

Decision Schedule

Cabinet



TO ALL MEMBERS OF NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL

Decision Schedule published on 23/05/2019

The following decisions were taken on 22/05/2019. They will become effective at Noon on 03/06/2019 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 31/05/2019. 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 25/19

Wales Audit Office Report on the Council's Well-being Step to Maintain our Focus on Regenerating the City Centre to become one of the UK's top cities

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The report presented Cabinet with the Wales Audit Office (WAO) report including the Management Action Plan on how the Council is acting in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act in delivering its Well-being Objective '*To promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment*' and its Well-being Step '*Maintain our focus on regenerating the city centre to become one of the UK's top cities.*'

As part of the programme of regulatory activity, in accordance with the Well-being for Future Generations Act 2015, the Wales Audit Office undertook a programme of work to ensure the Council is discharging its duties under the Act. The report outlined WAO findings from the review and concluded that: '*In taking steps to regenerate the city centre the Council has many positive examples of how it has taken account of the sustainable development principle (SDP). However, the Council recognises that there is more to do for it to consistently embed all of the five ways of working across its ambitions for the regeneration of the city centre.*' The report raised 10 'areas of development' for the Council to implement.

Cabinet was asked to note the outcome of the review, areas of development and management response in implementing the necessary actions.

Cabinet considered the following options:

- a) To note the outcomes from the Wales Audit Office report and to receive regular updates on the implementation of the management actions;
- b) To disregard the contents of the report and its findings.

Decision:

Cabinet agreed to note the outcomes from the Wales Audit Office report and to receive regular updates on the implementation of the management actions

Consultation

Senior Leadership Team.

Implemented By: Cabinet

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

CAB 26/19

Corporate Safeguarding Report

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The report presented to Cabinet the annual corporate safeguarding report, which monitors, scrutinises and objectively plans on the theme of “*safeguarding*” being fundamentally embedded within all aspects of council services, functions and duties.

The report confirmed this is the second review of the annual corporate safeguarding report. The Scrutiny committee’s recommendations made in February 2018 regarding the original report format were accepted and there had been a significant re-modelling of the report to present Scrutiny with a revised strategic and synthesised document.

Cabinet was asked to review the progress of the key priority work plans for both corporate safeguarding arrangements and safeguarding specific teams.

Cabinet considered the following options:

1. To continue to develop corporate safeguarding practice within all services across the Council and embed all WAO recommendations to evidence a responsible and positive Council.
2. To halt the on-going development of safeguarding practice across the Council and for Social Services to be the one safeguarding measure within the Council.

Decision:

Cabinet agreed Option 1 in order to enable the Council to grow and ensure that safeguarding is ‘everybody’s business’ and part of every Council service delivered to the citizens of Newport.

Consultation

Strategic Director - People; Head of People and Business Change; Head of Finance; Head of Law and Regulation

Implemented By: Service Manager Safeguarding

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

CAB 27/19

Revenue Budget Outturn 2018/19

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The report confirmed, and explained the Council's financial position for the year ending 31 March 2019 and listed the year-end reserve transfers for Cabinet's review and approval.

The report confirmed the Council's revenue outturn showed an underspend of £2,383k, representing a small variance of just 1.3% of the net budget, excluding schools.

The underspend had increased since the January forecast, the explanation for that was:

- additional and unexpected one-off grant income and other contributions from external providers, specifically within social care;
- lower than forecast overspending (costs) in the SEN independent placement area;
- lower than forecast overspending within City services including street lighting and signal maintenance;
- savings in respect of forecast net interest costs and council tax surplus.

Notwithstanding the above, the outturn position followed, in the main, the same pattern of over and under spending in areas established earlier in the financial year:

- overspending in the demand led social care and special education needs (SEN) areas;
- underspending/better income in non-service budget areas and use of budget contingencies.

The report made recommendations to earmark the underspend to reserves for future use, mainly to fund developments within the City, to support Council priorities and to support the ongoing commitment to the Gwent SENCOM service. The funds should be spent within the next year.

The report compared the revenue outturn for the financial year ending 31 March 2019 with the budget and provided a summary statement of key issues, which had the potential to impact upon financial management in future years.

Cabinet was asked to:

1. Note the out-turn position, which is subject to audit and the major variances for the year (Section 1-3 of the report); whilst noting the slight change of reduction in cost of the SENCOM service therefore reducing the reserve to £190k therefore putting a further £60k to the Invest to Save;
2. To approve use of the underspend as set out in section 6 of the report and note the resulting level of the Council's general and earmarked reserves;
3. Note the schools' outturn and the position on the individual and total school reserves and note/ comment on the next steps in this area in section 3 of the report;
4. Note the other areas of budget pressures and challenges in section 1 and 2 of the report and note/comment on the actions currently in place to manage these.

Cabinet considered the following options:

1. To accept the officers' recommendation and transfer the underspend into specific earmarked reserves;
2. Not to approve the reserve transfers and instead report an underspend of £2,383k, which would be transferred to the general reserve.

3. Not to approve the reserve transfers and move to alternative earmarked reserves.

Decision:

Cabinet agreed Option 1, as the £2,383k underspend is being reserved for future investment in the areas outlined in paragraph 6.1 of the report.

Consultation

Chief Executive; Strategic Directors; Heads of Service; Budget Holders; Accountancy Staff

Implemented By: Head of Finance

Implementation Timetable: Immediate, to meet publication deadline for 2018/19 accounts

CAB 28/19

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

Signed:

Councillor Debbie Wilcox, Chair of the Cabinet

Date:
