

Decision Schedule



Cabinet

TO ALL MEMBERS OF NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL

Decision Schedule published on 20/12/2019

The following decisions were taken on 20/12/2019. They will become effective at Noon on 03/01/2020 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 4pm on 02/01/2020. 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 57/19

2020/2021 Budget and Medium Term Financial Projections (MTFP)

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The report highlighted the key issues affecting the development of the 2020/21 budget and MTFP, and presented the draft proposals for the 2020/21 budget. Cabinet was asked to agree the draft proposals in order to commence the budget consultation process for this year. Consultation results will be reported back to Cabinet in February 2020, when Cabinet will recommend a final budget and council tax level to full Council.

The report confirmed that despite continuing austerity the Council has continued to demonstrate good financial management. Coupled with the funding restraints, significant cost pressures affect the Council's finances in respect of:

- (i) pay and pricing inflationary increases and,
- (ii) increasing demand and associated costs for services.

Cost pressures between these two areas are very significant; £13,026k in 2020/21 alone and the Council continues to develop its medium term strategies to plan for future saving requirements.

Given the time required to finish a strategic, longer-term strategy, the draft budget described in this report is focused primarily on delivering a balanced and viable one year budget for 2020/21. This will enable work to continue in the New Year on a new, medium term strategic 'change programme' containing proposals for more ambitious changes in ways which services are delivered.

The draft 2020/21 budget proposals were detailed within the report and its appendices as follows:

Appendix 1	Budget investments
Appendix 2	New budget savings for consultation
Appendix 3	New budget savings implemented under delegated authority
Appendix 4	Budget savings previously approved
Appendix 5	Budget savings for consultation – proposals
Appendix 6	Demand models for social care
Appendix 7	Fees & charges for consultation
Appendix 8	Financial resilience 'snapshot'

Cabinet was asked to agree the following draft proposals for public consultation:

- i) Budget savings proposals in Appendix 2 (summary table) and Appendix 5 (detailed business cases), including the decision making point (either full Cabinet or Head of Service) for each one;
- ii) To increase Council Tax by 7.95%, a weekly increase of £1.14 - £1.52 for properties in Band A to C, the most common bands in Newport, as set out in paragraphs 3.15 – 3.18;
- iii) Proposed fees and charges in Appendix 7;
- iv) The budget investments shown in Appendix 1;
- v) The budget investment in schools (included in Appendix 1) amounting to £4,380k which is the assessed budget increase requirement for 2020/21 noted in paragraph 3.9 – 3.14 and which requires use of £1,754k of reserves to fund in full, based on current planning assumptions.

Cabinet was asked to note:

- i) The position on developing a balanced budget for 2020/21, acknowledging that the position will be subject to ongoing review and updates especially in light of the delayed announcement from Welsh Government in respect of 2020/21 funding;
- ii) The medium term financial projections, assumptions contained within and that projections contain investments required to implement the Corporate Plan promises;
- iii) That the delegated decisions in Appendix 3 will be implemented with immediate effect, after following the usual Council decision making processes;
- iv) That Fairness and Equality Impact Assessments have been completed for all proposals requiring one;
- v) The Head of Finance's recommendation that the Council should prioritise the development of a 'strategic change programme' as a priority in order to develop a long-term sustainable financial footing for services. In addition, also utilising any increased RSG grant above current planning assumptions in a way that is strategic and contributes to the development of a longer term sustainable budget.

Decision:

Cabinet agreed the proposals contained in the report which will now be subject to public consultation prior to finalisation of the budget at the February 2020 meeting.

Consultation

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

Implemented By: Strategic Directors/Heads of Service
Implementation Timetable:

i) Delegated decisions in Appendix 3 will be implemented with immediate effect, in line with internal decision making protocols;

ii) Decisions subject to consultation in Appendix 2, fees and charges, and schools' funding position to form the basis of the budget consultation process.

CAB 58/19

Report on Treasury Management for the period to 30 September 2019

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The report informed Cabinet of the treasury activities undertaken during the period to 30 September 2019 and confirmed that all treasury and prudential indicators had been adhered to in the first half of the financial year.

During the first half of the financial year, the Council continued to be both a short-term investor of cash and borrower to manage day-to-day cash flows. Current forecasts indicate that in the future, temporary borrowing will continue to be required to fund normal day to day cash flow activities. No additional temporary borrowing was required in the first half of the year, however there has been a small amount of long-term borrowing taken at zero interest for a specific project.

All borrowing and investments undertaken during the first half of the year were expected and within the Council's agreed limits.

The Prudential Code and statute requires that, during and at the end of each financial year, reports on these matters are presented to Council for approval. Thus Cabinet was asked to note the report and provide comments for reporting to full Council.

Decision:

Cabinet noted the contents of the report and agreed to provide comments to Council.

Consultation

Treasury Advisors; Head of Finance.

Implemented By: Head of Finance
Implementation Timetable: Immediate

CAB 59/19

Quarter 2 Corporate Risk Register Update

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The report presented an update to Cabinet of the Corporate Risk Register for the end of quarter 2 (30th September 2019).

The report confirmed the Council's Risk Management Strategy and Risk Register enables the Council to effectively identify, manage and monitor those risks to ensure that the Council realises its Corporate Plan and ensure service delivery is provided to its communities and citizens.

The Corporate Risk Register has 12 risks, which are considered to have a significant impact on the achievement of the Council's objectives and warrant monitoring by the Council's Senior Leadership Team and Corporate Management Team. At the end of quarter 2, 9 high level risks were identified (risk scores 15 to 25); 3 medium risks (risk scores 5 to 14).

Cabinet was asked to consider the contents of the quarter 2 update of the Corporate Risk Register and to continue monitoring progress of actions taken to address the risks identified in the report.

Decision:

Cabinet agreed the report and also agreed to monitor progress of actions taken to address the risks identified, which in turn will give Cabinet sufficient assurance and oversight of the main overarching risks that the Council faces in delivering the objectives of the Corporate Plan.

Consultation

Senior Leadership Team; Corporate Management Team.

Implemented By: Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Service

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

CAB 60/19

Wales Audit Office – Assessment of Performance Certificate

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The report presented to Cabinet the Wales Audit Office (WAO) Assessment of Performance Certificate following an audit of the Council's 2018/19 performance in accordance with section 17 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009. This certifies that the Council has published its assessment of performance before 31st October 2019.

The report confirmed that as part of the programme of regulatory activity in accordance with the Local Government Measure 2009, the Auditor General is required to issue two Certificates of Compliance to demonstrate the Council is discharging its duties under the Measure. The first certificate was presented to Cabinet in October 2019 and the second certificate was issued in November 2019 following the publication of the Council's Annual Report and review of Wellbeing Objectives 2018/19 in October 2019.

Cabinet was asked to consider and accept the conclusion contained in the Auditor General's Certificate of Compliance Report.

Decision:

Cabinet accepted the Auditor General's Certificate of Compliance Report.

Consultation

Senior Leadership Team; Corporate Management Team; Wales Audit Office.

Implemented By: Cabinet

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

CAB 61/19

Amendments to Contract Standing Orders

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The report sought Cabinet feedback and approval to the revised Contract Standing Orders in order to take the report to full Council.

The report proposed updating the Council's Contract Standing Orders (CSO's) which had been reviewed in accordance with the stipulated three year review period, taking into account national/local developments and priorities which affect these.

In particular, the report made recommendations to change the Council's Procurement Gateway Process which governs how the Council procures goods and services, with a greater emphasis on providing greater opportunity to support local businesses whilst maintaining compliance with Statutory Public Procurement Rules, and ensuring efficient and effective delivery of contract arrangements within the Council.

Cabinet was asked to consider and accept the revised Contract Standing Orders which will give greater flexibility to support local businesses both within Newport and the wider Welsh supply base. In addition, the revised Contract Standing Orders place greater requirements to consider and comply with other recently adopted Council policies and revised working practices.

Decision:

Cabinet agreed the report.

Consultation

The Leader (covering portfolio of Cabinet Member for Assets and Member Development); Head of Finance; Head of Law and Regulation; Chief Internal Auditor; Senior Leadership Team; Corporate Management Team; Key Stakeholders from Service Areas.

Implemented by: Head of Finance

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

CAB 62/19

Annual Report of the Director of Social Services

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The report outlined the Director of Social Services' evaluation of the period 2018/19 performance for Social Services. The report conformed in format and content with the statutory requirements for the Director's Report.

Cabinet was asked to endorse the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services for 2018/19.

Decision:

Cabinet endorsed the report.

Consultation:

Social Services Staff; Cabinet Member for Social Services; Monitoring Officer; Head of Finance; Head of People and Business Change.

Implemented By: Director of Social Services
Implementation Timetable: Immediate

CAB 63/19

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 Jane Mudd, Chair of the Cabinet

Date: