendings for 2016/17 arising at the year-end (after allowing for specific carry forward requests) be transferred to the Transformation Reserve, Revenue Reserve for Capital (to increase the Capital Resources available) and General Reserves (to improve overall financial resilience) with the level of each transfer to be determined by the S.151 Officer;
- c) Any variation between the provisional and final Local Government Finance Settlement for 2017/18 be accommodated by a transfer to or from General Reserves;

- d) That the level of Council Tax be increased by 1.99% for general purposes in accordance with the referendum threshold⁵ for 2017/18 announced by Government (as calculated in Appendix B attached to and forming part of these minutes);
- e) That the level of Council Tax be increased by a further 3.0% beyond the referendum threshold (as calculated in Appendix B attached to and forming part of these minutes) to take advantage of the flexibility offered by Government to implement a "Social Care Precept"; and that in accordance with the conditions of that flexibility, the full amount of the associated sum generated of £2,182,200 is passported direct to Adult Social Care;
- f) That the amounts set out in Appendix B (attached to and forming part of these minutes) be now calculated by the Council for the financial year 2017/18 in accordance with Section 31 and Sections 34 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992;
- g) The S.151 Officer be given delegated authority to implement any variation to the overall level of Council Tax arising from the final notification of the Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Parish and Town Council precepts and amend the calculations set out in Appendix B (attached to and forming part of these minutes) accordingly;
- h) The savings proposals for each Portfolio amounting, in total, to £7.5m for 2017/18 and continuing into future years as set out below:

Portfolio / Service	Savings Proposal	
	£	% Budget
Adult Social Care and Public Health (Adult Social Care)*	3,084,100	6.6%
Adult Social Care and Public Health (Public Health)	397,000	5.8%
Contract Management & Car Parking**	889,300	20.8%
Environment, Fire and Local Engagement (Environment)	14,000	0.7%
Environment, Fire and Local Engagement (Fire and Rescue Service)	350,000	5.3%
Planning, Tourism, Recreation and Culture	437,100	7.3%
Regeneration, Housing and Transport	103,000	9.6%
Resources & Children's Services (Children's Services)	1,196,200	4.7%
Resources and Children's Services (Resources)	1,029,300	8.3%
Grand Total	£7,500,000	6.7%

* Excludes the additional funding passported through the Adult Social Care Precept of £2.2m and additional funding for the Care Act of £0.2m.

**** Excludes £19.4xm of PFI Grant funding, on a Gross expenditure basis the saving amounts to 3.8%.**

- i) Directors be instructed to start planning how the Council will achieve the savings requirements of £19m for the 3 year period 2018/19 to 2020/21 and that this be incorporated into Service Business Plans;
- j) The minimum level of Revenue Balances as at 31 March 2018 be set at £5.0m to reflect the known and expected budget and financial risks to the Council;
- k) Members have regard for the Statement of the Section 151 Officer in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 as set out in paragraphs 96 to 115 of the report (attached to and forming part of these minutes);
- l) The Capital Programme 2016/17 to 2021/22 set out in Appendix E (attached to and forming part of these minutes) which includes all additions, deletions and amendments for slippage and re-phasing;
- m) The "Funded Schemes" as described in Appendix D be reflected within the recommended Capital Programme 2016/17 to 2021/22 and be funded from the available Corporate Capital Resources;
- n) The "Financed Schemes" as described in Appendix D (attached to and forming part of these minutes) are approved in principal, reflected within the recommended Capital Programme 2016/17 to 2021/22 and financed from Prudential Borrowing but subject to the approval of a Commercial Property Investment Strategy setting out the risk based parameters within which such acquisitions should take place;
- o) The allocation of £1,584,113 of Disabled Facilities Grants be made to the Better Care Fund, and reflected within the recommended Capital Programme 2016/17 to 2021/22;
- p) The Prudential Indicators relating to the Capital Programme as described in Appendix F (attached to and forming part of these minutes);
- q) The S.151 Officer be given delegated authority to determine how each source of finance is used to fund the overall Capital Programme and to alter the overall mix of financing, as necessary, to maximise the flexibility of capital resources used and minimise the ongoing costs of borrowing to the Council;
- r) That the S.151 Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council be given delegated authority to release capital resources held back for any contingent items that might arise, and also for any match funding requirements that may be required of the Council in order to secure additional external capital funding (e.g. bids for funding from Government or the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership).

56. Reports of the Executive Members

(i) The Leader and Executive Member for Strategic and Community Partnerships, and Public Protection

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Leader as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Bacon	<p>In a press release dated 15 February 2017 it stated a report had been commissioned on a solution to re-open the Undercliff road to traffic. Understood there were two reports in progress at the moment, one on the economic impact on the loss of Undercliff Drive and the other was an assessment of third party proposals to alleviate drainage issues. I asked officers if there was a report underway in relation to re-opening the road to motor traffic and was told there was no report of that nature under consideration. Would the Leader care to comment?</p> <p>Supplementary - Asked if the leader believed the press statement was misleading?</p>	<p>The Leader indicated the position with Undercliff Drive, which had a significant budget implication for the Isle of Wight Council. It had to be shown that opening the Undercliff Drive would have an economic benefit. Bournemouth University would undertake a survey of the 7,000 homes and business across the Undercliff. Dr Bruce Denness had put forward feasibility as to how the Undercliff problem around the drainage could be addressed; once the road was suitable repairs could be made. There would not be a third report until the first two were completed, as either one of those reports could show that it wouldn't go ahead. He believed the survey would vindicate the economic benefit to the Isle of Wight. The Leader replied, no he didn't.</p>
Cllr Baker-Smith	<p>A paper was considered at an extra-ordinary meeting of the executive which invited the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to join the Fire Authority. The legislation relating to this was due to be formally adopted from 1 April 2017. The Act</p>	<p>The Leader reminded the councillor that it was something that the previous administration, of which she was a member, had asked to be put on the Forward Plan. The interim administration had honoured that request and followed it through.</p>

Name	Subject	Comment
	indicated the PCC could only join the Fire Authority on his request, what constituted a formal request.	

(ii) **The Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources**

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Deputy Leader as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Barry	Undercliff Drive - would the executive member agree that if the last Tory administration had done the work as designed and not given back the £14m, which amounted to lowering the water table in five different places, it wouldn't be in the situation it was now?	The Deputy Leader indicated it wasn't his portfolio, advised he didn't necessarily agree.

(iii) **Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health**

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Executive Member as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Nicholson	Did the executive member deplore the poor and inadequate mental health services and did he recognise the impact on our health and wellbeing was greater in social and economic consequence than would be incurred by properly addressing the issues offered through the poor mental state.	The Executive Member endorsed those concerns; there was a need to work more vigorously with partners in the voluntary and statutory sectors to address those concerns.
Cllr Stubbings	STP re the cost of patient care transport - asked for clarification in regard to the executive members specific position in relation to any future STP plans and proposals coming forward in relation to the cost of	The Executive Member indicated he needed to get to grips with whatever negotiations happened in the past and would report back in due course through his reports to full council.

Name	Subject	Comment
	transportation for people on the Isle of Wight accessing services on the mainland.	
	Supplementary – would the executive member support an STP which did not allow some consideration to be given for Isle of Wight people the extra cost involved of accessing services on the mainland	The Executive Member believed the council needed to be actively involved in the process to ensure the plan recognised the need of islanders and put in place appropriate finances for island residents if they needed to go off island.
Cllr Hollands	Before devolution all off sea islands in Scotland had a reduced fare charge to and from the mainland, and they had a package for the Scilly Isles. We were the only off sea island which did not get a package for reduced transport costs to and from the mainland, therefore under the Discrimination Act we could challenge the government.	The Executive Member agreed.
Cllr Lumley	STP - could the executive member countenance seeing the downgrading and the de-valuing of St Mary's Hospital and the services it provided to islanders	The Executive Member indicated he thought St Mary's was absolutely vital to the island.

(iv) **Executive Member for Children's Services**

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Executive Member as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Bacon	Was the executive member concerned about the cuts in school funding?	The Executive Member referred the member to paragraph 2 of his report. He was unhappy over the detail and had had several meetings to discuss the issue. He would be working up a submission which would be unique to

Name	Subject	Comment
	Supplementary - were any schools facing, or likely to be facing any financial difficulties and how would government proposals affect the situation?	the island, and would use every avenue to get it right. The Executive Member indicated on current figures all the high schools would attract increased funding as would some primary schools. Due to some technicalities, a number of primary schools would not. A point would be made to government that the formula they sought to apply did not quite deliver the goods for the island.
Cllr Nicholson	Did the executive member recognise the essential link that needed to be forged between education establishments and employers so that employment needs were better and properly addressed and career opportunities realised and fulfilled.	The Executive Member indicated it would be one of his highest priorities, he believed there was a need for greater engagement between island employers, schools and colleges.
Cllr Hillard	When your group released a press release stating that the conservative group would guarantee within the next four years all schools on the island would be rated at least good, with 25% rated outstanding, was it the view of Hampshire officers that it was the natural and predicted direction of travel based on the hard work of teachers, officers and the work of the previous executive member?	The Executive Member advised he could not express a view on what was in the mind of Hampshire officers. He was sure the leader of the council took advice from both the director of children's services and the chief executive before proceeding. The executive member had had a number of meetings with the director of children's services and was confident there was a very able, focussed and competent team in place. Yes, he believed those targets were deliverable.
Cllr Whitby-Smith	Had the executive member had time to compare the standards of attainment of	The Executive Member advised it was difficult to assess attainment of 370

Name	Subject	Comment
	the 370 home schooled children against their peers in the schools system?	home educated children. The same performance standards and levels outcome was expected from home educated children. The executive member wanted to ensure that the island had the best possible schools, which would then be less of an incentive for parents to home educate.
Cllr Kendall	Was the arrangement with Hampshire due for review in 2018 and would the executive member ensure island officers were capable of running the service or was the it executive members intention to abdicate the education service entirely to Hampshire, along with everything else?	The Executive Member reminded members he had stood for election because of the poor record under a previous administration, that had acted with the best intentions and hadn't been able to deliver, that was why the executive member was in politics on the island and that is what he would deliver.

(v) **Procedure Rule 26**

A proposal to extend the meeting by up to 30 minutes was proposed and seconded.

RESOLVED:

THAT the meeting be extended by up to 30 minutes.

(vi) **Executive Member for Major Contracts Management**

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information.

A written question was put to the Executive Member as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Bob Seely	Asked about the change in height and camber of roads, following re-surfacing, puts their properties at increased risk of flooding.	The Executive Member provided a written response which was available on the following link (MQ 01/17)

Name	Subject	Comment
	Supplementary - would the executive member continue to push Island Roads and share their e-mails with the member?	The Executive Member indicated he would.

Oral questions were put to the Executive Member as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Barry	Asked if the executive member would share those e-mails with all members?	The Executive Member indicated he would.
Cllr Hillard	<p>Asked questions relating to the islands verge cutting schedule.</p> <p>Was the executive member consulted on the press release?</p> <p>Did he believe the policy already existed?</p> <p>Did he believe the amended verge cutting policy was implemented during his time as an executive member?</p> <p>Supplementary - clarify why the policy wasn't implemented and why the policy wasn't brought forward sooner?</p>	<p>The Executive Member indicated he was aware of the press release. He had worked on the policy with others and had discussed with Island Roads a regime of reducing the cutting on verges.</p> <p>There was an issue that the policy was never formalised.</p> <p>The Executive Member reminded the member that he was not the portfolio holder at the time.</p>
Cllr Gauntlett	On-going problems in Havenstreet and Asheys, not getting anywhere with the Contract Management team.	The Executive Member would investigate.
Cllr Stubbings	<p>Was the executive member in charge of the Undercliff situation?</p> <p>Were you consulted fully?</p> <p>Was it the policy of this administration that the road would be re-opened or was it just Cllr Stewart's personal view?</p>	The Executive Member indicated he did speak with the Leader regarding it and reminded the member he had put forward a paper in 2014 as part of his previous executive role that was to investigate options and related to opening up that particular road.

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Warlow	Integrity Register and outstanding matters not being delivered.	The Executive Member would contact the Contract Management team dealing with Traffic regulation Orders. Had no mechanism in place to assess the requests, there was now a system in place based on a points scoring system which would allocate each individual request. The executive member hoped to see a hard list that could be worked from.
Cllr Baker-Smith	Would you agree there were a number of issues the previous executive member had been negotiating, one of which was the verge cutting contract?	The Executive Member was aware the contract was not perfect and if there was an issue there which needed to be formalised.

(vii) **[Executive Member for Planning, Housing and Homelessness](#)**

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Executive Member as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Stubbings	Syrian refugee situation - you indicated in your report 'the administration would never go back on the agreement the previous administration had signed up to' would it be a view that you held in all matters of the current administration and its relationship with the previous administration?	The Executive Member indicated it was not for him to speak on behalf of other Executive Members. He was not aware of any issue he would choose to go back on.
Cllr Bacon	What support was given to the Dark Skies initiative?	The Executive Member indicated it was the council's role to provide the framework to fit the Dark Skies agenda.

Name	Subject	Comment
	With regard to actions in other areas, which of those might be implemented on the Island?	Actions were not known at this time but officers had been tasked with finding out and when known would report back to members.
	What effect had the upgrade of streetlights to LED's had on the Dark Skies initiative?	LED lights were much better because of the reduced light spillage and the gaining of Dark Skies status had improved as a result of the installation of those lights.
	Were you aware that the present LED lights did not fit the contract requirements and that any upgrade may be brighter?	Any upgrades that did not fit the Dark Skies agenda would be a matter for the Highways PFI and not Planning to ensure that they were suitable.
	What strategies and things were being put in place to support the Regeneration Strategy? With regard to developer contributions for small sites, was the executive member aware that Developers were extremely concerned around proposals on developer viability?	Any issues regarding the Regeneration Strategy would be dealt with as and when and they arose. Officers have been asked to look at the proposed 2% again as it appeared too low and would affect the delivery of affordable housing.

(viii) **[Executive Member for Regeneration](#)**

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Executive Member as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Baker-Smith	Have you been able to meet with any of the marine businesses under threat in East Cowes in relation to a move to Kingston Marine Park as well as confirm how the development of the land to support the Marine Industry would be paid for and would it have been prudent to set aside the	The Executive Member had not met with any of the businesses to date but stated that she was always open to talk. A written response would be provided in relation to the rest of the question.

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Hillard	money within the capital programme given the available ASDA receipt in order to undertake that development? How do you propose to work with the Planning Department to amend local policy to address this perceived vulnerability to socially and economically important Marine industries?	The Executive Member advised she needed to look at this very carefully. The marine sector was one that the Solent LEP did support so I'm hoping we could again work with those partners to develop this very important industry.

(ix) **Procedure Rule 26**

A proposal to extend the meeting by up to 30 minutes was proposed and seconded.

The proposal fell.

CHAIRMAN