

Agenda



Newport City Council

Date: Tuesday, 26 January 2016
Time: 5.00 pm
Venue: Council Chambers - Civic Centre
To: **All Members of the City Council**

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Item	Wards Affected
1. <u>Preliminaries</u> i. To receive any apologies for absence. ii. To receive any declarations of interest iii. To receive any announcements by the Mayor.	All Wards
2. <u>Minutes</u> (Pages 5 - 14)	All Wards
3. <u>Appointments</u>	All Wards
4. <u>Police Issues</u>	All Wards
5. <u>Notice of Motion: Trade Union Bill</u>	All Wards

To consider the following Motion to Council for which the appropriate notice has been provided

“This Council calls upon Welsh Government to seek to enforce the requirement that a Legislative Consent Motion is necessary for the UK Government’s Trade Union Bill to become law in Wales as applied to public services including local government, if necessary via court action and to with-hold such legislative consent in order to prevent the implementation of the Bill in the Welsh jurisdiction, recognising the damaging effect that the Bill would have as set out in the WLGA submission of 2nd October 2015 subscribed to by this Council. “

To be moved by Councillor Mark Whitcutt and Seconded by Councillor Gail Giles

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| 6. | <u>Council Tax Reduction Scheme</u> (Pages 15 - 20) | All Wards |
| 7. | <u>Treasury Management</u> (Pages 21 - 34) | All Wards |
| 8. | <u>Schedule / Diary of Meetings 2016 - 2017</u> (Pages 35 - 52) | All Wards |
| 9. | <u>Nomination of the Mayor 2016-2017</u> | All Wards |
| 10. | <u>Questions to the Chair of the Cabinet</u> | All Wards |

To provide an opportunity for councillors to ask questions to the Chair of the Cabinet in accordance with the Council’s Standing Orders.

Process: *No more than 30 minutes will be allocated at the Council meeting for oral questions to the Leader*

If members are unable to ask their question orally within the allocated time, remaining questions will be answered in writing. The question and response will be appended to the minutes.

The question must be addressed through the Mayor or the person presiding at the meeting and not directly to the person being questioned

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| 11. | <u>Questions to Cabinet Members</u> | All Wards |
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To provide an opportunity to pose Questions to Cabinet Members in line with Standing Orders

Process: *No more than 10 minutes will be allocated at the Council meeting for questions to each Cabinet Member.*

Members will have needed to submit their proposed questions in writing in accordance with Standing Orders. If members are unable to ask their question orally within the allocated time, remaining questions will be answered in writing. The question and response will be appended to the minutes.

The question must be addressed through the Mayor or the person presiding at the meeting and not directly to the person being questioned.

Questions will be posed to cabinet members in the following order:

Deputy Leader
Cabinet Member for Adult & Community Services
Cabinet Member for Education and Young People
Cabinet Member for HR, People & Business Change
Cabinet Member for Regulatory Functions
Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Investment
Cabinet Member for Skills and Work
Cabinet Member for Streetscene & City Services

For Information: A digest of recent decision schedules issued by Cabinet, Cabinet Members and Minutes of recent meetings of Committees has been circulated electronically to all Members of the Council.

12. Questions to Chairs of Committees All Wards

To pose questions to the Chairs of the Committees in the following order:

- I. Scrutiny Committees
 - Community Planning and Development
 - Learning, Caring and Leisure
 - Street Scene, Regeneration and Safety
- II. Planning Committee
- III. Licensing Committee
- IV. Democratic Services Committee

Process: No more than 10 minutes will be allocated at the Council meeting for questions to each Chair.

Members will have needed to submit their proposed questions in writing in accordance with Standing Orders. If members are unable to ask their question orally within the allocated time, remaining questions will be answered in writing. The question and response will be appended to the minutes.

The question must be addressed through the Mayor or the person presiding at the meeting and not directly to the person being questioned

13. Standards Committee (Pages 53 - 56) All Wards

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Minutes



Council

Date: 24 November 2015

Time: 5.00 pm

Present: Councillors D Atwell, M Al-Nuami, O Ali, T Bond, R Bright, P Cockeram, M Cornelious, K Critchley, E Corten, D Davies, V Delahaye, C Evans, M Evans, C Ferris, D Fouweather, E Garland, G Giles, J Guy, D Harvey, P Huntley, R Jeavons, C Jenkins, M Kellaway, M Linton, D Mayer, C Maxfield, S Mlewa, R Mogford, R Poole, J Mudd, M Rahman, J Richards, M Spencer and C Suller

Apologies: Councillors P Hannon, R Hutchings, A Morris and T Suller

1. Preliminaries

Minute of Silence

Members, officers and members of the public stood in silence in memory of Mrs Sue Critchley, a former Mayoress of Newport and the wife of Councillor Ken Critchley. Members, officers and Members of the staff also paid their respects to the victims of the terrible events in Paris on 13 November. The Mayor mentioned he had written to the Mayor of Paris passing on Newport's sympathy and support

Extra Mile Awards

The Mayor was delighted to present an Extra Mile Award to Gillian Evans and to Angeline Tshiyane

Gillian and Angeline are care staff at whose actions played a significant role in making sure a tenant was safe when there was a fire in one of the flats at a care unit in Newport. This was an extremely brave act and both ladies showed courage in helping a resident in such circumstances. The Cabinet Member for Adult & Community Services mentioned that Angeline had been nominated as Community Coach of the Year.

Members applauded both ladies as the awards were made by the Mayor

Recent events

The Mayor thanked everyone involved in the fantastic opening of Friar's Walk. It had been a great day for the City and everyone who had contributed to the project. He praised all Members of the Council for their decision in relation to funding the scheme and made specific mention of the significant and insightful role of the Leader of the Council

The Mayor also passed on his thanks to involved in the organisation of the Remembrance Day Parade and the people who turned out on the day to pay their respects

The Mayor referred to the very successful Switching on of the Christmas Lights. Once again he passed on thanks to everyone involved and to the large numbers who came out to enjoy the evening

2. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the City Council held on 29/09/2015 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor

3. **Appointments**

The following appointments were to be implemented:

Scrutiny Committee for Learning, Caring and Leisure: Cllr David Fouweather was appointed to replace Councillor Atwell.

Raven House Trust: Councillor David Fouweather appointed

Governors:

- Caerleon Comprehensive School: Councillor Martyn Kellaway was appointed to replace Mrs C. Atwell
- Ringland Primary: Mr David Sutherland was appointed
- Laura Emily Dunn had given up her post on Malpas Church in Wales School and taken up a post at Duffryn High School

The following individuals were re- appointed:

- Alway Primary – David Jones
- Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd: Alan Speight
- Pillgwenlly Primary: Edward Watts
- Milton Junior: Malcolm Linton
- Malpas Park: Bill Langsford
- Malpas Court: David Mayer

4. **Police Issues**

The Mayor welcomed Superintendent Joanne Bull to the meeting

In response to Councillor Townsend, Superintendent Bull stated that the Police have definitions by way of the law in relation to persistent begging, and that work would need to be done with the local authority in relation to a definition of aggressive begging

In response to Councillor Truman, Superintendent Bull agreed to raise with local officers issues about speeding traffic in the ward. The “Your Voice” campaign allowed local people to express a view on priorities for local officers. The same level of service should be available despite changes in local personnel

In response to Councillor Jenkins, Superintendent Bull explained that anti- social behaviour, such as that reported in Clarence Place, was a priority. Addressing burglary was a priority throughout Newport and there had been some recent successes

Superintendent Bull informed Councillor Wilcox that she would raise with local officers the concern that an apple tree in the ward had become the focus of antisocial behaviour

Councillor Giles was concerned about the turnover of staff in the Caerleon area and considered that some consistency would help staff be aware of local issues. Councillor Giles also mentioned the two officers who recently received awards for an act of bravery. Superintendent Bull stated that since the restructure, efforts were being made to retain continuity.

Superintendent Bull informed Councillor Maxfield of the powers the Police have under the Vagrancy Act and the duty of care for people who are homeless

Councillor Mlewa mentioned a rise in local crime, in particular criminal damage at the same time that staff levels had decreased and questioned if there was a correlation. Superintendent Bull stated that local officers were working hard to address criminal damage and antisocial behaviour. The challenge as the budget reduced were to maintain services locally and eliminate waste

Superintendent Bull informed Councillor Ferris that antisocial behaviour powers could be used to address the issue of people on bikes in Friar's Walk and the city centre

Superintendent Bull informed Councillor Ali of action being taken locally on local issues in Pill and all options were being explored

Councillors Kellaway, Cockeram and Al Nuaimi wanted to record thanks to local officers

Superintendent Bull agreed to discuss specific issues relating to drug dealing with Councillor Harvey

Superintendent Bull informed Councillor M Evans that conversations as to definitions within the proposed Public Space Protection Order would need to be had between officer and the Local Authority.

Cllr Critchley considered that low level crime is the main impact on the majority of people. He stated that reductions of local ward policing are of concern. Superintendent Bull stated that there was a need to prioritise services to the community. Working within local arrangements

5. **Notice of Motion : Supporting People**

Councillor Mudd moved the following motion for which appropriate notice had been provided:

Newport City Council:

- I. Acknowledges and supports the good work undertaken by Newport in providing a diverse range of housing related support services to vulnerable individuals to help them live a fulfilled, active and independent life, in a home environment that is right for their individual needs.
- II. Supports the continuance of the Supporting People grant programme funded by the Welsh Government to assist and support potentially vulnerable and marginalised people to live independently within the community.
- III. Calls upon the Welsh Government to safeguard and not to impose any further reduction to the Supporting People grant.

- IV. Supports the joint campaign of Cymorth Cymru and Community Housing Cymru, “Let’s Keep on Supporting People” to safeguard the Supporting People grant programme budget.
- V. Invites all Members of the Gwent Regional Collaborative Committee in their own areas and organisations to support this motion
- VI. Invites Constituency and Regional Members of the National Assembly to support this motion

The motion was seconded by Councillor Cockeram.

In presenting the motion, Councillor Mudd, as the Council’s Supporting People and Homelessness Champion, stated that the Supporting People Grant which was introduced in 2003 provides support to a wide range of for vulnerable people who are facing a variety of issues. Councillor Mudd mentioned that a number of people find themselves in difficulties through no fault of their own. Councillor Mudd described some of the schemes provided by the Grant. She made specific reference to the incidence of domestic violence.

Councillor Mudd stated that the Grant provides help for a preventative service which helps reduce demand and consequently reduces the call on other budgets. It is of major strategic importance to the authority and provides hope for individuals. Some 56,000 people were supported across Wales in 2014-2015 by this cross- cutting initiative. In England there had been significant cuts but in Wales the funding remained ring-fenced but the Welsh Government was reviewing the position. The continuation of the grant was crucial to the continuing support to help vulnerable people. Councillor Mudd considered there was a need to send a clear message to the Welsh Government on this issue.

Councillors Townsend, Truman, M Evans, Wilcox, Atwell, Bond, Guy and Cockeram spoke in favour of the proposal with comments made including

- This was a programme that could change lives
- The programme saves money further down the line by maintaining independence and providing preventative measures for vulnerable people
- There were significant benefits to individuals and their families
- Outcomes and results were noteworthy in many cases
- There were a number of organisations, families and individuals in Newport benefitting from services being provided by the grant
- For every pound invested some £2.30 was saved. Welsh Government was urged not to make any reduction in this grant
- The Grant clearly plays a role in tackling the effects of poverty
- It helps mitigate the effect of welfare reform
- Preventative programmes are essentially invest to save projects
- We have over £6m coming into supporting people in Newport. The Council would need to find a similar amount if the funds were not received
- The use of the Grant was outcome focussed

Resolved

To adopt the motion as set out in full above

6. Public Space Protection Order

Councillor Poole, as Cabinet Member for Regulatory Functions introduced a report on this matter by saying that public space protection orders were new measures brought in 2014 to allow councils to control anti-social behaviour in a particular public location. They were designed to prevent individuals or groups committing anti-social behaviour where that behaviour is persistent and unreasonable and is having, or is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality.

An alcohol exclusion zone in the city centre had been in place for some 12 years, but the introduction of these new powers had provided an opportunity to review and consider putting in place a new PSPO to counter other forms of persistent and detrimental behaviour.

Scrutiny had been asked to oversee public consultation on the issue, consider what responses came in and then to make recommendations to the Cabinet Member as to what measures they would want to see in a new Order.

The Cabinet Member stated he had considered Scrutiny's recommendations and also evidence and concerns from the police, the public, and businesses and from council officers and partner agencies, including those involved with housing needs and supporting people.

He was mindful of the importance of striking the right balance between protecting the public and respecting civil liberties and freedom of expression and movement. To this end he recognised the success of the Council's current housing and homelessness policies, and considered that existing anti-social powers were more appropriate than an outright ban in relation to rough sleeping and begging.

He recommended a version of the Order that did not carry a 'No rough sleeping' measure and in which the "No Begging" measure was replaced by the following: "No person shall beg in a manner which is aggressive or intimidating, or which harasses members of the public."

Councillor M Evans moved an amendment to support the original recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee to the Cabinet Member which suggested that the Order should include the "No Begging" measure and the 'No rough sleeping' measure. This amendment was seconded by Councillor Fouweather

In moving the amendment, Councillor Evans stated that the £1,000 fine referred to in the media would be a final measure. He stated this was not an assault on the homeless but that no-one should be sleeping rough or begging on the streets. Councillor Evans stated that some people have to go to work in fear and can witness excrement, vomit and discarded needles. Councillor Evans had recently been on patrol with the police and had viewed the extent of these problems. Business people had said that needles on the floor were unacceptable. People needed support but so did the businesses. A lot of charities did not support begging as often any donations made in the street were used to feed habits and not for food. The Olive Branch was offering food for 50p per day. He considered the Order as recommended by Scrutiny to the Cabinet Member would provide additional powers to the police to deal with issues. Many people felt intimidated. Councillor Evans stated there was a need to work with agencies to help people but we also needed to help business and residents.

Councillors Fouweather, Ferris, Al Nuaimi, Atwell spoke in favour of the amendment for reasons including:

- Not all rough sleepers were beggars but it would be difficult for police to manage the issues of aggressive begging without a total ban
- There was no need for anyone to bring a dog to the city centre other than guide dogs
- People on pushbikes in pedestrian areas also need to be addressed
- Those in the grip of heroin addiction which was leading to criminal activity and damage was the main issue
- Some 90% of respondents agreed with the rough sleeping part of the Order
- The paraphernalia left by rough sleepers created problems
- Local people were worried about the extent of needles discarded in the City Centre
- There is a need to consider the needs of people who live and work in the city
- The amendment would provide clarity for the police in dealing with issues
- The City Centre needs to be safe and secure

Councillors Townsend, Bond, Cockeram, Whitcutt, Mudd, Truman, Whitehead spoke against the amendment making points such as:

- Some 400 people had responded to the consultation but part of the consultation was ambiguous and the document had been challenged owing to the way it was worded
- Some 3000 signatures had been put to a separate document which expressed a different view about rough sleepers
- It would be difficult for the police to discover if a reasonable offer of accommodation had been made and so to enforce the ban on rough sleepers
- The Council has an opportunity to work with the police on the definitions within the Order
- There are relatively small number of rough sleepers in Newport
- The Council needs to show compassion to vulnerable people.
- We have problems of homelessness and we cannot 'ban' poverty in the city
- This did not mean that antisocial behaviour would be tolerated
- People should not be discriminated against because they did not have a roof over their head
- Some people on the streets were suffering issues other than drug addiction or alcoholism.
- Some of the use of doorways as a toilet was down to late night revellers
- There was a need to discuss measures with those affected to let them know what was available.
- The police have sufficient powers now to deal with anti-social behaviour or criminal activities under existing legislation
- Legislation required proportionality in addressing these issues
- We should not criminalise the most vulnerable people in society
- Earlier today the Council had pledged support for vulnerable people supported by the Supporting People Grant

Councillor Maxfield remained uncertain and was worried about inertia in helping people on the streets. She welcomed the conversation which could lead to help being provided. Councillor C Evans considered efforts should be made to deal with the problem rather than to introduce an Order. Councillor Ali considered that if an Order was prepared for the City Centre, others would be needed for other areas of the city such as Pill.

It was confirmed that there was no mention of A Boards in the Order nor was there mention of distribution of leaflets

The required number of members called for a recorded vote. The vote was as follows:

Those in favour of the amendment: Councillors M Al Nuaimi, D Atwell, M Cornelious, M Evans, C Ferris, D Fouweather, M Kellaway, R Mogford, R White, and D Williams. A total of 10 votes

Those against: Councillors O Ali; T Bond; R Bright; P Cockeram; E Corten; K Critchley; D Davies; V Delahaye; C Evans; E Garland; G Giles; J Guy; D Harvey : P Huntley; R Jeavons; C Jenkins; M Linton; D Mayer; S Mlewa, J Mudd; R Poole; M Rahman; J Richards; M Spencer; C Suller; H Thomas; K Thomas; E Townsend; R Truman; T Watkins; M Whitcutt; and D Wilcox . A total of 32 votes

Members who abstained: C Maxfield and K Whitehead- a total of 2 members

The amendment was therefore **lost**

Councillor M Evans moved an alternative amendment which suggested that the Order should include the original “No Begging” measure but remove the “rough sleeping” measure. This amendment was seconded by Councillor Fouweather

Councillor Evans said that it was very much Police advice to include the begging clause as it provided a clear message. He considered that people did not need to beg. A lot of people feel they have to give money and this is a concern. They should be directed to help and support but ensure that no begging is carried out. In summing up he mentioned that begging was often not for food but to feed a habit that needs to be addressed.

Councillors Garland, Maxfield spoke in favour of the amendment. Both gave examples of aggressive begging they had witnessed. Councillor Fouweather considered the option put by the Cabinet Member took options away from the police and this would provide clear guidance.

Councillors Bond, Jeavons, Mlewa and Whitcutt spoke against the amendment. The issues relating to penalising people for poverty were raised. Issues relating to buskers were also discussed. The ‘no begging’ inclusion would raise issues of ambiguity. It was considered this would not add to existing legislation. It was unacceptable to say that begging was unnecessary. Fines could not be paid by vulnerable people.

The required number of members called for a recorded vote. The vote was as follows:

Those in favour of the amendment: Councillors D Atwell, M Cornelious, E Corten; M Evans, E Garland, C Ferris, D Fouweather, M Kellaway, C Maxfield , R Mogford, R White and D Williams . A total of 12 votes

Those against: Councillors O Ali; T Bond; R Bright; P Cockeram; K Critchley; D Davies; V Delahaye; C Evans; G Giles; J Guy; D Harvey : P Huntley; R Jeavons; C Jenkins; M Linton; D Mayer; S Mlewa, J Mudd; R Poole; M Rahman; J Richards; M Spencer; C Suller; H Thomas; K Thomas; E Townsend; R Truman; T Watkins; M Whitcutt; and D Wilcox . A total of 30 votes

Members who abstained: Al Nuaimi, and K Whitehead- a total of 2 members

The amendment was therefore **lost**

Councillor Townsend moved a further amendment that the Council adopts an alternative option

“To approve the Order BUT to replicate ONLY the existing city centre designated public place order (alcohol exclusion zone) (Measure 1), but extend the boundary to that set out in the map at Appendix G and remit the other proposed measures back for further consideration as to what to include in a future city centre PSPO.”

Councillor Townsend stated that this acknowledged the discussions earlier that the necessary powers were already available

This was seconded by Councillor Whitehead

Councillor Al Nuaimi spoke against the proposed amendment stating that the Order needed to help police do the job they want to do.

The vote was put to the Council and the amendment was **lost**

The substantive motion put by the Cabinet Member was then considered and voted upon

The required number of members called for a recorded vote. The vote was as follows:

Members voting for the motion were: O Ali; D Atwell; T Bond; R Bright; P Cockeram; M Cornelious; E Corten; K Critchley; D Davies; V Delahaye; C Evans; M Evans; C Ferris; D Fouweather; E Garland; G Giles; J Guy; D Harvey ; P Huntley; R Jeavons; C Jenkins; M Kellaway; M Linton; C Maxfield; D Mayer; S Mlewa; R Mogford; J Mudd; R Poole; M Rahman; J Richards; M Spencer; C Suller; H Thomas; K Thomas; E Townsend; R Truman; T Watkins; M Whitcutt; R White; and D Wilcox. A total of 41 votes

No members voted against the motion

Three members abstained: Councillors Al Nuaimi, Whitehead and Williams.

Resolved:

To adopt version 2 of the Order as set out in the report and as recommended by the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services

7. Gambling Act 2005 - Statement of Principles

Councillor Guy informed Members that the Gambling Act 2005 was implemented on 1 September 2007 and it created a new system of licensing and regulation for commercial gambling. It requires the Council to prepare and publish a Statement of Principles for each successive period of three years, which outlines the principles that the Council will apply in exercising its functions as the Licensing Authority under the Act.

Draft revisions to the Statement were presented to Council. These revisions had been produced in accordance with Regulations and the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities. Statutory consultation ran from the 4 August 2015 to 21 September 2015.

The draft revised policy was considered by the Licensing Committee on 3 August 2015 then again, pursuant to the consultation responses, on 3 November 2015; the Licensing Committee supported the resultant proposed amendments to the Statement of Principles and recommended it be presented to full Council for approval and adoption.

Resolved

To adopt the revised 2015 Statement of Principles as required under the Gambling Act 2005.

8. Economic Growth Strategy

The Leader of the Council introduced the report which had been recommended for adoption by the Cabinet. The Council's current Economic Development Strategy 2011–2015 was approved by the Council in December 2011. However following its adoption, the Council received a critical response from the Welsh Audit Office. The Cabinet therefore endorsed the need to undertake a review of the Strategy in the light of the WAO's findings and requested the Street Scene, Regeneration and Safety Scrutiny to co-ordinate the production of a revised Draft Strategy.

A Policy Review Group made up of Councillors and supported by officers, was tasked with coordinating and delivering a refreshed and robust draft Economic Development Strategy.

Taking into account feedback from the Welsh Audit Office, a new Economic Growth Strategy was developed, which has greater integration with Newport's Single Integrated Plan Community priorities, and initiatives associated with the Cardiff City Regional initiatives, Great Western Cities and Newport Economic Fora.

The new strategy was based on three themes

- **People:** Make sure everyone benefits from growth
- **Place:** Economic environment is excellent and well connected. Making sure that everything is joined up to help promote growth
- **Prosperity:** Building high value growth and promoting entrepreneurship so that we grow from the inside as well as attracting new business.

The Strategy was endorsed by Scrutiny Committee, following which the Strategy underwent a 6 week consultation period where overall feedback was positive with stakeholders supportive of the Strategies Aims and Priorities.

The final draft, taking the outcome of the consultation into account, was considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 19 October 2015.

At the meeting, The Chair mentioned that Newport would need to work closely with business to achieve growth. He referred to the Friar's Walk as an example of where the Council had successfully worked in partnership with business.

The Cabinet recommended adoption of the Strategy and Delivery Plan to Council for adoption

Councillor M Evans was concerned about increasing bus lanes and considered other options should be considered. It was important for all traffic to move forward in the city centre. He considered more could be done to encourage small businesses. He mentioned the opening of Council car parks on a Sunday to encourage use of the city centre

Some members discussed the process of consultation on the report by way of the Scrutiny Committee and the Policy Review Group but all members supported the document. All members were able to provide written comments but there was little discussion at the final scrutiny meeting.

Councillor Richards recommended the report stating that this was an important time in the City's history and the document took forward the city for the next ten years. Scrutiny would have opportunity to monitor progress.

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

There were no questions to the Chair of the Cabinet submitted on this occasion

10. **Questions to Cabinet Members**

There were no questions to the Cabinet Members submitted on this occasion

11. **Questions to Chairs of Committees**

There were no questions to the Chairs submitted on this occasion

12. **Standards Committee**

The minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 22/10/2015 were received

The meeting terminated at 20:05



Report

Newport City Council

Part 1

Date: January 2016

Item No: See above

Subject Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2016/2017

Purpose: To consider a proposed Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2016/17 and to determine its local discretions.

Author Head of Streetscene and City Services

Ward All

Summary The Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2016/17 updates the scheme that was introduced on 1st April 2015. The Council is not required to consult on the proposals of the new scheme as the amendments made are in consequence of amendments made to the Prescribed Requirements Regulations. The local discretions that are available to the Council will remain unchanged. This report provides information on the proposed Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

Proposal That Council approves the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2016/17 in accordance with the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Schemes) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 ("the Prescribed Requirements Regulations") exercising its local discretions as indicated in the report.

Action by Head of Streetscene and City Services

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Head of Law and Standards
- Head of Finance

Background

The current Council Tax Reduction Scheme is to be revised from April 2016 with an updated Scheme. In Wales, this continues to be a national scheme (in contrast to England, where schemes are local to each billing authority.)

The Council Tax Reduction Scheme in Wales is set by Regulations made under Schedule 1B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as inserted by the Local Government Finance Act 2012). On 19 January 2016, the Welsh Assembly approved amending regulations to have effect from 1st April 2016: the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Schemes) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. These Regulations prescribe the main features of the Scheme to be adopted by all Councils in Wales. The revisions for 2016/2017 are:

- The figures used to calculate applicants' entitlement to Council Tax reduction will be updated in line with Housing Benefit.
- A number of amendments to reflect the new arrangements in relation to care and support needs which have been introduced in Wales by the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014.
- Amendments to take into account terminology changes used in legislation as a consequence to the National Insurance Contributions Act 2015. All references to 'small earnings exception' have been replaced with "small profits threshold".
- Amendments to take account new arrangements and terminology introduced via the Pension Act 2014.

Although the Act gives Welsh Ministers discretion to allow Welsh local authorities to determine the contents of schemes themselves, the Government's decision to establish a national framework for the provision of Council Tax Support in Wales and avoids what has been termed a "postcode lottery" whereby eligibility for a Council Tax reduction and the size of the Council Tax reduction for particular groups could be different in different council areas.

Although a national scheme has been approved, within the Prescribed Requirements Regulations, limited discretion given to the Council to apply additional discretionary elements that are more generous than the national scheme and which provide for additional administrative flexibility remain. These are:

- The ability to increase the standard extended reduction period of 4 weeks given to persons after they return to work where they have previously been receiving a council tax reduction that is to end as a result of their return to work;
- Discretion to increase the amount of War Disablement Pensions and War Widows Pensions which is to be disregarded when calculating income of the claimant;
- Discretion to enhance the process for notification of decisions above the minimum requirements; and
- The ability to backdate the application of council tax reduction with regard to late claims prior to the new standard period of three months before the claim.

It is required by the Prescribed Requirements Regulations that the Council adopts a Council Tax Reduction Scheme by 31 January 2016, regardless of whether it applies any of the discretionary elements. If the Council fails to make a scheme, then a default scheme shall apply under the provisions of the Default Scheme Regulations. The Council can only apply discretion if it makes its own scheme

under the Prescribed Requirements Regulations. A Council meeting is scheduled for the 26th January 2016 to adopt the Scheme.

The Council has not undertaken consultation on the adoption of the scheme as the Council is no longer obliged to carry out consultation on the adoption of a scheme as the provisions were set by the Welsh Government. Even without the application of any of the discretionary elements,

The Council is obliged to make a scheme under the requirements of the Prescribed Requirements Regulations notwithstanding the fact that a default scheme would come into effect even if the Council failed to make a scheme. The obligation is a statutory duty and applies even if the Council chose not to apply any of the discretions available to it.

The recommended approach is to adopt the Scheme in the Prescribed Requirements Regulations and to continue to exercise the available discretions as follows:-

- The ability to increase the standard extended reduction period of 4 weeks given to persons after they return to work where they have previously been receiving a council tax reduction that is to end as a result of their return to work [It is not recommended to increase the standard extended reduction period] ;
- Discretion to increase the amount of War Disablement Pensions and War Widows Pensions which is to be disregarded when calculating income of the claimant [It is recommended to disregard the whole amount of War Disablement Pensions and War Widows Pensions] ;
- Discretion to enhance the process for notification of decisions above the minimum requirements [It is not recommended to enhance the process for notification of decisions] ; and
- The ability to backdate the application of council tax reduction with regard to late claims prior to the new standard period of three months before the claim. [It is not recommended to increase the backdated period]

It should be noted the above recommendations follow existing practice and continue with the features of the 2015/16 Scheme. There are no additional monies available from the Welsh Government to fund discretionary elements. The cost of funding the discretionary elements recommended above is estimated to be in the region of £17,000 per annum.

The Council continues to have powers to support hardship on an individual basis or in respect of a defined group. Such arrangements cannot, however, form part of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme itself. The Council has previously had access to grant for discretionary housing payments and will continue to provide support where appropriate.

Financial Summary

Funds to pay for the scheme are within the Council's base budget as the historical specific grant from WG that used to fund this was transferred into the Revenue Support Grant in 2013/14. This budget has since been uplifted each year in line with the Councils increase in Council Tax levels.

Risks

The Council needs to manage the cost of Council Tax Support within its budget.

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
Failure to adopt a scheme in accordance with the required regulations	L	L	There is a default scheme in the event that the Council does not follow the appropriate procedures	Head of Streetscene and City Services

* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

The Welfare Reform changes are imposed by national government and devolved to the Welsh Government for implementation by Councils. The Council's response within its service areas will be to try to ensure that any effects of the reforms are mitigated wherever possible.

Options Available

The changes are largely mandatory with the exception of the limited discretions identified in the report. The Council needs to determine the discretions as part of its Scheme.

Preferred Option and Why

The currently preferred discretions are included within the report and they largely follow existing practice.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

As noted above, the funds to pay for the scheme are contained within the Council's base budget, since WG transferred the specific grant for this into the Revenue Support Grant in 2013/14. The budget is uplifted each year in line with the increase in Council Tax and to date, has been sufficient.

Base budget savings have been put forward for this scheme in the 2016/17 MTFP. If accepted this will reduce the level of budget available. However, it is expected that the level of budget remaining will be sufficient to support the continuation of current enhancements as per the report.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

The Council has a statutory duty to approve a revised Council Tax Reduction Scheme by 31st January 2016 in accordance with the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Schemes) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. For the most part, the new Regulations update the previous national scheme to reflect changes in terminology due to recent legislation but, otherwise, the mandatory and discretionary elements of the scheme remain the same. If the Council does not adopt a revised local scheme before the end of January, then a Default Scheme will come into operation. In Wales, the Welsh Government has prescribed a national council tax reduction scheme and, therefore, the Council has no option but to adopt the mandatory elements of the scheme. However, there are some limited local discretions within the national scheme, which the Council has previously adopted as part of the current local scheme, and it is recommended that these should continue to be applied. There is no longer any formal consultation requirement, because of the mandatory nature of the national

scheme and the Council has previously consulted on the local discretions. Therefore, Cabinet are asked to recommend to Council that this revised Council Tax Reduction Scheme should be adopted with effect from 1st April 2016.

Staffing Implications: Comments of Head of People and Business Change

Whilst there are no staffing implications as a result of this report, the Council has a strong social justice agenda with specific reference in the Corporate Plan to the Council working to support the lowest earners and those in receipt of benefits and vulnerable to financial exclusion. Consideration to continuing the reduction scheme will have impact on such groups and it is therefore recommended that the discretionary elements should continue to be adopted.

Local issues

Not Applicable

Scrutiny Committees

Not applicable.

Equalities Impact Assessment

The replacement of Council Tax Benefit with the national support scheme will impact upon many of our low income residents including those in vulnerable groups.

A local equalities impact assessment is being undertaken.

Children and Families (Wales) Measure

The Council is not required to consult on the proposals of the new scheme as the amendments made are in consequence of amendments made to the Prescribed Requirements Regulations. The local discretions that are available to the Council will remain unchanged.

Consultation

The Council is not required to consult on the proposals of the new scheme as the amendments made are in consequence of amendments made to the Prescribed Requirements Regulations. The local discretions that are available to the Council will remain unchanged.

Background Papers

Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements & Default Schemes) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016).

Dated: 21st December 2015

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Report

Council

Part 1

Date: 26 January 2016

Item No: See above

Subject **Report on Treasury Management for the period to 30 September 2015**

Purpose To inform the Council of treasury activities undertaken during the period to 30 September 2015.

Author Assistant Head of Finance

Ward General

Summary The Council continues to be both a s/t investor of cash and borrower to manage day-to-day cash-flow's. Current forecasts indicate that in the future, temporary borrowing will continue to be required to fund normal day to day cash flow activities and to fund borrowing for the City Centre Redevelopment. A restructure of a number of PWLB loans took place in April 2015, which allowed for significant interest rate savings as a result of re-borrowing at substantially lower interest rates. Apart from the re-structure of this debt and the funding for the City Centre Redevelopment, no additional long term borrowing has been undertaken to date.

With the City Centre Redevelopment approaching its conclusion, discussions about the sale of the development will begin. The timing of the sale will have significant impact on the cash flow activities of the authority, with the potential of large sums of cash being received prior to the offsetting borrowing of the Council itself, maturing. Details of how this will be invested in the short-medium term will be included in the Treasury Management Strategy in January.

There are no proposed changes to the Counterparty limits for UK Banking. However, the maximum lending period for a number of the UK Institutions have been revised as advised by the Authority's Treasury Management Consultants (Arlingclose Ltd), see Appendix D.

Proposal **To note the report on treasury management activities for the period to 30 September 2015.**

Action by Head of Finance

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Treasury Advisors
- Head of Finance

Please list here those officers and members you have consulted on this report.

Signed

Background

1. The Council's Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators were approved by Council in February 2015 alongside the Medium Term Financial Plan and the 2015/16 Budget.
2. The Treasury Management Strategy for 2015/16 has been underpinned by the adoption of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2011, which includes the requirement for determining a treasury strategy on the likely financing and investment activity for the forthcoming financial year. The Code also recommends that members are informed of Treasury Management activities at least twice a year. This report therefore ensures this authority is embracing best practice in accordance with CIPFA's recommendations.
3. Treasury management is defined as: "The management of the local authority's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks."
4. The report has been prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code and the Prudential Code, and reviews and reports on:
 - Borrowing Activity and Rescheduling
 - Investment Strategy and proposed changes to the Council's approved investment limits
 - Economic Background
 - Compliance with Prudential Indicators approved by Council

Short and Long Term Borrowing

5. Whilst the Council has significant long term borrowing requirements, the Council's strategy of funding capital expenditure through reducing investments rather than undertaking new borrowing remains i.e. we defer taking out new l/t borrowing and fund capital expenditure from day to day positive cash-flows for as long as we can. By using this strategy the Council can minimise cash holding at a time when counterparty risk remains high. The interest rates achievable on the Council's investments are also significantly lower than the current rates payable on long term borrowing.
6. Whilst the strategy minimises investment counterparty risk, the risk of interest rate exposure is increased as the current low longer term borrowing rates may rise in the future. The market position is being constantly monitored in order to minimise this risk.
7. In April 2015 the Council undertook a re-scheduling of a number of debts relating to PWLB. A total of £16.3m debt with an average interest rate of 9.4% was re-paid early. As is normal in these circumstances in the current lower interest environment, a premium was payable on redemption, and new long-term loans at a much improved average interest rate of 2.19% was taken out. This allowed the authority to make significant annual savings on the interest payable on these loans, even with the premium, and was part of the approved 2015/16 budget savings.
8. As anticipated, during the year, the authority has undertaken additional long-term borrowing of £25.0million to the end of September, associated with city centre redevelopment funding of the approved loan to Queensberry Real Estates (Newport) Ltd (QRE). The borrowing associated with this loan is kept separate from the Council's other borrowing requirements shown in Appendix C. The loan is anticipated to be paid off via capital receipts in 2016/17, therefore the Council is not required to make MRP charges to the revenue budget in relation to the Friars Walk Development loan as the borrowing will be paid off in full at the end of the scheme.
9. Further borrowing will be required in the coming months in the finalisation of the Friars Walk Development, and once receipt of payment is in; the Council will need to review its Treasury

Management Strategy to ensure prudent investment of any surplus cash in the short to medium term.

10. With the exception of the re-scheduling of debts and the Queensberry loans discussed above, no further long term loans have been taken out in the first half of the financial year. However, it is anticipated that the Council will need to undertake additional borrowing on a short term basis for the remainder of the year in order to cover normal day to day cash flow activity. With current estimates it is not expected that any additional long-term borrowing would be required at this stage.
11. Appendix C summarises the Council's debt position as at 30 September 2015. The changes in debt outstanding relate to the raising and repaying of the rescheduling of debt, temporary loans, and a repayment in respect of the soft loans.
12. The value of the Council's LOBO money market loans remains the same. No loans were called during the period. Of the £35m outstanding, £25m is subject to potential change of interest rates by the lender (which would automatically trigger a right to the Council to repay these loans) prior to the end of this financial year. Should a change of interest rate be requested, then it will be considered in detail and a decision on how we proceed will be made in conjunction with our treasury advisors.

Investments

13. As per the agreed strategy, the Council will be a short-term investor to maintain low cash balances as required. As at 30th September 2015, there was £3.715m balance on short-term investments outstanding. Across a typical month, the Council both invests and borrows short term to manage day-to-day cash-flow's.
14. Following the completion of the City Centre re-development the Council may have surplus cash to invest in relation to payment received from the sale of the development. This is because the repayment could be received prior to the loans the Council took out itself in relation to this, maturing themselves.. Investment of this surplus cash will need to be allocated where it minimises risk while achieving a return for the Council, prior to using the cash to repay the Council's own l/t borrowing in relation to this scheme.
15. The Council does not hold any long-term (more than 364 days) investments as at 30th September 2015.
16. There were no significant changes in credit ratings advised in the first half of the financial year that had implications for the approved lending list. The long term rating of Santander UK, the Council's bankers, remains at A just above the Council's minimum level of A-.

Economic Background

17. Appendix A outlines the underlying economic environment during the first half of the financial year, as provided by the Council's Treasury Management Advisors Arlingclose.

Compliance with Prudential Indicators approved by Council

18. The Authority can confirm that it has complied with the Prudential Indicators for 2015/16 set in February 2015 as part of the Treasury Management Strategy. Details of treasury-related Prudential Indicators can be found in Appendix B.
19. During the period the Council's treasury advisors have advised that the maximum lending period for the Counterparty Institutions are now 13 months. This Lending Period changes relate to Lloyds Banking Group and HSBC Bank Ltd. Details of the current counterparty limits and lending periods of UK institutions can be found in Appendix D.

Financial Summary

- There are no direct costs arising from this report.

Risks

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
Investment counterparty not repaying investments	High but depending on investment value	Low	The Council only invests with Institutions with very high credit scores. It employs advisors to monitor money market movements and changes to credit scores and acts immediately should things change adversely. The lower levels of funds available for investment will also alleviate the risk.	Members, Head of Finance, Treasury staff, based on advice from treasury advisors
Interest Rates moving adversely against expectations	Low	Low	Base and short-term Interest rates are expected to remain at current levels until Q3 in 2016. The Treasury strategy approved allows for the use of short term borrowing once investment funds are exhausted to take advantage of these low rates.	Head of Finance, Treasury staff, treasury advisors

* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

It is the Council's policy to ensure that the security of the capital sums invested is fully recognised and has absolute priority. The Council follows the advice of the Welsh Governments that any investment decisions take account of security, liquidity and yield in that order.

Options Available

The Prudential Code and statute requires that, during and at the end of each financial year, reports on these matters are presented to Council for approval. Thus the only option available is consider the report.

- To approve changes to counterparty investment changes to the maximum period detailed in the report.

Preferred Option and Why

Note the contents of the report and approve the changes to the maximum lending period relating to counterparty investment limits.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

There are no direct financial implications from this report. Decisions made on treasury matters will be made with a view the Treasury Management Strategy, Treasury Advisors and Prudential Indicators.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no legal implications. The in year and annual treasury management report is consistent with relevant Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Guidance, Treasury Management principles and the Council's investment strategy.

Staffing Implications: Comments of Head of People and Business Change

There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

Comments of Cabinet Member

N/A.

Background Papers

Treasury Management Strategy report to Audit Committee January 2015.

Report to Council February 2015: 2015/16 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan

Dated: 11 November 2015

APPENDIX A

External Context

As the year began, economic data was largely overshadowed by events in Greece. Markets' attention centered on the never-ending Greek issue stumbled from turmoil to crisis, running the serious risk of a disorderly exit from the Euro. The country's politicians and the representatives of the 'Troika' of its creditors - the European Commission (EC), the European Central Bank (ECB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) – barely saw eye to eye. Greece failed to make a scheduled repayment to the IMF on 30th June, in itself not a default until the IMF's Managing Director declares it so. Prime Minister Tsipras blindsided Greece's creditors by calling a referendum on 5th July on reform proposals which by then were off the table anyway. The European Central Bank froze liquidity assistance provided to Greek banks and capital controls within the country severely restricted individuals' and corporates' access to cash.

On 12th July, following a weekend European Union Summit, it was announced that the terms for a third bailout of Greece had been reached. The deal amounting to €86 billion was agreed under the terms that Greece would see tax increases, pension reforms and privatisations; the very reforms Tsipras had vowed to resist. This U-turn saw a revolt within the ruling Syriza party and on 27th August, Alexis Tsipras resigned from his post as Prime Minister of Greece after just eight months in office by calling a snap election, held on 20th September. This gamble paid off as Tsipras led his party to victory once again, although a coalition with the Independent Greeks was needed for a slim parliamentary majority. That government must now continue with the unenviable task of guiding Greece through the continuing economic crisis – the Greek saga is far from over.

The summer also saw attention shift towards China as the Shanghai composite index (representing China's main stock market), which had risen a staggering 50%+ since the beginning of 2015, dropped by 43% in less than three months with a reported \$3.2 trillion loss to investors, on the back of concerns over growth and after regulators clamped down on margin lending activity in an effort to stop investors borrowing to invest and feeding the stock market bubble. Chinese authorities intensified their intervention in the markets by halting trading in many stocks in an attempt to maintain market confidence. They surprised global markets in August as the People's Bank of China changed the way the yuan is fixed each day against the US dollar and allowed an aggressive devaluation of the currency. This sent jitters through Asian, European and US markets impacting currencies, equities, commodities, oil and metals. On 24th August, Chinese stocks suffered their steepest one-day fall on record, driving down other equity markets around the world and soon becoming known as another 'Black Monday'. Chinese stocks have recovered marginally since and are trading around the same level as the start of the year. Concerns remain about slowing growth and potential deflationary effects.

UK Economy: The economy has remained resilient over the last six months. Although economic growth slowed in Q1 2015 to 0.4%, year/year growth to March 2015 was a relatively healthy 2.7%. Q2 2015 GDP growth bounced back and was confirmed at 0.7%, with year/year growth showing slight signs of slowing, decreasing to 2.4%. GDP has now increased for ten consecutive quarters, breaking a pattern of slow and erratic growth from 2009. The annual rate for consumer price inflation (CPI) briefly turned negative in April, falling to -0.1%, before fluctuating between 0.0% and 0.1% over the next few months. In the August Quarterly Inflation Report, the Bank of England projected that GDP growth will continue around its average rate since 2013. The Bank of England's projections for inflation remained largely unchanged from the May report with them expecting inflation to gradually increase to around 2% over the next 18 months and then remain there in the near future. Further improvement in the labour market saw the ILO unemployment rate for the three months to July fall to 5.5%. In the September report, average earnings excluding bonuses for the three months to July rose 2.9% year/year.

The outcome of the UK general election, largely fought over the parties' approach to dealing with the consequences of the structural deficit and the pace of its removal, saw some very big shifts in the political landscape and put the key issue of the UK's relationship with the EU at the heart of future politics.

The US economy slowed to 0.6% in Q1 2015 due to bad weather, spending cuts by energy firms and the effects of a strong dollar. However, Q2 GDP showed a large improvement at a twice-revised 3.9% (annualised). This was largely due to a broad recovery in corporate investment alongside a stronger performance from consumer and government spending and construction and exports. With the Fed's decision on US interest rate dependent upon data, GDP is clearly supportive. However it is not as simple as that and the Fed are keen to see inflation rise alongside its headline economic growth and also its labour markets. The Committee decided not to act at its September meeting as many had been anticipating but have signalled rates rising before the end of the year.

Market reaction: Equity markets initially reacted positively to the pickup in the expectations of global economic conditions, but were tempered by the breakdown of creditor negotiations in Greece. China led stock market turmoil around the globe in August, with the FTSE 100 falling by around 8% overnight on 'Black Monday'. Indices have not recovered to their previous levels but some improvement has been seen. Government bond markets were quite volatile with yields rising (i.e. prices falling) initially as the risks of deflation seemingly abated. Thereafter yields fell on the outcome of the UK general election and assisted by reappraisal of deflationary factors, before rising again. Concerns around China saw bond yields dropping again through August and September. Bond markets were also distorted by the size of the European Central Bank's QE programme, so large that it created illiquidity in the very markets in which it needed to acquire these bonds, notably German government bonds (bunds) where yields were in negative territory.

APPENDIX B

Compliance with Prudential Indicators

(a) Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement

This is a key indicator of prudence. In order to ensure that over the medium term debt will only be for a capital purpose, the local authority should ensure that debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of capital financing requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current and next two financial years.

If in any of these years there is a reduction in the capital financing requirement, this reduction is ignored in estimating the cumulative increase in the capital financing requirement which is used for comparison with **gross** external debt.

The Head of Finance reports that the Authority had no difficulty meeting this requirement in 2014/15 and 2015/16 (to date), nor are there any difficulties envisaged for future years. This view takes into account current commitments, existing plans and the proposals in the approved budget.

(b) Estimates of Capital Expenditure

This indicator is set to ensure that the level of proposed capital expenditure remains within sustainable limits and, in particular, to consider the impact on Council Tax and in the case of the HRA, housing rent levels.

Capital Expenditure	2015/16 Approved £m	2015/16 Revised £m	2016/17 Estimate £m	2016/17 Revised £m	2017/18 Estimate £m	2017/18 Revised £m
Total	39.9	25.0	27.8	38.8	20.1	19.6

Capital expenditure will be financed or funded as follows:

Capital Financing	2015/16 Approved £m	2015/16 Revised £m	2016/17 Estimate £m	2016/17 Revised £m	2017/18 Estimate £m	2017/18 Revised £m
Capital Receipts	2.7	0.3	4.1	5.3	0.4	0.5
General Capital Grant	2.4	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2
Other Specific Grants	13.5	9.6	9.2	15.5	3.2	0.3
S106 Contributions	2.1	1.6	0	1.0	0	0
Revenue Contributions	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Total Financing	20.7	14.1	15.5	24.1	5.8	3.0
Supported borrowing	4.0	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6
Unsupported borrowing	15.1	6.9	8.2	10.5	10.6	12.9
Finance Leases	0.1	0	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.1
Total Funding	19.2	10.9	12.3	14.7	14.3	16.6
Total Financing and Funding	39.9	25.0	27.8	38.8	20.1	19.6

The table above shows that the capital expenditure plans of the Authority cannot be funded entirely from sources other than external borrowing.

(c) Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream:

This is an indicator of affordability and highlights the revenue implications of existing and proposed capital expenditure by identifying the proportion of the revenue budget required to meet financing costs. The definition of financing costs is set out in the Prudential Code.

The ratio is based on costs net of investment income.

Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream	2015/16 Approved %	2015/16 Revised %	2016/17 Estimate %	2017/18 Estimate %	2018/19 Estimate %
Total	8.9	8.0	7.7	8.1	8.3

(d) Capital Financing Requirement

The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) measures the Authority's underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose. The calculation of the CFR is taken from the amounts held in the Balance Sheet relating to capital expenditure and financing.

Closing Capital Financing Requirement	2015/16 Actual £m	2015/16 Estimate £m	2016/17 Estimate £m	2017/18 Estimate £m	2018/19 Estimate £m
Total CFR	280.7	278.7	280.2	283.0	282.2

(e) Incremental Impact of Capital Investment Decisions

This is an indicator of affordability that shows the impact of capital investment decisions on Council Tax and Housing Rent levels. The incremental impact is calculated by comparing the total revenue budget requirement of the current approved capital programme with an equivalent calculation of the revenue budget requirement arising from the proposed capital programme.

Incremental Impact of Capital Investment Decisions	2015/16 £	2016/17 Estimate £	2017/18 Estimate £	2018/19 Estimate £
Increase in Band D Council Tax*	(0.19)	0.42	6.69	5.26

Assumes a 4.0% cumulative increase in Council Tax although no decision has been taken to this effect.

(f) Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for External Debt

The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Authority to set an 'Authorised Borrowing Limit', irrespective of their indebted status. This is a statutory limit which should not be breached.

The 'Operational Boundary' is based on the same estimates as the Authorised Limit but reflects the most likely, prudent but not worst case scenario without the additional headroom included within the Authorised Limit.

The Authority confirms that there were no breaches to the Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary during 2014/15 to date:

	Authorised Limit 2015/16 £000s	Authorised Limit 2016/17 £000s	Operational Boundary 2015/16 £000s	Operational Boundary 2016/17 £000s	Actual Debt as at 30/09/2015 £000s	Estimated Debt as at 31/03/2015
Borrowing	299,000	306,000	269,000	276,000	212,813	242,813
Other Long-term Liabilities	49,000	47,000	49,000	47,000	51,201	51,201
Total	348,000	353,000	318,000	323,000	264,014	294,014

(g) Adoption of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code

This indicator demonstrates that the Authority has adopted the principles of best practice.

Adoption of the CIPFA Code of Practice in Treasury Management

The Council approved the adoption of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code at its Council meeting on 29th June 2009.

The Authority has incorporated the changes from the revised CIPFA Code of Practice into its treasury policies, procedures and practices.

(h) Upper Limits for Fixed Interest Rate Exposure and Variable Interest Rate Exposure

- These indicators allow the Authority to manage the extent to which it is exposed to changes in interest rates.
- The upper limit for variable rate exposure allows for the use of variable rate debt to offset exposure to changes in short-term rates on our portfolio of investments.

	Approved Limits for 2015/16 £/%	Maximum during 2015/16 £/%
Upper Limit for Fixed Rate Exposure	100%	100%
Compliance with Limits:		Yes
Upper Limit for Variable Rate Exposure	50%	0%
Compliance with Limits:		Yes

(i) Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing

This indicator is to limit large concentrations of fixed rate debt needing to be replaced at times of uncertainty over interest rates.

Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing	Upper Limit %	Lower Limit %	Actual Fixed Rate Borrowing as at 30/9/2015 £000s	% Fixed Rate Borrowing as at 30/9/2015	Compliance with Set Limits?
under 12 months	40%	0%	27,297	13%	Yes
12 months and within 24 months	20%	0%	40,997	19%	Yes
24 months and within 5 years	70%	0%	43,065	20%	Yes
5 years and within 10 years	50%	0%	33,133	16%	Yes
10 years and within 20 years	30%	0%	15,311	7%	Yes
20 years and within 30 years	20%	0%	16,950	8%	Yes
30 years and within 40 years	20%	0%	5,000	2%	Yes
40 years and within 50 years	20%	0%	16,058	8%	Yes
50 years and above	20%	0%	15,000	7%	Yes
Total			212,811		

(The 2011 revision to the CIPFA Treasury Management Code now requires the prudential indicator relating to Maturity of Fixed Rate Borrowing to reference the maturity of LOBO loans to the earliest date on which the lender can require payment, i.e. the next call date¹)

¹ Page 15 of the Guidance Notes to the 2011 CIPFA Treasury Management Code

(j) Upper Limit for Total principal sums invested for periods longer than 364 days

The purpose of this limit is to contain exposure to the possibility of loss that may arise as a result of the Authority having to seek early repayment of the sums invested.

Upper Limit for total principal sums invested over 364 days	2015/16 Approved	30/9/2015 Actual £000s	31/03/2016 Estimate £000s	31/03/17 Estimate £000s
TOTAL	4,000	0	4,000	4,000

APPENDIX C

Loan Debt Activity - 1 April 2015 - 30 September 2015

Newport City Council Debt	Outstanding as at 31/03/14 £000's	Debt Raised £000's	Debt Repaid £000's	Outstanding as at 30/09/2015 £000's
Public Works Loans Board	70,131	21,535	16,830	74,836
Market Loans	35,000	0	0	35,000
Stock Issue	40,000	0	0	40,000
Other Soft Loans (IFRS)	305	0	303	2
Queensbury Real Estate Debt **	34,975	25,000	0	59,975
Total Long Term Loans	180,411	46,535	17,133	209,813
Temporary Debt*	10,000	56,960	63,960	3,000
Total Long Term and Temporary Debt	190,411	103,495	81,093	212,813

* The temporary debt relates to the normal activities of the Council

**This relates to additional borrowing undertaken to fund the Newport City Centre redevelopment between the Council and Queensberry Real Estate (Newport) Ltd.

Total Investments Administered Newport City Council	Outstanding as at 31/03/14 £000's	Raised £000's	Repaid £000's	Outstanding as at 30/09/2015 £000's
Total	2,560	272,090	270,935	3,715

APPENDIX D

COUNTERPARTY LIMITS FOR BANKING - UK INSTITUTIONS

Instrument	Country/ Domicile	Counterparty - Banking UK Institutions	Total Investments below £10million	Total Investments above £10million - minimum of 4 Counterparties required	
			Maximum Counterparty Limit and Group Limit (if applicable)	Maximum Counterparty Limit and Group Limit (if applicable)	Maximum Lending Period
Term Deposits/ Call Accounts/ CDs	UK	Santander UK Plc. (Banco Santander Group)	£4,000,000	£8,000,000 or 50% of outstanding investments	6 Months
Term Deposits/ Call Accounts/ CDs	UK	Bank of Scotland/ Lloyds TSB (Lloyds Banking Group)	£4,000,000	£8,000,000 or 50% of outstanding investments	13 Months
Term Deposits/ Call Accounts/ CDs	UK	Barclays Bank Plc.	£4,000,000	£8,000,000 or 50% of outstanding investments	100 Days
Term Deposits/ Call Accounts/ CDs	UK	HSBC Bank Plc.	£4,000,000	£8,000,000 or 50% of outstanding investments	13 Months
Term Deposits/ Call Accounts/ CDs	UK	Nationwide Building Society	£4,000,000	£8,000,000 or 50% of outstanding investments	6 Months
Term Deposits/ Call Accounts/ CDs	UK	Royal Bank of Scotland/ National Westminster Bank (Royal Bank of Scotland Group)	£4,000,000	£8,000,000 or 50% of outstanding investments	35 Days
Term Deposits/ Call Accounts/ CDs	UK	Standard Chartered Bank	£4,000,000	£8,000,000 or 50% of outstanding investments	6 months



Report

Newport City Council

Part 1

Date: January 2016

Item No: see above

Subject **Schedule/ Diary of meetings**

Purpose To adopt a schedule of meetings for the period May 2016 to May 2017

Author Chief Democratic Services Officer

Ward All wards

Summary The proposed schedule of meetings attempts to structure the diary with a series of meetings to facilitate the decision making process through the Council, Executive and Regulatory Committees. The schedule of meetings also sets a pattern of meetings for Scrutiny Committees and other bodies.

The diary does not include dates for meetings of individual Cabinet Members as Cabinet Members will take a view on when they need to meet to make decisions, rather than be bound by a diary of meetings. This will, of course, not affect members' opportunities for consultation on proposed decisions or to request to meet the Cabinet Member before decisions are taken

It is suggested that the dates, times and locations of all meetings other than the Council meeting are to be left to each individual committee. It is suggested that the needs of councillors who have work or other commitments at any time during the day are taken into account by the various committees and groups.

The schedule will remain a guide and subject to change and amendment to meet the needs of the work programs of each committee or other group

Proposal: **To adopt the schedule of meetings as the basis for arrangements for May 2016 to May 2017, recognising it is subject to change and amendment to meet the needs of the work programs of each committee or other group**

Action by Chief Democratic Services Officer

Timetable As set out in the diary and subject to the views of individual committees

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- All Members of the Council
- All Chief Officers
- Monitoring Officer
- Head of Finance

Background

The Council needs to agree a schedule of meetings to allow members to be aware of the pattern of meetings and to assist officers in producing reports in good time for the various stages of the decision making process or the overview and scrutiny process.

Work programme and schedule of full Council Meetings

The following sets out the notional Council work programme and proposed dates of meetings. Normally the meetings will commence at 5.00pm and will be broadcast live on the Council's website.

- **17 May 2016:** AGM
- **26 July 2016 :** Annual report of Director of Social Services/NNDR Rate relief / Annual report of DSC
- **27 September 2016:** Improvement Plan Review / Annual report by Scrutiny
- **6 December 2016:** Treasury Management
- **31 January 2017:** Council Tax Reduction Scheme/ Treasury management / Nomination of the Mayor
- **2nd March 2017** Budget
- **25 April 2017 :**Improvement Plan/Members Remuneration
- **16 May 2017 :** AGM

Cabinet Meetings

Normally the Cabinet will meet each month but additional meetings will be arranged as necessary. The Leader of the Cabinet will agree any amendments to the programme as shown in this report

Other Committees

For all other meetings, timings of meetings will be a matter for each individual committee. Amendments will be agreed following consultation with committee members.

Financial Summary:

There are no specific costs in agreeing a schedule of meetings.

Risks

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
Not adopting a schedule of meetings so that Work planning and key decision making is ad – hoc and lacks transparency and opportunities for proper	M	L	The report suggests an understandable and structured schedule of meetings that meets the needs of the decision making process but is also flexible enough to meet the needs of the council and its members	Chief Democratic Services Officer

consultation				
Adopting too rigid a schedule will not allow the needs of the council or its members to be taken into account.	M	L	The report offers the opportunity for all committees to arrange meetings to meet the needs of the membership of each committee.	Chief Democratic Services Officer

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

The schedule of meetings allows work planning to be undertaken in an informed manner allowing the Council's decision making process to meet statutory and constitutional requirements.

Options Available

- To adopt the Schedule as a guide
- To amend the schedule
- To take no action

Preferred Option and Why

The preferred option is to adopt the schedule of meetings as the basis for arrangements for May 2015 to May 2016.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

There are no direct financial consequences

Comments of Monitoring Officer

The proposed programme of meetings and arrangements for their frequency and timing are in accordance with Section 6 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, which requires the Council to review the traditional timings of meetings and adjust them to reflect the needs and commitments of Councillors, particularly working Members. The arrangements should be reviewed periodically and can be adjusted, if necessary.

Staffing Implications: Comments of Head of People and Business Change

There are no specific HR issues

Local issues

None

Scrutiny Committees

Scrutiny Committees not consulted but all elected members were consulted. Scrutiny Committees will set their own meeting times.

Equalities Impact Assessment

No EIA was undertaken but the report asks committees to take account the needs of all members when setting meeting times.

Children and Families (Wales) Measure

No consultation with children and young people was necessary

Consultation

As set out in the report:

Background Papers

None

Dated: January 2016

May 2016 - June 2016

May 2016							June 2016						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	1	2	3
30	31												

2 - 8 May		9 - 15 May		16 - 22 May		23 - 29 May		30 May - 5 Jun		6 - 12 Jun		
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
2 May	3	4	5	6	7	8						
	09:30 Licensing Committee	10:00 Planning Committee										
9	10	11	12	13	14	15						
11:00 Cabinet			12:00 Planning Site sub committee 17:00 Standards Committee									
16	17	18	19	20	21	22						
	17:00 AGM and Mayor Making											
23	24	25	26	27	28	29						
			17:00 Audit Committee									
30	31	1 Jun	2	3	4	5						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12						

June 2016

June 2016							July 2016						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
6	7	1	2	3	4	5	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	1 Jul	2	3	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

30 May		31		1 Jun		2		3		4		5	
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		10:00 Planning Committee	10:00 Scrutiny Committee Streetscene, Regeneration & safety										
6	7	8	9	10	11	12							
11:00 Cabinet Meeting	09:30 Licensing Committee	10:00 Scrutiny Committee Community Development & Planning 14:00 SACRE	12:00 Planning Site Subcommittee										
13	14	15	16	17	18	19							
	10:00 Local Service Board	17:00 Scrutiny Committee: (Learning, Caring Lifestyles)											
20	21	22	23	24	25	26							
			17:00 Audit Committee 18:00 Liaison with community councils										
27	28	29	30	1 Jul	2	3							
		14:30 Performance Board											

July 2016

July 2016							August 2016						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
25							22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday		Sunday	
27 Jun	28	29	30	1 Jul	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4	5	6	7	8	9	10							
	10:00 Licensing Committee	10:00 Planning Committee											
11	12	13	14	15	16	17							
11:00 Cabinet			12:00 Planning Site Sub Committee 17:00 Scrutiny Committee (Streetscene, Regeneration and Safety)										
18	19	20	21	22	23	24							
		16:00 Scrutiny Committee (Community Development and Planning)	09:30 Democratic Services Committee										
25	26	27	28	29	30	31							
	17:00 Council	17:00 Scrutiny Committee (Learning, Carling & Leisure)											

Richard Jefferies (Chief Democratic Services Officer)

August 2016

August 2016							September 2016						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30		
29	30	31											

1 - 7 Aug		8 - 14 Aug		15 - 21 Aug		22 - 28 Aug		29 Aug - 4 Sep	
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
1 Aug	2	3	4	5	6	7			
	09:30 Licensing Committee	10:00 Planning Committee							
8	9	10	11	12	13	14			
			12:00 Planning Site Sub Co mmitttee						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
29	30	31	1 Sep	2	3	4			

September 2016

September 2016							October 2016						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

29 Aug - 4 Sep		5 - 11 Sep		12 - 18 Sep		19 - 25 Sep		26 Sep - 2 Oct	
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
29 Aug	30	31	1 Sep	2	3	4	5	6	7
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	09:30 Licensing Committee	10:00 Planning Committee	10:00 Scrutiny Committee: Streetscene, Regeneration & Safety						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
11:00 Cabinet		10:00 Scrutiny Committee: Community Planning & Development	12:00 Planning Site Sub Committee 17:00 Standards Committee						
		14:30 Performance Board 17:00 Scrutiny Committee: Learning Caring and Leisure	17:00 Audit Committee 18:00 Liaison with Community Councils						
								17:00 Council	

October 2016

October 2016							November 2016						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
31							29	30					

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
26 Sep	27	28	29	30	1 Oct	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	09:30 Licensing Committee	10:00 Planning Committee				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			12:00 Planning Site Sub Committee			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
11:00 Cabinet		16:00 Scrutiny Committee: Community Planning & Development	17:00 Scrutiny Committee: Streetscene, Regeneration & Safety			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		17:00 Scrutiny Committee: Learning Carling and Leisure				
31	1 Nov	2	3	4	5	6

November 2016

November 2016							December 2016						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	

31 Oct		1 Nov		2 Nov		3 Nov		4 Nov		5 Nov		6 Nov	
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	09:30 Licensing Committee	10:00 Planning Committee											
7	8	9	10	11	12	13							
		14:00 SACRE	12:00 Planning Site Sub Committee										
14	15	16	17	18	19	20							
11:00 Cabinet			10:00 Scrutiny Committee: Streetscene, Regeneration & Safety										
21	22	23	24	25	26	27							
		10:00 Scrutiny Committee: Community Planning & Development	09:30 Democratic Services Committee 17:00 Audit Committee										
28	29	30	1 Dec	2	3	4							
		17:00 Scrutiny Committee: Learning Caring and Leisure											

Richard Jefferies (Chief Democratic Services Officer)

December 2016

December 2016							January 2017						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
28 Nov	29	30	1 Dec	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	09:30 Licensing Committee 17:00 Council	10:00 Planning Committee	18:00 Liaison with Commu nity Councils			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		14:30 Performance Board	12:00 Planning Site Sub Co mmittee			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		11:00 Cabinet				
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 Jan 17
26 Dec - 1 Jan	19 - 25 Dec	12 - 18 Dec	5 - 11 Dec	28 Nov - 4 Dec		

January 2017 - February 2017

January 2017							February 2017						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	29	30	31				
30													

2 - 8 Jan		9 - 15 Jan		16 - 22 Jan		23 - 29 Jan		30 Jan - 5 Feb		6 - 12 Feb	
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Jan	3	4	5	6	7	8					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15					
	09:30 Licensing Committee	10:00 Planning Committee	17:00 Scrutiny Committee: Streetscene, Regeneration & Safety								
16	17	18	19	20	21	22					
11:00 Cabinet		16:00 Scrutiny Committee: Community Planning & Development	12:00 Planning Site Sub Committee								
23	24	25	26	27	28	29					
		17:00 Scrutiny Committee: Learning Caring and Leisure	17:00 Audit Committee								
30	31	1 Feb	2	3	4	5		17:00 Council			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12					

February 2017

February 2017							March 2017						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		

30 Jan		31		1 Feb		2		3		4		5	
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		10:00 Planning Committee											
	09:30 Licensing Committee		12:00 Planning Site Sub Committee										
6	7	8	9	10	11	12							
13	14	15	16	17	18	19							
		14:00 SACRE	09:30 Democratic Services Committee										
20	21	22	23	24	25	26							
11:00 Cabinet													
27	28	1 Mar	2	3	4	5							

Richard Jefferies (Chief Democratic Services Officer)

Minutes



Standards Committee

Date: 14 January 2016

Time: 5.30 pm

Present: Councillor J Guy, Mr B John and Mr J Pickering

In Attendance: G Price (Head of Law and Regulation), J Owen (Chief Legal Officer) and A Jenkins (Democratic Services Officer)

Apologies: Councillors Taylor, D Fouweather, H Thomas and Hancock

1. Apologies for Absence

Hazel Taylor, Councillor H Thomas, Councillor Fouweather and G Hancock.

2. Declarations of Interest

None received.

3. Minutes of the Meeting dated 22 October 2015

The minutes of the meeting of 22 October 2015 was submitted. J Pickering was not marked as in attendance at the meeting.

Agreed:

That the minutes were approved subject to the above.

4. Matters Arising

The Report on the recent Wales Standards Conference which took place in October 2015 was published by Cardiff City Council. A paper copy of the document was distributed to those present, with a view to discussing the contents at the next meeting.

A Jenkins would send an electronic copy to those members not present.

5. Chair's Announcements

No announcements to report.

6. Complaints

Since the last meeting there were no further complaints.

7. Forward Work Programme

Member Training and Development

The draft Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2016 and the draft Local Government (Standards Committees, Investigations, Dispensations and Referral) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations were given consideration by those present.

The Monitoring Officer suggested deferring the work programme item regarding Code of Conduct training, until these draft statutory instruments had been issued and finalised. They were currently out for consultation with a view to being enacted prior to the Welsh Assembly elections on May 2016.. Mention was also made of the next local and community council elections in May 2017 and whether it would be advisable to defer any further training until then.

It was noted that only minor changes were proposed to be made to the Model Code of Conduct (the Code) to remove the requirement to report all breaches to the Ombudsman, in the light of local resolution protocols, and the removal of the conflict of interest provisions in relation to ward matters under paragraph 10(2) (b). Other minor changes reflected the legislative amendments that required community councils to be responsible for the maintenance and publication of their registers of members' interests.

The Chair asked whether the amendment was under a consultation period if members wanted to response. The consultation period had not yet expired however as the amendments were few the only response would be a favourable one. The consultation document was however on the Welsh Government website if members wanted to put forward their comments.

It was general considered that until the Committee was in receipt of a revised Code of Conduct, it would be too soon to discuss training and therefore training would be revisited at May's Committee.

The Monitoring Officer informed those present that there were proposed amendments regarding joint standards committees and referrals to other council's standards committees in accordance with the legislative framework.

Finally the document extended the elected member's terms of office. The four years term of office was due to expire this year, however as this coincided with the Police Crime Commissioner and Welsh Government elections legislation had been put in place to accommodate the fact that the next local elections would take place in May 2017. This effectively stated that Standards Committee co-opted members did not have to terminate their office in four years and the end of term of office would coincide with elected member five year term of office.

Agreed:

That training would be deferred to 12 May meeting.

8. Review of Community Councils

A letter was distributed to members for information regarding the Standards Committee Review of Ethical Standards. This was distributed electronically to Community Councils. The Monitoring Officer's letter invited Community Councils to adopt the Council's local resolution protocol on a voluntary basis. There had been two responses to date, all responses would be collated and compiled for the meeting in May to be discussed. It was considered that there would be a mixed response in terms of compliance as the Community Councils were so different in size.

Confirmation was also requested that they were maintaining their registers, if they were being published to their website and who the proper officer was. Community Councils were also expected to publish their Agendas and Minutes. The letter also informed Community Councillors about refresher training and what they might benefit from.

Newport City Council had adopted a local resolution protocol for resolving low-level complaints which was attached to the letter for their information.

Agreed:

To revisit this at the next meeting once all responses were collated.

9. Any Other Business

Further to the previous meeting where members of the Standards Committee from Torfaen County Borough Council attended, it was suggested that it might be beneficial to organise joint meetings of the Standards Committees with the five councils. This would be included on the Agenda for May's meeting.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place on Thursday 12 May 2016, Committee Room 4 at 5.30pm.

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