

Decision Schedule



Cabinet

TO ALL MEMBERS OF NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL

Decision Schedule published on 14/02/2019

The following decisions were taken on 13/02/2019. They will become effective at Noon on 21/02/2019 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 (available from Democratic Services) is 4.00 pm on 20/02/2019. Reports relating to staffing issues/confidential reports are not circulated to all Members of the Council as part of the consultation/call-in processes.

CAB 04/19

December Revenue Budget Monitor

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The report to Cabinet highlighted the current forecast position on the Council's revenue budget and the risks and opportunities that present themselves within the December position.

Cabinet was asked to:

- Note the overall budget forecast position including use of all budget contingencies to balance forecast service overspending;
- Agree to instruct all areas of the Council to maintain robust financial management;
- Note the level of undelivered savings within each directorate and the risks associated with this;
- Note the forecast movements in reserves;
- Note the projected balances of individual schools over the next year;

Decision:

Cabinet Members/Head of Finance/SLT and CMT confirmed plans to:

- promote and ensure robust forecasting throughout all service areas;
- reduce service area over-spending;
- manage/mitigate those projects that are unable to deliver required Medium Term Financial Projection (MTFP) savings.

Consultation

Chief Executive; Strategic Directors; Head of Finance; Heads of Service; Budget Holders and Accountancy Staff.

Implemented By: Cabinet Members/Head of Finance/SLT and CMT.

Implementation Timetable: On-going

CAB 05/19

Capital Programme Monitoring and Additions December 2018

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The report was submitted to Cabinet for approval, requests for new capital schemes to be added to the Council's Capital Programme, which will form the basis for the remaining 4 years of the 5 year programme to be included in the new capital strategy, treasury management strategy and its revenue funding within the 2019/20 MTFP budget report.

The report also updated Cabinet on current spending against the Capital Programme schemes, highlighting the forecast outturn position for the programme as at December 2018.

The report proposed:

- To approve the additions to the Capital Programme requested in the report (Appendix C of the report refers) and approve slippage from 2018/19 budget into 2019/20.
- To note the available remaining headroom over the life of the capital programme and the need to prioritise capital expenditure within this envelope to ensure the programme remains affordable.
- To note the capital expenditure forecast position as at December 2018.
- To note the balance of and approve the allocation of in-year capital receipts.

Decision:

Cabinet agreed to accept the proposals contained in the report as noted above.

Consultation

Heads of Service; Accountancy Teams for Relevant Service Areas; Relevant Service Area Project Managers; NORSE Property Services.

Implemented By: Assistant Head of Finance

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

CAB 06/19

2019/20 Budget and Medium Term Financial Projections

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The report presented the consultation results and final proposals for the 2019/20 budget; it asked Cabinet to recommend a final budget and council tax level to full Council on 26 February 2019.

With regard to the Medium term financial projections, Cabinet was asked to:

- i) Note the formal consultation meetings on the budget as outlined in section 3 and the feedback received, shown in appendices 1 to 4;

- ii) Note the equalities impact assessment summary on the budget proposals, shown in appendix 10;
- iii) Agree the implementation of the full four-year change/savings programme, including all budget investments and savings options (appendices 6 - 7), as summarised within the medium term financial projections (appendix 8), noting they are subject to on-going review and updating;
- iv) Agree the 2019/20 fees and charges of the council shown in appendix 12.

With regard to the overall revenue budget and resulting council tax 2019/20, Cabinet was asked to:

- i) 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 revenue budget contingency of c£1.5million;
- ii) Note the current level of Council Tax for Newport City Council and the monetary value of various percentage increases and how this compares to levels of council tax at other councils as shown in table 7;
- iii) Review changes to the draft budget proposals shown in appendix 9, and which are included in the list of budget investments and savings in appendices 6 and 7;
- iv) Recommend an overall net budget for the City Council and resulting Council Tax to the Council, noting that a formal resolution including the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent and Community Councils' precepts will be presented to Council on the 26 February;
- v) Approve expenditure and use of the Invest to Save reserve in line with the summary shown in appendix 11b, noting they are based on detailed business cases reviewed by Cabinet at its December 2018 meeting.

Decision:

All of the above proposals were agreed by Cabinet. Cabinet agreed further changes in the meeting as follows:

- i) To reduce Council Tax increase recommendation to Council to 5.95%.
- ii) To amend the central education proposal and reduce this by £155k to allow central education to retain 3 of the 4 EWO's and the full time Educational Psychologist which would have otherwise been cut.
- iii) Delay the implementation of the residents' parking permit increased fees proposal until the implementation of the Council's civil parking enforcement service in July 2019.
- iv) Subject to agreement with other Gwent Councils, the education SENCOM proposal and saving would be delayed by one year because of an extension to the withdrawal period the Council had offered, subject to an independent review of the service and costs and to utilise reserves, generated from this current year's underspending, to fund this over that period.

Consultation

Chief Executive; Strategic Directors; Head of Law and Regulation; Head of People and Business Change.

Implemented By: Head of Finance who will finalise the Council Tax calculations for the February Council meeting and subsequent billing.

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

CAB 07/19

2019/20 Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The report included both the Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy for Cabinet's endorsement which was required prior to seeking approval by Council; it also confirmed the capital programme for Cabinet's approval. The revenue impacts of both strategies were included within the Medium Term Financial Projection (MTFP) which was approved separately by Cabinet as part of the 2019/20 budget report.

Cabinet was asked:

- i) To approve the updated current five-year capital programme ending 2022/23, and the current level of headroom available for future capital expenditure, noting the associated increased revenue costs within the current Medium Term Financial Projections for funding the cost of borrowing (MTFP) (Appendix 1 of the report);
- ii) To recommend to Council the first Capital Strategy for approval including Prudential Indicators and recommended borrowing limits coming from the capital programme; (Appendix 2 of the report);
- iii) To recommend to Council the Treasury Management Strategy and Treasury Management Indicators, the Investment Strategy and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for 2019/20. (Appendix 3 of the report).

Decision:

The proposals were agreed by Cabinet.

Consultation

Chief Executive; Strategic Directors; All Heads of Service; Newport Norse; The Council's Treasury Advisors; Accountancy Staff.

Implemented By: Head of Finance

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

CAB 08/19

Signing up to the Welsh Government Code of Practice, Ethical Employment in Supply Chains

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

Cabinet was asked to approve sign up to the Code of Practice, which has been established by Welsh Government, to support the development of more ethical supply chains to deliver

contracts for the Welsh public sector and third sector organisations in receipt of public funds. The Code is designed to ensure that workers in public sector supply chains are employed ethically and in compliance with both the letter and spirit of UK, EU, and international laws. Cabinet was also asked to approve the implementation plan shown in Appendix 1 of the report, Which is to be overseen by the Deputy Leader in his role as 'champion' for ethical procurement/practices.

Decision:

Cabinet agreed:

- i) To approve signing up to the Code of Practice
- ii) To approve the implementation plan shown in Appendix 1, to be overseen by the Deputy Leader in his role as 'champion' for ethical procurement/practices

Consultation

Chief Executive; Strategic Directors; Heads of Service; Cabinet Member for Assets, Equalities and Member Development.

Implemented By: Deputy Leader and Head of Finance

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

CAB 09/19

Corporate Safeguarding (2017/2018)

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The report detailed the annual corporate safeguarding report which monitors, scrutinises and plans on the theme of "safeguarding" becoming fundamentally embedded within all aspects of Council services, functions and duties.

Scrutiny had been provided with essential and key information to build their understanding and knowledge on the topic of "safeguarding" in order to allow them to effectively scrutinise the Council's safeguarding practice.

The report updated Cabinet on the work that has been undertaken to improve arrangements for safeguarding and protecting children and adults who require specific Council services and to ensure that those arrangements are effective.

Decision:

Cabinet acknowledged the work undertaken by Scrutiny in the review and progress of the key priority work plans for both corporate safeguarding arrangements and the safeguarding specific teams as identified in the period 2017/18.

Consultation

Cabinet Member for Social Services; Strategic Director People; Head of Children and Young People Services; Head of Finance; Monitoring Officer and the Head of People and Business Change.

Implemented By: Head of Children and Young People Services and the Service Manager Safeguarding

Implementation Timetable: N/A

CAB 10/19

Newport Market Update

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The report updated Cabinet on the progress to date on the regeneration proposals for Newport Market.

It was reported that in July 2018, the Council's Cabinet approved a £12 million redevelopment proposal from the development company – Loft Co, to regenerate and revitalise Newport Provisions Market. The Cabinet approval was subject to detailed due diligence work by the Council's Head of Finance and Head of Law & Regulation. That due diligence work has been completed, and officers are currently negotiating heads of terms with the developer on the basis of a 250-year lease, and an associated funding agreement.

The Leader stressed the importance that, whilst Cabinet will make a decision today to proceed with the proposed development and to support the scheme financially, further changes may be required to the project due to the requirements of planning and listed building consent. Therefore, it was still necessary to grant delegated authority to the officers to agree any changes and finalise and complete the necessary legal and financial documentation, provided that there was no change to the nature and viability of the scheme.

The Leader thanked the Head of Law and Regulation and the Head of Finance for their work to date in taking this scheme forward.

Decision:

Cabinet agreed:

- i) To note progress made on the scheme to date and the satisfactory outcome of the legal and financial due diligence work;
- ii) To confirm their agreement to the grant of the proposed development lease and loan funding on the terms set out in the report;
- iii) To authorise the Head of Law & Regulation and Head of Finance to finalise and complete the necessary legal and financial documentation

Consultation

Strategic Director Place; Head of Finance; Monitoring Officer; Head of People and Business Change.

Implemented By: Head of Regeneration, Investment and Housing

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

CAB 11/19

City Centre Masterplan 2019-2029

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The report identified the work undertaken since the Council launched the formal consultation on the draft City Centre Masterplan at the January 2018 City Summit, following which a formal public consultation was also undertaken over the course of the spring that year. Since that launch, several projects identified in the Masterplan have moved forward rapidly, which gave rise to the need to review and nurture the delivery of major investments for the City Centre. Projects secured to date have been added to the narrative within the Masterplan, evidencing investment potential and the need for on-going regeneration of the City Centre.

Decision:

Cabinet agreed to formally adopt the vision, objectives and priority projects of the City Centre Masterplan 2019-29 as the Council's strategic framework for City Centre Regeneration.

Consultation

Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing; Strategic Director Place; Head of Regeneration, Investment and Housing; Head of Finance; Head of Law and Regulation; Head of People and Business Change.

Implemented By: Regeneration Manager

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

CAB 12/19

Cabinet Work Programme

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The Leader presented the Cabinet Work Programme.

Decision:

Cabinet agreed the programme.

Consultation

Chief Officers; Monitoring Officer; Head of Finance; Head of People and Business Change

Implemented By: Cabinet Office Manager

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

COUNCILLOR DEBBIE WILCOX, CHAIR OF THE CABINET

Date: 14 February 2019
