

# Minutes



## Council

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Date: 28 July 2015

Time: 5.00 pm

Present: Councillors H Thomas (Chair), M Al-Nuami, D Atwell, R Bright, P Cockeram, M Cornelious, K Critchley, V Delahaye, M Evans, C Ferris, D Fouweather, E Garland, G Giles, J Guy, P Hannon, D Harvey, I Hayat, P Huntley, R Hutchings, R Jeavons, C Jenkins, M Kellaway, M Linton, D Mayer, S Mlewa, R Mogford, J Mudd, R Poole, M Rahman, J Richards, M Spencer, C Suller, T Suller, K Thomas, E Townsend, R Truman, T Watkins, M Whitcutt, R White, K Whitehead and D Wilcox

Apologies: Councillors O Ali, T Bond, E Corten, D Davies, C Evans, C Maxfield, A Morris, N Trigg and D Williams

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### 1. Preliminaries

#### Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor informed Members that he had been pleased to host the annual visit by children from Belarus. He thanked all those involved in the organisation of the visit and those elected members who had participated and generously donated.

The Mayor mentioned that he had been informed that this was possibly the last opportunity for this visit but expressed hope it would continue. The Mayor thanked Mr and Mrs Doyle who had worked so hard on these events over the years.

### 2. Minutes

Two drafting errors were corrected. Subject to those amendments, the minutes of the meetings of the City Council held on 28 April 2015 and 26 May 2015 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor

### 3. Appointments

The following appointments were agreed:

Body	New appointee	Replacing
Scrutiny Committee: Street Scene, Regeneration and Safety	Cllr Margaret Cornelious	Cllr Martyn Kellaway
Planning Committee	Cllr Ken Critchley	Cllr Paul Hannon

Licensing Committee	Cllr Debbie Harvey Vacancy	Cllr Allan Morris Cllr Sally Mlewa
SACRE	Two Vacancies	Cllr Sally Mlewa  Cllr Omar Ali
Newport Wastesavers	Cllr Deborah Davies	Cllr Emma Garland
Drainage Board	Cllr Deborah Davies	Mrs Helen Truman
Jerome Gatehouse Trust	Cllr Mark Spencer ( Armed Forces Champion)	To join Cllr Ferris as a Council nominee

#### 4. **Police Issues: Police and Crime Commissioner ( 30 minutes)**

The Mayor welcomed Mr Ian Johnston the Police and Crime Commissioner and Mrs Shelley Bosson, the Chief Executive of the Commissioner's Office to the meeting for a question and answer session

In response to Councillor Jeavons's concerns about a non – pursuit policy and the issue of off road motor bikes, the Commissioner stated that teams were available to pursue people causing issues in this way. He was very complimentary about police liaison in the Liswerry area. He said he would raise issues in the ward with local officers.

Councillors Fouweather was concerned that the Leader of the Council had not been consulted on the proposal for a designated area for prostitution in the Pill area. The Commissioner explained his understanding of the history and chronology of how this issue had emerged and had received press interest despite the fact that this was only being considered as a possibility among alternatives. His view was that this was not a proposal and had serious doubts that there would be any progress in Newport. The Leader of the Council clarified that he was not consulted at any point, that he had not agreed any press statement and there was no information on the issue from Senior Police Officers.

Councillors Whitehead also expressed concerns about the issue and how it had emerged following discussions with other agencies. The Commissioner repeated that he would be very surprised if the project proceeded

The Commissioner agreed with Councillor Cockeram and Councillor Hannon that this was a matter that impacted on very vulnerable people and that there was the issue of protecting vulnerable people that needed to be addressed. He also agreed with Councillor Guy that this was matter which would benefit from the involvement of a range of agencies working together

The Commissioner agreed with Councillors Matthew Evans and Poole that it was important that safety in the City Centre was a priority, particularly as the Friars Walk development neared completion. The Commissioner stated that an Inspector for the City Centre had been appointed with this specifically in mind and he would work with local councillors on this issue.

Councillor Rahman was concerned about verbal abuse of Muslim women wearing head scarves in Newport. The Commissioner mentioned dedicated hate- crime officers to help alleviate this national problem. He mentioned the new victim's hub in Blackwood and said it was an issue the police was alive to. It was important for all incidents to be reported. Information on the Hate Crime Officer would be circulated to members.

Councillor Mlewa was concerned about press reports about the issue of 12 year old children working in the sex industry in Newport. The Commissioner stated that this was reported to the press by an individual member of the public and not to the police. He responded to Councillor Mlewa by saying that agencies were working together to address the issue and it was important that any such incidents were reported. Councillor Mlewa pointed out this was a child safeguarding issue. The Commissioner agreed that if this was happening it was an issue for agencies to address. The Commissioner informed Councillor Linton that the person who had made the comment to the press was not providing any further information

The Commissioner acknowledged that Police had not attended Community Council meetings in Langstone for some time. This had now been addressed. He considered that would lead to a better service in Langstone and allow local issues to be raised locally.

Councillor Truman was concerned about the impact of reduced funding on the number of police on the streets. He asked whether there had been any plans to increase the powers of PCSO's. The Commissioner was of the view that the powers of PCSO's were unlikely to be extended. The Commissioner mentioned that by 2020 the police budget could be cut by 50%. Gwent would recruit 60 officers in the next three years but this would be achieved without any additional funds. A review of the supervisory staff had been undertaken but fewer officers was likely to be the outcome of diminishing resources.

In response to Councillor Spencer's concerns, the Commissioner informed Councillors of improvements to technology that were aimed at improving the existing 101 service.

In response to Councillor Critchley, the Commissioner explained why the funding provided for PCSO's could not be diverted to recruit police officers owing the funding and grant arrangements.

The Commissioner agreed with Councillor Huntley that the local PACT meeting in Caerleon had been a success. He was hopeful that the move to 'Your Voice' would resolve the engagement issues in the ward. He also stated that concerns about antisocial activities would be reported to local officers and that dispersal orders had been successful in specific areas.

Councillor Harvey was very concerned about drug dealing in the ward area. The Commissioner stated he would raise this locally

## **5. Annual Report by the Director of Social Services**

The Council was presented with the Director of Social Services' Annual Report

The Director stated that the year 2014/15 had been a period of great challenge and also opportunity for Social Services staff and for people who had been receiving our services. He referred to the under-spend achieved in the service area in the 2014-5 financial year. He also referred to the significant improvement against targets and key indicators

The Service had faced the challenges of significant budget reductions at a time of increasing need. Newport's population is growing quickly and indicators for deprivation in Newport show that we have some of the highest rates of vulnerable children and adults in Wales.

The Director referred to the risk to our preparedness for the Social Services and Wellbeing Act and ability to deliver statutory duties from the potential threat of unprecedented cuts and any decision by Welsh Government to protect Health and Education.

In terms of demographics, the Director reported a predicted 2% increase in children and young people in the city aged 0-18yrs and a 14% rise in the number of adults aged 70yrs+ by 2020. He also pointed out that the Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation showed that Newport ranked fourth highest in terms of rates of deprivation.

Details of performance against indicators were provided. The quality of service provision as determined by inspections was also set out in detail.

Despite having improving and mostly good performance indicators across Social Services, there had been areas of poor practice discovered during the year. The youth offending service and social work services for older people with complex needs had received critical inspection reports and work was being done to turn these services around as quickly as possible.

The introduction of an integrated pathway was a priority. This would provide a seamless continuum of services designed to promote good outcomes for vulnerable people.

Details of the successful older people's integrated pathway were described to members. Work with the Local Education Authority on an integrated learning pathway was also described. This initiative brought together services such as education welfare; behaviour support, inclusion, and education psychology are now either devolved or are working closely into school clusters.

The Director also provided information on proposals for the Children and Families integrated pathway and the Team around the Cluster.

The Director referred to work carries out and continuing to develop a regional approach through effective partnerships

In conclusion the Director stated that, despite the challenges faced, the evidence indicates:

- Children's Services continue to maintain good financial management and upward trend of performance.
- It has a strong vision for prevention and early intervention that is integrated with acute prevention through IFSS.
- It is tackling poor performance in the Youth Offending Service
- Children's Services will be ready for the implementation of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (2014) which is set for April 1<sup>st</sup> 2016.

Adult Services has now recovered from the financial and performance crisis of 3 years ago.

- There has been steady improvement in performance and budget management.
- There needs to be further improvement in service delivery to ensure both improved quality and consistent performance that is better than the Wales average.
- Readiness for the new Social Services + Wellbeing Act requires further work

The Director answered members' questions about:

- The impact of funding reductions on progress towards improvements and on services to vulnerable people
- The positive impact of increased funding being provided in 2014
- The work being done to integrate mental health services into a shared partnership

- The potential impact on Council Services and the work that is being done on those services that find themselves below the Welsh Average or in the bottom quartile
- The promising messages of the integrated pathways initiatives
- Concerns about the Youth Justice Service report and the progress made to date
- The need to manage demand and reduce the number of people who need services to help mitigate the impact of reduced funding on vulnerable people
- The need to make headway to lift people out of deprivation
- The need for the Council to be part of a multi- agency response to helping protect vulnerable people
- The excellent initiative Barnardo's
- The well treated residents at our care facilities
- The need to enhance working relationships with Health, particularly in times of financial difficulties

### **Resolved**

To receive and accept the Director of Social Services Annual Report

## **6. Annual Report by the Democratic Services Committee**

The Chair of the Democratic Services Committee reported that the Committee is required by the Local Government Measure to provide the Council with an annual report.

The Chair of the Committee presented the Committee's report setting out the activities of the Committee in the past year of operation.

He reminded members that the Council had extended the remit of the Committee beyond that which was set out in the Local Government Measure and said that this had been continued to be a real success.

He considered that the Committee had worked well in a non- partisan way and thanked officers for their support.

### **Resolved**

To received and endorse the Annual Report by the Democratic Services Committee

## **7. National Non-Domestic Rates: Discretionary Relief: Wales Retail Relief Scheme 2015-16**

The Council was informed that Welsh Government had made available funding to billing authorities to continue in 2015-16 the Wales Retail Relief Scheme that was first introduced in 2014-15. The Council's allocation of funding amounts to a maximum of £691,814.

The Scheme sets out the various categories of retail premises that will benefit from relief. Broadly the premises included are those that have a rateable value of £50,000 or less; are occupied; and are wholly or mainly used as shops, restaurants, cafes and drinking establishments. (These categories are intended to cover premises that are being used for the sale of goods and/or services, or food and/or drink, to visiting members of the public).

The means of making the awards of rate relief is the Council's discretionary powers under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. The Council is required to make a formal determination (Section 47(1)(a)) and decision (Section 47(3)) to adopt the scheme so that this discretionary power may be exercised by the Head of Finance under delegated powers. The Council is reimbursed for the Rates income foregone as a result of the Scheme when calculating monies to be paid over to the Welsh Government 'pool'.

The Wales Retail Relief Scheme forms part of a package of Welsh Government measures available to support business and reflects the Business Rates Panel's advice that Wales should maintain a competitive business rates regime. The extension of the scheme for 2015-16 sits alongside other recent decisions in that context, such as the extension of the Small Business Rates Relief Scheme until March 2016.

In 2014-15, 343 awards of Retail Relief were made to Newport businesses, at a maximum of £1000.00 per premises. A total of £291,770 was awarded. In 2015-16, the maximum award increases to £1,500.00 and it was expected that a similar number of businesses will benefit. Ratepayers are required to apply in writing and invitations will be sent to all premises that appear, from their Valuation Office Agency description code, to qualify. Awards must be made by 31 March 2016.

### **Resolved**

To adopt the Welsh Government's Wales Retail Relief Scheme for 2015-16 by making the appropriate determination and decision, as required by Sections 47(1)(a) and 47(3) respectively of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, and set out in the Appendix to this report.

## **8. Licensing Act 2003: Revised Statement of Licensing Policy.**

The Cabinet Member for Regulatory Functions, Councillor Pool, informed members that the Council has to review the Statement of Licensing Policy every 5 years.

The Cabinet member stated that the existing policy had proved extremely satisfactory and has guided applicants, officers, and more importantly, the Licensing Committee, in the consideration and determination of applications.

The intention of the new policy was to make it more helpful in the way it is set out for applicants and anyone wishing to make representations. Changes had also been made to ensure the Policy complies with updated guidance and regulations from the Home Office that have come in since 2011.

The Licensing Committee supported these changes and it has been out for consultation to the trade, the public and responsible bodies such as Gwent Police and the Health Board

### **Resolved**

To adopt the revised 2015 Statement of Licensing Policy Licensing under the Licensing Act 2003.

## **9. Questions to the Chair of the Cabinet**

Two questions were submitted to the Chair of the Cabinet. The details of the questions and the Leader's responses are set out in Appendix A

## **10. Questions to Cabinet Members**

Three questions were submitted to Members of the Cabinet. The details of the questions and the Cabinet Members' responses are set out in Appendix B

## **11. Questions to Chairs of Committees**

There were no questions to the Chairs of Committees on this occasion.

12. **Appendix A- Questions to the Chair of the Cabinet**

***COUNCIL MEETING : 28 July 2015***

**Question to: Chair of the Cabinet**

**Question from: Cllr M Evans**

**Subject: Extra Mile Awards Evening**

Question 1

**Question:**

As you are no doubt aware, the previous administration stopped the Councillors annual dinner and replaced it with an event to celebrate the outstanding work of community volunteers and council staff, which had gone beyond the call of duty. The Extra Mile Awards, as it became known, proved an outstanding success with many businesses more than happy to sponsor a table as the event expanded. At its peak more than 200 people attended the celebration at the Celtic Manor at a cost of just over £20 a head which generated an enormous amount of goodwill, at a time of severe financial constraint. I am convinced it would have become self-financing over a short period of time. Even with current costs, to put it into some perspective, it's roughly equivalent to the cost of one Cabinet member you added for about 12 weeks. Can you tell this Council when the formal decision was taken to stop this prestigious event, the rationale behind this, and do you have any plans to reinstate it, bearing in mind you had already told this council previously, you had no plans to stop it ?

**Answer:**

May I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his revitalised performance. Since January 2013 to date I have received no questions at Council. I am not clear if Councillor Evans is revitalised after his year as Mayor or as he has been selected to fight the Assembly election

The difficult decision to reduce expenditure on the Mayoralty and events, including the cessation of the awards ceremony was taken by the Cabinet and Council as part of the budget process last year.

I answered Councillor Ferris in June 2012 saying that I intended to continue with the awards. I did so and was able to continue the awards ceremony until 2014. The Council however took the view as part of the budget round that funding for the mayoralty and events should be reduced as I mentioned earlier and the report showed that one proposal was not to continue with the event.

The public and all members of the Council were consulted on the proposals, as part of the wide –ranging consultation we carried out. There was support from the public for reduction of expenditure in this area.

There were no alternative suggestions to this proposal from Members, nor did it form part of the amendment presented to Council.

It is intended that extra mile awards will be presented at Council and I would encourage any nominations to be forwarded to the Mayor's Office for consideration.

***COUNCIL MEETING : 28 July 2015***

**Question to: Chair of the Cabinet**

**Question from: Cllr M Evans**

**Subject: Newport Transport**

Question 2

**Question:**

In June 2014 you were asked a question about Newport Transport and outstanding dividend payments owed to the Council, estimated at the time to be around £300,000's. You indicated that they would pay the outstanding amounts in instalments, as and when cash-flow allowed, and their financial position was expected to improve. In light of the recent announcement that Newport Transport has lost the Schools contract, do you still share that optimism? Can you also tell this council how much of the dividend has been repaid over the past year, and what amount is outstanding?

**Answer:**

The declaration of a dividend to the Council is a matter for the Board of Directors of Newport Transport and, under Company law, they can only pay a dividend to shareholders where there is sufficient profit. Although dividends have been paid in the past, there have been no dividends paid by Newport Transport to the Council for a number of years because their financial position and level of operating profit has meant that it has not been appropriate for the company to declare any dividends.

Therefore, there is no outstanding dividend, as such, due to the Council. The figure to which you refer was a budget pressure within Streetscene which occurred when the dividends ceased, and this has since been addressed through the Council's budget management.

I can only repeat what the Managing Director of Newport Transport told the Cabinet in May 2014 – that the Company are confident that their financial position will improve, particularly when the new Bus Station in Friar's Walk is opened, and they will then be in a position to resume the payment of annual dividends to the Council.

Although the loss of the school transport contract will inevitably have some impact on the Company, this is not their main area of business, and we were advised that the main cause of their current financial position was the significant reduction in Central Government transport support grant for non-commercial bus routes.



13. **Appendix B- Questions to Cabinet Members**

***COUNCIL MEETING : 28 July 2015***

**Question to: Cabinet Member for Education & Young People**

**Question from: Cllr D Fouweather**

**Subject: Youth Offending Services**

Question 1

**Question:**

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of probation led an independent inspection of Youth Offending Work.

Newport was chosen because of a sustained rise in the frequency of reoffending was accompanied by high levels of first time entrants into the youth justice system. In fact Newport had the highest per thousand figures of children in custody in any local authority in Wales.

There were three key themes emerging from the inspection.

The management of the board was weak, had insufficient oversight of the work of the service and did not offer effective challenge

The Management team within YOS was fragmented and ineffective

The YOS had over a number of years drifted away from the primary focus of the core work of a criminal justice service being on offending and reoffending and instead was directly offering a welfare model of provision.

Would the cabinet member now agree with me that this is a damning and damaging report?

Would she now give a detailed account to council of what action has been taken to ensure that this never happens again?

Can she tell me if the Chair of the YOS board has been disciplined and if not why not?

**Answer:**

As the current Cabinet Member for Children and Young People I acknowledge that the inspection report presented an unacceptable picture of performance at the time of the inspection in April and June 2014 and I thank the member for asking these questions which will allow me to put on the record the strategy we have developed and the actions we have put in place to rectify the situation. At the time of the feedback from the inspection all involved fully accepted the findings and agreed the imperative had to be to learn from the mistakes of the past and ensure that moving forwards improvement was the only option.

The report reflected the practice at the time of the inspection which took place for one week in April 2014 and then a second week in June 2014. The inspection acted as a catalyst to review the YOS at all levels – strategically, managerially and operationally.

At all levels the practice of the YOS partnership has been scrutinised by not only the management team but all of the partner agencies, and the Local Management Board including the political representatives on that Board. The journey of improvement has been closely monitored by the Youth Justice Board. The process of improvement and change has taken time and the YOS continues to require a high level of vigilance to sustain the changes and fully embed improvement.

There is no quick fix to overcoming the challenges it is facing – but incrementally and collectively we are dealing with those and are on a different journey. The Youth Justice Board has confirmed both orally and in writing that the direction of travel has changed and they are encouraged by recent progress.

There is a detailed Improvement plan, which has been developed in response to each of the recommendations made in the report of which there were 12. This is reviewed by the Management Board and the Youth Justice Board to ensure that actions are being progressed – and evidence is being provided to both the Board and to the Youth Justice Board to

evidence this. I meet personally with the YOS manager on a regular basis and I am apprised of any challenges or barriers which need attention. There is an open dialogue taking place between the YOS management team and board, and a concerted effort is being made by all to make improvements and provide a better and more effective service to the children who offend, their families, their victims and their communities.

Within this overarching improvement plan are a series of smaller action plans which deal with specific issues for example there is one owned by the police to improve their overall 'contribution' to the YOS and one by the Education service which seeks to improve the education, training and employment work being undertaken. All elements of the improvement plan are reviewed on a monthly basis between the new YOS manager and the respective leads and then reported back to the management board. As areas of practice in need of development are highlighted through internal audits and such like, so plans are developed to respond to those. All of these are reported to the Board.

At a strategic level, a successful conference took place last September that has led to increased discussion, challenge and participation at Board meetings - it is not a passive board and we hold each other, and the YOS to account.

Managerially, the YOS has restructured, 50% of the management team has been replaced; roles and responsibilities have been reviewed and amended; managers have had group and individual coaching and are now working as a team which was an area highlighted at the time of the inspection. A raft of new meetings and processes have been introduced there is a strong emphasis on quality assurance and gatekeeping to ensure that standards are upheld.

Operationally, most of the processes and procedures have been and are being reviewed, new processes introduced; staff have had additional training and are being held to account.

Collectively the Board and YOS are doing all to support improvement. As a whole the YOS is now firmly embedded in the wider structures of Children's Services. The move from the current premises to a site with other Social Services teams and the introduction of shared administrative and management function will further embed an additional layer of checks and counter checks.

The service is due to be re inspected at any time 12 months after the publication of the last inspection report and we understand this is likely to be in September 2015 where these improvements will be embedded within practice.

The YOS Board is a multi-agency partnership and as such all members have collective responsibility for the functioning of the Board not just the Chair. The Board has been strengthened by the addition of the Director of Social Services as a Board member and the new YOS manager, Vicky Self. The Board now benefits from regularly receiving evidence-based reports on performance and now has a clear line of sight into the functioning of the YOS.

The inspection team were clear in the need for the full commitment of all partner agencies and the importance of learning to move forwards. The Board as a whole and the management team of the YOS have taken and continue to take full responsibility for the inspection. The continuity for the Board and some of the management team has been vital in ensuring a full understanding and ownership of the required journey.

My thanks to Cllr Fouweather for giving me this opportunity to explain to members and residents more fully about this issue and I would urge him to lobby his party colleagues in Westminster not to continue with the austerity agenda that puts our public services at such extreme risk and cuts funding to young people who clearly need support and help.

## **COUNCIL MEETING : 28 July 2015**

**Question to: Cabinet Member for Education & Young People**

**Question from: Cllr D Atwell**

**Subject: Education Achievement Service**

Question 1

**Question:**

The Education Advisory Service with which Newport City Council were obliged to be part of in 2012, inherited three out of the five member authorities in Special Measures following Estyn Inspections.

However, what was supposed to improve our education in Newport, has had the opposite effect for which we were all concerned at the time, and it appears that it has declined in certain areas and to quote just three examples ;-

- Foundation Phase;-performance has declined in Newport.
- Key stage 2; - Welsh (1<sup>st</sup>), mathematics and science in Newport, has declined.
- Key stage 3;- indicates Whilst performance has improved across the region and most LAs, results for the region remain below the national figures in all indicators and the overall rate of progress was slower than across Wales. However, performance declined in the CSI, mathematics and science in Newport.

Members were concerned that with Newport's standards being amongst the best in Wales in 2012, standards have now slipped.

Despite three years of the EAS taking control of our education system, there are still three Education Authorities in Special measures, and so what actions are you taking to return Newport's standards of education to what we all expect and have been used to in our past.

**Answer:**

I'm sure that Cllr Atwell will recognise, as a previous holder of this portfolio that no national comparative data, such as the national average, benchmark boundaries and family averages are available at this stage of the academic year. The response to the questions he raises that I can provide however are summaries of key performance indicators at local authority and regional level, and against targets.

I acknowledge that some areas of performance require development in partnership between the Local Authority, our schools and the Education Achievement Service – after all I always told my pupils that the biggest room in the world was the room for improvement. For Newport this includes increasing the percentage of pupils attaining the Outcome 6+ Foundation Phase Indicator and increasing Key Stage 3 Science Level 6+ performance so it is in line with the regional average. However, the 2015 performance data indicates that Newport continues to perform well against Local Authority targets and in its ranking within the regional consortia. I believe that this demonstrates an effective partnership between schools, the Local Authority and the Education Achievement Service in its early years of operation. We will however continue to keep the partnership under close review with regular meetings of the Joint Executive Group; Board meetings attended by my colleague Cllr Whitcutt and regular scrutiny attendance by senior officers of the EAS directly reporting to members. I have a comprehensive list of the data and attainment of Newport over the past three years since this administration took over in 2012 and what it shows that the commitment that we have given to provide the best possible educational opportunities for our children and young people are evidenced in the outcomes reported.

In order to meet the requirements of the time allowed in answering questions I suggest that I make this detailed data available to members in a written response instead of reading out

lists of what Newport education has achieved over the last three years but I will note the following headline successes

- Newport was the only Local Authority in the South East Wales region to meet their 2015 Local Authority Level 5 Foundation Phase Indicator target.
- Newport is performing above the regional average at both Level 4 and Level 5 attainment in KS2
- In 2014 and 2015 a higher percentage of Newport pupils obtained Level 5+ Welsh (49%) than all other Local Authorities in the South East Wales Consortium.
- Newport is above the regional average in Maths at Level 4+
- Newport is significantly above the regional average of 44% in Level 4+ Science
- The 2015 Level 6+ data places Newport above the regional average in Key Stage 3 Core Subject Indicators of English, Maths and Science

It just remains for me to thank Cllr Atwell for asking the questions that allow me to highlight the achievements of the new service and assuring the wider public that attainment for all of our pupils in Newport irrespective of background continues to be a priority for the administration – a real concern however is that in 2015-16, the Welsh budget will be nearly £1.7bn less than it was in 2010-11 as a result of the Government's cuts in Westminster and trying to maintain education spending in Newport in the face of this austerity agenda is of great concern.

I would urge Cllr Atwell to lobby his party colleagues in Westminster on behalf of Newport to ensure that public service funding, particularly education funding is not under such severe pressure and that we can continue to see the improvements of the past three years grow even further in the future.

On a final note, I will share my report I gave to the Labour Group last evening which shows the successes of Newport Education and some of the things I have done over the past few months

#### Supplementary

Councillor Atwell: Whilst Scrutiny was embodied in the document that established the EAS, I am not aware of Scrutiny taking place.

Cabinet Member: I am aware that officers of the EAS have attended Scrutiny in Newport but I agree that it is an ongoing concern for all of us to ensure that effective scrutiny takes place.

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#### Detailed Data for Members

(Circulated separately in writing)

Foundation Phase (Year 2 Data) - Pupil attainment of the Foundation Phase Indicator (Level 5+) increased from 87% in 2012 to 88% of pupils in 2015. Newport was the only Local Authority in the South East Wales region to meet their 2015 Local Authority Level 5 Foundation Phase Indicator target.

Key Stage 2 (Year 6 Data) - Pupil attainment of the Level 4+ Core Subject Indicator increased from 86% of pupils 2012 to 89% of pupils 2015. Attainment of the Level 5+ Core Subject Indicator increased from 34% of pupils in 2012 to 40% of pupils in 2015. Newport is performing above the regional average at both Level 4 and Level 5 attainment.

Pupil performance in Welsh (1<sup>st</sup> Language) at National Curriculum Level 4+ has increased between from 82% of pupils achieving the level in 2012 to 94% of pupils in 2015. In 2014

and 2015 a higher percentage of Newport pupils obtained Level 5+ Welsh (49%) than all other Local Authorities in the South East Wales Consortium.

Pupil performance in Mathematics at National Curriculum Level 4+ has increased from 89% of pupils in 2012 to 91% of pupils in 2015. This places Newport above the regional average. Pupil performance in Mathematics at National Curriculum Level 5+ has increased from 43% of pupils in 2012 to 48% of pupils in 2015.

Pupil performance in Science at National Curriculum Level 4+ has increased from 92% of pupils achieving the level in 2012 to 93% of pupils in 2015. Pupil performance in Science at National Curriculum Level 5+ has increased from 48% of pupils achieving the level in 2012 to 51% of pupils in 2015 which places Newport significantly above the regional average of 44%.

Key Stage 3 (Year 9 Data) - Attainment of the Key Stage 3 Core Subject Indicator (CSI) at Level 5+ has increased from 74% of pupils in 2012 to 82% of pupils in 2015. At Level 6, attainment of the CSI has increased from 33% of pupils in 2012 to 41% in 2015. The 2015 Level 5+ data places Newport in line with the regional average. The 2015 Level 6+ data places Newport above the regional average.

Pupil performance in Science has increased from 87% of pupils achieving Level 5+ in 2012 to 91% of pupils achieving the level in 2015. Pupil performance at Level 6+ has increased from 47% in 2012 to 52% in 2015. Level 5+ performance data for 2015 is in line with regional average and exceeded the Newport target of 89%.

Pupil performance in Mathematics has increased from 81% of pupils achieving Level 5+ in 2012 to 87% in 2015. Level 6+ performance in Mathematics has increased from 54% in 2012 to 59% in 2015. The 2015 Level 5+ data places Newport in line with regional average. The 2015 Level 6+ data places Newport above the regional average.

## ***COUNCIL MEETING : 28 July 2015***

**Question to: Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Investment**

**Question from: Cllr C Ferris**

**Subject: Central Museum and Library**

Question 1

**Question:**

Given that Newport's library provision will be centred on the use of the Museum Building in John Frost Square and given that this ageing building has structural problems, can the Cabinet Member give an estimate of how long the operational use of this building is feasible and what contingency plans have, or are to be made, to replace this building ensuring Newport's future provision of library and museum services?

**Answer:**

The Council needs to establish a better understanding of the building's structural condition before reaching a conclusion about its future. Officers have been instructed to commission a building survey to ascertain the detail required to inform the Council's position on the long term use of the building.

I would urge Cllr Ferris to campaign his party colleagues in Westminster who are responsible directly for funding to run the services for people of this city

The meeting terminated at 7.20 pm