

# Decision Schedule



## Cabinet Member for Regulatory Functions

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**TO ALL MEMBERS OF NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL**

**Decision Schedule published on 12 January 2017**

The Cabinet Member took the following decision on 12 January 2017. It will become effective at Noon on 20 January 2017 with the exception of any particular decision(s), which is (are) the subject of a valid "call-in".

The deadline for submission of a 'Call-in' request form is 4.00 pm on 19 January 2017.

Information relating to the 'Call-in' process can be found on the website or via Democratic Services.

Reports relating to staffing issues/Confidential reports are not circulated to all members of the Council as part of the consultation/call-in processes.

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**RF 01/17**

### **Welsh Government Consultation – Introduction of Medical Examiners in Wales**

#### **Options Considered/Reasons for Decision**

To seek Cabinet Member approval of the proposed Council response to the Welsh Government's Consultation on the introduction of Medical Examiners in Wales.

The Welsh Government had published a Consultation document on proposed operational arrangements for the introduction of independent medical examiners in Wales in the light of proposed reforms to the death certification process in England and Wales. The new system was intended to provide an independent process for certifying the cause of death in cases where the coroner was not involved. The independent scrutiny of the cause of death by the new medical examiners would provide assurances that the death had been accurately recorded, and would provide robust information to help identify trends and patterns, making malpractice easier to detect.

In Wales, the appointment of independent medical examiners, medical examiner officers and the management of the operational arrangements for delivery of the death certification process would be the responsibility of the Local Health Boards. Therefore, the proposed response to the consultation focusses on those general issues that were relevant to the exercise of the Council's statutory functions in relation to the registration of deaths and the inter-relationship with the new medical examiner service.

In particular, the proposed consultation response highlighted the need to ensure that the service was delivered in a timely fashion, with adequate support, to avoid any delays and the requirement for consistency and clarity in relation to the certified cause of death.

It was also important that the medical examiner fees should be collected and paid in the same way as other funeral expenses and not become a further administrative burden on the Registration service.

#### **Decision**

To approve the proposed response to the Welsh Government Consultation on the introduction of Medical Examiners in Wales.

**Consultation**

Monitoring Officer, Head of Finance, Head of People & Business Change

All Members were consulted and provided with an opportunity to comment when previously circulated. Any comments received and responses thereafter are set out in the report.

**Implemented By: Head of Law & Regulation**  
**Implementation Timetable: Immediate**

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COUNCILLOR BOB POOLE, CABINET MEMBER FOR REGULATORY FUNCTIONS

Date: 12 January 2017

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