

# Minutes



## Council

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Date: 27 February 2018

Time: 5.00 pm

Present: Councillors M Al-Nuaimi, J Cleverly, P Cockeram, M Cornelious, D Davies, C Evans, M Evans, C Ferris, D Fouweather, G Giles, J Guy, D Harvey, I Hayat, R Jeavons, C Jenkins, M Kellaway, M Linton, D Mayer, R Mogford, A Morris, J Mudd, M Rahman, J Richards, M Spencer, T Suller, H Thomas, K Thomas, C Townsend, R Truman, T Watkins, M Whitcutt, R White, K Whitehead, D Wilcox, D Williams, G Berry, J Clarke, Y Forsey, R Hayat, T Holyoake, P Hourahine, J Hughes, J Jordan, L Lacey, S Marshall, W Routley and J Watkins

In Attendance:

Apologies: Councillors K Critchley, V Dudley and H Townsend

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### 1. Preliminaries

- i. To receive any apologies for absence

The Monitoring Officer reported apologies for absence.

- ii. To receive any declarations of interest

No declarations were made.

- iii. To receive any announcements by the Mayor

#### Newport Male Voice Choir

The Mayor congratulated Newport Male Voice Choir on their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Councillor Allan Morris paid tribute to the Choir and the incredible amount they have raised for charity over the years. He thanked the Council on behalf of the Choir for the city's ongoing support and urged Members to continue this support.

#### Spirit of Newport Awards

The Mayor welcomed Liz Johnson and Michael Flynn to the meeting, to receive their Spirit of Newport awards. Ron Jones was also receiving the award, but sadly was unable to attend the meeting.

The Leader introduced the awards, explaining the purpose of the new accolade in celebrating the fantastic and varied achievements of people connected to the city. The Leader paid tribute to the first three recipients of this award, outlining why each of them had been awarded with the new honour.

The Mayor presented the awards, echoing the sentiments of the Leader and congratulating the three recipients on behalf of the city of Newport.

Ms Johnson thanked the Council for the award, stating what it meant for her to be from Newport and have the support of the city. Mr Flynn also thanked the Council for the award, and said that he was proud to be from Newport.

Following the awards, the meeting was briefly adjourned to mark the end of the presentation ceremony.

## 2. **Appointments**

### **Resolved**

The following appointments were agreed:

<b>Governing Body</b>	<b>No. of Vacancies / Re-appointments</b>	<b>Nominations Received</b>
Tredegar Park Primary	1 vacancy	Karen Westerberg
Marshfield Primary	1 vacancy	Cllr Miqdad Al-Nuaimi
John Frost School	1 vacancy	Cllr Tracey Holyoake
Maes Ebbw School	1 vacancy	Cllr Majid Rahman

## 3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2018 were confirmed as a true record, subject to the addition of Councillor Suller's question under Police Issues.

## 4. **Police Issues**

Superintendent Ian Roberts attended, providing a brief update on points raised at the last meeting, and the latest policing priorities in the city, before inviting questions from Members.

- Councillor Allan Morris asked a question about attacks on emergency services personnel. Superintendent Roberts accepted that this came with the job to a certain extent, but reassured members that any attacks on personnel were taken incredibly seriously and investigated, and services were working together to make sure that these events were both prevented where possible and dealt with fully when they occur.
- Cllr Truman thanked the Superintendent for recent activity tackling parking in his ward, and looked forward to seeing more proactivity on this issue whenever possible.
- Cllr Jeavons thanked the Superintendent for dealing with anti-social behaviour on the retail park. In response to Cllr Jeavon's question, the Superintendent reassured members that enforcement of parking would continue while civil parking enforcement powers were being sought.

- Cllr Whitehead paid tribute to local PCSO Steve Metcalf for his hard work in the ward. He also praised the mini police initiative. The Superintendent confirmed that this initiative was in place at Millbrook Primary, and was planned to be rolled out more widely.
- In response to Cllr Harvey's question about issues on Alway Crescent, the Superintendent agreed to follow this up outside the meeting.
- Cllr Linton thanked officers for their response to a recent major fire in the ward. He also highlighted recent incidents of arson and ASB in the ward, which the Superintendent agreed to follow up outside the meeting.
- Cllr Hourahine praised the new initiative against people trafficking. He also thanked the police for their response to the recent incident of harassment in Old Barn.
- Councillor Kellaway asked for support dealing with off road bikes in his ward, which the Superintendent agreed to follow up.
- Councillor Cornelious reported finding evidence of drug use in her ward, and the Superintendent agreed to follow up with the local inspector.
- Cllr Dr Hayat thanked the Sergeant who had recently moved from Pill, for the difference the Sergeant had made during her time working in the ward.
- Cllr Hughes thanked the Superintendent for recent activities in Caerleon. The Superintendent agreed to follow up the specific issues raised by Cllr Hughes.
- In response to Cllr Guy's question, the Superintendent described the approach used by the police in using technology to investigate and prepare evidence to prosecute crimes, outlining the specialist expertise available in the local force.

The Mayor thanked the Superintendent for his attendance.

## 5. **Revenue Budget 2018-19 and Medium Term Financial Plan**

The Leader of the Council presented the report on the 2018/19 Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan.

The Leader stated that this budget was the culmination of 6 months hard and diligent work, alongside officers, to respond to the impact of on-going austerity whilst ensuring this Council continues to provide the essential services and support that residents require from Local Government. The Leader thanked colleagues for their hard work on the budget.

The Leader explained that it was for Council to agree:

- the Council Tax increase for the City Council, with Cabinet agreeing how and where the Council's budget is spent .
- the overall Council Tax Resolution, so the authority for the Council to then charge Council Tax in 2018/19, which also included the precept requirements coming from the Police and Crime Commissioner and the various Community Councils around the city.
- the annual Treasury Management strategies and borrowing limits coming out of the Capital programme.

The revenue budget was finalised at Cabinet on 14 February following a comprehensive consultation exercise, and the Leader thanked all who had contributed to the consultation activities. The Leader highlighted the good response rate to the consultation, with 2,680 individual proposal responses, 47 people attending the market event and 75 people attending specific sessions on individual proposals. There were also responses from the scrutiny committees, schools forum and the Fairness Commission.

The Leader highlighted that in finalising the budget the Cabinet had

- reduced the Council Tax increase
- provided more funding for schools
- re-considered the respite care budget saving

The Leader highlighted the legal duty to set a balanced budget within the context of significant increases in demand for services, from the most vulnerable in society, and no increase in central funding.

The Leader stated that the budget would build on the success of the previous 5 years, and gave examples of capital and revenue investment projects introduced. The Leader also highlighted that the Council still had the second lowest Council Tax level in Wales and one of the lowest in the UK, while still spending around £8m under Newport's Standard Spending Assessment.

The Leader stated that the revenue budget would see the Council's net budget set at just under £275m and this requires a Council Tax Increase of 4.8% for 2018/19, just over £48 per annum on an average Band 'D' property or 93p per week. This increase was consistent with other unitary councils in Wales and England, and it was being recommended to Council as a fair balance between an increase in Council Tax and making savings to fund the essential investments required.

In relation to the capital programme, the Leader highlighted the continuation of significant investments in the city over the last 5 years, including

- £70m over the next 5 years or so to continue the investments in school buildings and capacity
- A number of key schemes in the city centre such as the Market arcade and the development of grade 'A' offices in Mill Street
- The annual cyclical programmes, including disabled facilities works as well as major building maintenance and IT/vehicle replacements

Finally, in relation to treasury management, the Leader highlighted the proposed updates detailed in the report, which had previously been considered by the Council's Audit Committee.

In concluding, the Leader stated that this had been a challenging budget, following over £40m savings already delivered over the last 5 years. The Leader was pleased to recommend this budget as it continued the journey in delivering essential services to residents, supporting the most vulnerable residents and improving the city itself.

In seconding the proposals, Councillor Whitcutt suggested that, in the absence of an alternative set of proposals being put forward, a vote against the proposals was a vote against the legal requirement to set a balanced budget.

Members speaking against the proposals stated:

- The comments raised by the scrutiny committees in considering the proposals, which members felt had been disregarded. Members cited some of the specific issues raised by the committees on certain proposals, which they felt needed to be addressed.
- That the Oaklands proposal should be delayed pending a meeting planned for this week with consultees.
  - o As a point of clarification, the Leader assured Members that the Cabinet Member would be meeting with residents and if there were changes that needed to be made, they would be.
- Objections to the council tax rise and the impact that would have on local residents.
- That the proposals were at odds with the Council's mission to improve people's lives.
- That the blame on Westminster cuts was misplaced, instead blaming the impact of funding to local governments by the funding allocated to Welsh Government and the costs of Cardiff Bay.
- That more innovative solutions needed to be found to modernise services and provide longer term savings.

Members speaking in favour of the proposals stated:

- That the difficult decisions being faced were as a result of the national government's austerity measures and policy decisions.
- That a complex process had been followed to bring the budget forward today, and the savings being proposed were those that would have the least negative impact to produce a balanced budget.
- That no alternative budget had been put forward.
  - o As a point of clarification, Councillor M Evans stated that he had put forward suggestions for alternative proposals.
- Councillor Dr Hayat used the example of his recent trip to the refugee camps to highlight the excellent services in place in Newport, and support the council tax rise.
- The negative impact of the Barnett formula on local government funding in Wales.

A closure motion was passed and the Leader summed up by commending the budget to the Council for approval.

The vote was carried.

## **RESOLVED**

### **Revenue budget and Council Tax 18/19 (paragraphs 2-8)**

- 1 To note that an extensive consultation exercise has been completed on the medium term change and efficiency programme, including the 2018/19 budget proposals. Cabinet have taken these into account in recommending final details of the programme and the resulting 2018/19 overall revenue budget to Council;

- 2 To note the Head of Finance's recommendations that minimum general fund balances be maintained at £6.5million, the confirmation of the robustness of the overall budget underlying the proposals, and the adequacy of the general reserves in the context of other earmarked reserves and a general revenue budget contingency of c£1.5million and People services specific budget contingency of £2.2m;
- 3 To consider and approve a council tax increase for Newport City Council of 4.8%, a Band D tax of £1,057.14; and resulting overall revenue budget shown in appendix 1;
- 4 To approve the formal council tax resolution, included in appendix 3 which incorporates The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent and Community Council precepts, and as set out below:

## RESOLUTION TO SET COUNCIL TAX LEVELS

- A. That the revenue estimates for 2018/2019, as recommended by the Cabinet on 14 February 2018 be approved.
- B. That it be noted that the Council at its meeting on 20 February 2007 delegated the setting of the tax base to the Head of Finance and that on 10 November 2017, the Head of Finance acting in accordance with that delegation calculated the following amounts for the year 2018/2019 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

(a) Council Tax Base

58,465.51 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (calculation of council tax base) Regulations 1992, as its council tax base for the year;

(b) Council Tax base for parts of the Council's Area

Area	Tax base
Bishton	767
Coedkernew	986
Goldcliff	192
Graig	2,880
Langstone	1,934
Llanvaches	246
Llanwern	665
Marshfield	1,535
Michaelstone	171
Nash	142
Penhow	459
Redwick	114
Rogerstone	5,008
Wentlooge	365

C. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2018/2019 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

- (a) £412,160,155.74 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act **(Gross Expenditure)**.
- (b) £137,287,116.74 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act **(Gross Income)**.
- (c) £274,873,039.00 being the amount by which the aggregate at (3)(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year **(Budget + Community Council precepts)**.
- (d) £212,790,074.00 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its council fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant or additional grant **(RSG + NNDR)**.
- (e) £1,061.87 being the amount at 3(c) above less the amount at 3(d) above, all divided by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year **(Average Band 'D' Tax for NCC including Community Councils)**.
- (f) £276,935.00 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act and detailed below **(Community Council precepts)**.

Area	Special Item £
Bishton	9,485.56
Coedkernew	2,957.97
Goldcliff	3,078.40
Graig	57,605.40
Langstone	40,232.61
Llanvaches	4,912.00
Llanwern	7,498.72
Marshfield	27,637.20
Michaelstone	3,699.85
Nash	1,784.56
Penhow	14,718.17
Redwick	2,747.96
Rogerstone	96,112.92
Wentlooge	4,463.68
	<b>276,935.00</b>

- (g) £1,057.14 being the amount at 3(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(f) above by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates **(NCC Band 'D' Council Tax)**.

(h) Council Tax level for parts of the Council's Area

Area	Basic Council Tax £
Bishton	1,069.50
Coedkernew	1,060.14
Goldcliff	1,073.14
Graig	1,077.14
Langstone	1,077.94
Llanvaches	1,077.14
Llanwern	1,068.42
Marshfield	1,075.14
Michaelstone	1,078.84
Nash	1,069.71
Penhow	1,089.24
Redwick	1,081.30
Rogerstone	1,076.33
Wentlooge	1,069.38

Being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(g) above, the amounts of the special item or items in 3(f) divided by the amount at 2(b) for the specified area of the council. These amounts are calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

NCC + Community Councils	Valuation Bands								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p
Bishton	713.00	831.83	950.67	1,069.50	1,307.17	1,544.83	1,782.50	2,139.00	2,495.50
Coedkernew	706.76	824.55	942.35	1,060.14	1,295.73	1,531.31	1,766.90	2,120.28	2,473.66
Goldcliff	715.43	834.66	953.90	1,073.14	1,311.62	1,550.09	1,788.57	2,146.28	2,503.99
Graig	718.09	837.78	957.46	1,077.14	1,316.50	1,555.87	1,795.23	2,154.28	2,513.33
Langstone	718.63	838.40	958.17	1,077.94	1,317.48	1,557.02	1,796.57	2,155.88	2,515.19
Llanvaches	718.09	837.78	957.46	1,077.14	1,316.50	1,555.87	1,795.23	2,154.28	2,513.33
Llanwern	712.28	830.99	949.71	1,068.42	1,305.85	1,543.27	1,780.70	2,136.84	2,492.98
Marshfield	716.76	836.22	955.68	1,075.14	1,314.06	1,552.98	1,791.90	2,150.28	2,508.66
Michaelstone	719.23	839.10	958.97	1,078.84	1,318.58	1,558.32	1,798.07	2,157.68	2,517.29
Nash	713.14	832.00	950.85	1,069.71	1,307.42	1,545.14	1,782.85	2,139.42	2,495.99
Penhow	726.16	847.19	968.21	1,089.24	1,331.29	1,573.35	1,815.40	2,178.48	2,541.56
Redwick	720.87	841.01	961.16	1,081.30	1,321.59	1,561.88	1,802.17	2,162.60	2,523.03
Rogerstone	717.55	837.15	956.74	1,076.33	1,315.51	1,554.70	1,793.88	2,152.66	2,511.44
Wentlooge	712.92	831.74	950.56	1,069.38	1,307.02	1,544.66	1,782.30	2,138.76	2,495.22
All Other Parts of the City	704.76	822.22	939.68	1,057.14	1,292.06	1,526.98	1,761.90	2,114.28	2,466.66



Being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(g) and 3(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in the valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- D. That it be noted for the year 2018/2019, that The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent has stated the following proposed amount in precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent	Valuation Bands								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p
All Parts of the City	159.23	185.76	212.30	238.84	291.92	344.99	398.07	477.68	557.29

- E. That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(i) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for the year 2018/2019 for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:-

Total Council Tax Demand	Valuation Bands								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p
Bishton	872.23	1,017.59	1,162.97	1,308.34	1,599.09	1,889.82	2,180.57	2,616.68	3,052.79
Coedkernew	865.99	1,010.31	1,154.65	1,298.98	1,587.65	1,876.30	2,164.97	2,597.96	3,030.95
Goldcliff	874.66	1,020.42	1,166.20	1,311.98	1,603.54	1,895.08	2,186.64	2,623.96	3,061.28
Graig	877.32	1,023.54	1,169.76	1,315.98	1,608.42	1,900.86	2,193.30	2,631.96	3,070.62
Langstone	877.86	1,024.16	1,170.47	1,316.78	1,609.40	1,902.01	2,194.64	2,633.56	3,072.48
Llanvaches	877.32	1,023.54	1,169.76	1,315.98	1,608.42	1,900.86	2,193.30	2,631.96	3,070.62
Llanwern	871.51	1,016.75	1,162.01	1,307.26	1,597.77	1,888.26	2,178.77	2,614.52	3,050.27
Marshfield	875.99	1,021.98	1,167.98	1,313.98	1,605.98	1,897.97	2,189.97	2,627.96	3,065.95
Michaelstone	878.46	1,024.86	1,171.27	1,317.68	1,610.50	1,903.31	2,196.14	2,635.36	3,074.58
Nash	872.37	1,017.76	1,163.15	1,308.55	1,599.34	1,890.13	2,180.92	2,617.10	3,053.28
Penhow	885.39	1,032.95	1,180.51	1,328.08	1,623.21	1,918.34	2,213.47	2,656.16	3,098.85
Redwick	880.10	1,026.77	1,173.46	1,320.14	1,613.51	1,906.87	2,200.24	2,640.28	3,080.32
Rogerstone	876.78	1,022.91	1,169.04	1,315.17	1,607.43	1,899.69	2,191.95	2,630.34	3,068.73
Wentlooge	872.15	1,017.50	1,162.86	1,308.22	1,598.94	1,889.65	2,180.37	2,616.44	3,052.51
All Other Parts of the City	863.99	1,007.98	1,151.98	1,295.98	1,583.98	1,871.97	2,159.97	2,591.96	3,023.95

## Capital Programme and 2018/19 budget (paragraph 9)

- 5 To approve the new five year capital programme and 2018/19 capital budget. Detail contained in appendix 4.

**Treasury Management and Investment strategies, Minimum Revenue Provision Policies and Prudential Indicators (paragraph 10)**

- 6 To approve treasury management policies in line with the detail contained in appendix 5;
- 7 To approve the annual investment strategy in line with the detail contained in appendix 5;
- 8 To approve the Council's counterparty list (external bodies for council investments) in line with the detail contained in appendix 5;
- 9 To approve the prudential indicators in line with the detail contained in appendix 5;
- 10 To approve the minimum revenue provision policy in line with the detail contained in appendix 5;

**Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital programme (paragraphs 2 – 4 and 9)**

- 11 To note the MTFP and the challenging financial climate over the medium term;
- 12 To note Cabinets approval of the implementation of the full four year change and efficiency programme, including all budget investments and saving options, as summarised within the medium term financial plan (appendix 6) and the new capital programme (appendix 4). Noting they are subject to on-going review and updating.

**6. Questions to the Leader of the Council**

Leader's Announcements

In answer to the first question from the Mayor, the Leader made the following announcements:

- Congratulations to Newport athlete Mica Moore on her recent success in the bobsleigh competition at the PyeongChang Winter Olympics.
- The appointment of Professor Simon Gibson, one of Wales' leading business figures, as Chair of the Newport Economic Network.
- The planning work now starting, following in principle support received for the recently submitted funding bid to the Welsh Government to support £70 million of improvement to school buildings as part of the 21st Century Schools and Education programme.

City Centre Footbridge

Councillor Matthew Evans asked a question on improvements to the subway between Gold Tops and the city centre. He questioned why money was being spent on this project instead of the proposed footbridge.

The Leader responded that discussions were ongoing with Network Rail to progress the footbridge as quickly as possible. It was understood that improvements to the subway were being funded by developers, not the Council.

In response to Councillor Evans' supplementary question, the Leader agreed that the footbridge was needed and that the Council was continuing to lobby Welsh Government for progress on this project.

### Newport Market

Councillor Kevin Whitehead raised concerns over the management of Newport Market, and asked that a cross-party working group be set up to bring the property management company back under the Council's control.

The Leader stated that the market was a priority for this administration, and was included in the city centre master plan. Regular meetings were held between market traders, Newport Norse and the Council, which the Leader of the Opposition had attended last time. The Leader recognised that the market needed to move with the times, and the model needed a revision for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Leader highlighted that resources had been put into improving engagement with the market traders, and the administration were listening to what people were saying. The Leader promised to follow up Councillor Whitehead's comments on Newport Norse and provide a response in writing.

### Footbridge

In answer to her question, Councillor Carmel Townsend was assured that delivery of the footbridge continued to be a priority for the administration.

### The Value of Social Care

In answer to Councillor James Clarke's question, the Leader highlighted the importance of educating people in Newport on the value of social care, and demonstrating the impact and value of the Council's services. The Leader cited the impact of austerity on individuals and communities, and spoke in favour of investment in preventative services, in line with the philosophy of the latest future generations and social care legislation.

## **7. Questions to the Cabinet Members**

The following questions were submitted and answered:

### **Cabinet Member for Education and Skills**

*Councillor Joan Watkins asked:*

The Cabinet Member for Education has been in post for some two years during her time of office two thirds of our Secondary Schools have fallen either into the red zone or indeed special measures. Additionally the Alternative Education Facility and Maesglas Primary school are also in the red Zone. I would add there are schools in the amber zone which also gives rise to concern.

Would she please tell this Council what has gone wrong and is she responsible for this sorry state of affairs?

*The Cabinet Member responded:*

There were nine secondary schools in Newport. One third of those were currently categorised as red (not two thirds as stated in the question). Almost two thirds of Newport secondary schools were in yellow or green category, recognising their excellent standards and strong upward trajectory.

Newport had the highest level of green secondary schools in the region. 55% of Newport secondary schools were categorised as yellow and green, compared to the regional average of 41%.

GCSE outcomes across Newport were contextually stronger than they had ever been. This year Newport ranked at 10th place in Wales for the Level 2+ measure (5 GCSE's A\*-C). This was a 5 ranking place rise from the previous year and 6 places above where Newport should sit within its Free School Meals national ranking position.

Newport has 57% green primary schools. This was 12% more than the regional average in 2016-17.

All schools, regardless of their categorisation had areas of strength, as shown in very school's national categorisation or Estyn report. The Cabinet Member highlighted the good work of Newport schools linked to high academic standards, the strong focus on well-being, improving attendance and excellent parental engagement. She stated that there was a lot to be proud of, and schools should be congratulated for their hard work and commitment.

The Cabinet Member clarified that some levels of categorisation were in place for a short amount of time. High levels of support could be required when a school was amalgamated, had a new or temporary leadership structure or had a series of unavoidable staff absences. Estyn and the EAS were experts in assessing areas which require further attention. In most circumstances the school had identified these themselves, through effective self-evaluation. Support plans, with clear milestones were put into place to address these short comings.

A red categorisation ensured that the school had the highest level of support from the EAS and LA. However there was also an expectation that the school (Head, Governing Body and all staff) drove the school forward. The Council was consistently assessing their capacity to do this. The Chief Education Officer, the Principal Challenge Adviser and the Cabinet Member met with red schools on at least a termly basis to monitor progress and hold the school to account. This high level of support allowed schools to resolve issues and move forward.

*Supplementary question:*

In response to Councillor Watkins' supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed her commitment to ensuring that schools receive the right support and achieve maximum results; the categorisation system was key to highlighting where additional support was needed so it could be targeted quickly and appropriately.

## **Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member for Assets and Member Development**

*Councillor William Routley asked:*

Do you believe that Newport Norse is managing Newport Market Effectively, and is there a need for member training regarding openness and transparency?

*The Cabinet Member responded:*

That Newport Norse was managing Newport Market effectively, and there was not a need for member training regarding openness and transparency.

*Supplementary question:*

Councillor Routley questioned the Cabinet Member's response, citing issues with the management of the building, and the closed nature of the meetings with trader representatives.

In response, the Cabinet Member highlighted that:

- The liaison meetings took place with trader representatives appointed by the traders themselves. Those meetings were not held in public as this could impede a full and frank discussion. These were not formal council meetings, so did not require formal minutes to be taken and published.
- Notes were taken of the trader meetings with action points, and redacted copies would be made available to Members on request.
- There was open dialogue between the Council, Norse and Traders, which had resulted in a number of changes to management practices for the Market, including an events programme, and introducing rental holidays.
- The Council needed to build on the relationships with the elected market trader representatives; the current publicity and political attention risked undermining the work that was being done to make improvements.

#### **8. Questions to the Chairs of Committees**

No questions were submitted on this occasion.

#### **9. Standards Committee Minutes**

The minutes of the last Standards Committee meeting were noted.

The meeting terminated at Time Not Specified