

# Decision Schedule

## Cabinet Member for Community & Resources

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### TO ALL MEMBERS OF NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL

#### Decision Schedule published on 16 May 2018

The Cabinet Member took the following decision/s on 16 May 2018. I will take immediate effect. The reason for this is that in October 2017 Newport discovered it was to become an early adopter of Welsh Government's new grant funding initiative Flexible Funding from 1 April 2018. Little information however, was made available on how this new fund was to operate and the recommissioning of Families First, which was already in progress, was put on hold until a fuller understanding of how the funding would impact the service was understood. The current Families First contracts were due to expire on 31 March 2018 and as all extensions within the existing contract terms were exhausted it was being requested that Contract Standing Orders be waived so an extension for a further year be granted. This extension would allow a further review of the programme in accordance with the Flexible Funding guidance and result in either recommissioning services or commissioning new services from 1 April 2019.

The decision is not subject to the 'Call-in' Process.

In accordance with Standing Order 24 – Urgent Matters, this matter will be forwarded to the Audit Committee.

In accordance with reports relating to staffing issues/confidential reports are not circulated to all members of the Council as part of the consultation/Call-in Process.

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#### **C&R 04/18**

#### **Families First Programme**

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

If urgent approval was not given to a waiver of Contract Standing Orders, current services would not be in place for the start of the new financial year and vulnerable families already receiving the services would be left without support. There is also a risk that all the money for 2018- 2019 available under the Families First grant (within the Flexible Funding allocation) would not be spent in line with the spending profile, which could result in ultimately losing money from the overall programme.

As all of the extensions to the external contracts permitted within Contract Standing Orders were exhausted, a Cabinet Member decision would be required to waive Contract Standing Orders for this proposed extension. The values of the individual Families First contracts were below the OJEU 'Light Touch Regime' for Social and other specific services (Regulation 74) threshold of £615K so there was no legal requirement for the Council to tender them in accordance with the Public Procurement Regulations Act 2015 and therefore we were seeking approval to extend them for a further year.

#### **Decision**

To approve the waiving of Contract Standing Orders to extend the Families First contracts with the organisations named within the report until 31 March 2019.

To take this decision urgently as it was so urgent that it could not go through the Council's agreed consultation process and/or must be implemented immediately and therefore not subject to the Council's call in procedures for the reasons set out under 'Reasons for Urgency' above."

**Consultation**

Head of Law and Regulation, Head of People and Business Change, Head of Finance

**Implemented By: Head of Regeneration, Investment & Housing**

**Implementation Timetable: Immediate**

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COUNCILLOR D MAYER, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY & RESOURCES

16 May 2018

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