

Agenda



Performance Scrutiny Committee - Place and Corporate

Date: Monday, 13 January 2020

Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: Committee Room 1 - Civic Centre

To: Councillors C Evans (Chair), M Al-Nuaimi, G Berry, J Clarke, K Critchley, D Fouweather, I Hayat, J Richards and D Williams

Item

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Declaration of Interests
- 3 Minutes of the Previous Meetings (*Pages 3 - 12*)
- 4 2020-21 Budget and Medium Term Financial Projections (*Pages 13 - 74*)
- 5 Conclusion of Committee Reports
Following the completion of the Committee reports, the Committee will be asked to formalise its conclusions, recommendations and comments on previous items for actioning.

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Minutes



Performance Scrutiny Committee - Place and Corporate

Date: 4 November 2019

Time: 4.00 pm

Present: Councillors C Evans (Chair), M Al-Nuaimi, G Berry, J Clarke and J Richards

In Attendance: Councillor J Mudd (Cabinet Member Regeneration and Housing)

Beverly Owen (Strategic Director - Place), Meirion Rushworth (Head of Finance), Owen James (Assistant Head of Finance - Technical and Development), Emma Johnson (Income Collection Manager), Richard Leake (Strategic Procurement Officer), Andrew Wathan (Chief Internal Auditor), Tracy McKim (Partnership Policy & Involvement Manager), Mark Bleazard (Information Development Manager), Rachael Davies (HR Manager), Shaun Powell (Newport Intelligence Hub Manager), Keir Duffin (Head of Regeneration, Investment and Housing) and Meryl Lawrence (Scrutiny Adviser)

Apologies: Councillors K Critchley, D Fouweather, I Hayat and D Williams

1 Declaration of Interests

None.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 September were **approved** as a true and accurate record.

3 Service Plan Mid-Year Reviews 2019-20

Finance:

Attendees:

- Meirion Rushworth (Head of Finance)
- Owen James (Assistant Head of Finance)
- Richard Leake (Procurement Manager)
- Emma Johnson (Income Collection Manager)
- Andrew Wathan (Chief Internal Auditor)

The Head of Finance presented a brief overview to the Committee and highlighted the key areas for consideration, including a focus upon more self-service work internally and externally where possible and training and development where required.

Members asked the following:

- With regard to Action 1 on page 24 – *Complete Sufficient Audit Opinion Related Work* which showed: 16% Completed, and the comment “*a bit lower than expected, but this*

generally picks up in Q3 & Q4”, a Member asked why was this lower than expected, and how could it be guaranteed that it would pick up. The Chief Internal Auditor advised the Committee that resources had been used up in special investigations, however past performance showed that Quarters 3 and 4 had picked up. When asked if the team were confident it would pick up, it was advised that historically figures had picked up. A Member

- A Member asked about resource issues in the Service Area. Members were advised that these scores had been achieved with one member of staff. There had also been a vacancy, which HR colleagues had tried to fill, but so far had been unsuccessful, and it had been flagged as a potential concern. The Head of Service added that the department had bought in some help from a South West based internal Audit set up, which is a consortium of audit departments to form an internal audit organisation. This had filled in bits of resource capacity over the Autumn, which would help. There had been a short-term issue with a few members of the team having long-term sickness. When asked about back up, it was advised that the Team had tried agency staff in the past but its success had been hit and miss, while using resources from the partnership enabled some extra resource to be provided.
- A Member inquired about the outsourcing of some of the service. The Head of Service outlined the Council's standard recruitment procedure and explained that the department needed an auditor that could start straight away. Agency staff needed to be trained and required lots of assistance, so outsourcing provided a quick solution to a short-term resourcing issue for the department.
- With regard to Objective 5, Action 1 on page 30 – *Develop New Procurement Strategy*, which showed 5% complete and comment *“not commenced due to other priorities”*, a Member asked what those priorities were, how far behind they were and who made the decision. The Procurement Manager advised that the strategy ran from 2016 – 2019, so the department needed to look at a new strategy for 2020 onwards. This had been started, and they were currently looking at things that needed to go into the new strategy. The department was confident that the new strategy would be in place by early 2020, which was within target date. This was not a major issue or risk for the Council. When asked if there had been any other issues such as staffing which had effected this Action, Members were advised that other things had been prioritised e.g. looking at budget savings. While the department would have liked to be a bit further forward with this measure, it would be met.
- A Member referred to Actions 1, 2 and 3 on Page 26, which were all showing as 0% complete and asked were these on course. The Income Collection Manager explained to the Committee that these actions had been on-going for a while, so it was unfair to be shown as 0%. As mentioned earlier, the ICT infrastructure issues the service area had need to be fixed, so things could not be progressed until those have been resolved. A complete new server was needed to keep the system secure and stable, which had been identified by SRS that it needed to be replaced. This was a big task for Revenue and Benefits, but was due to go live by the end of the month. When this had been done, the service area would be able to start digital services.
- A Member referred to the number of Actions and Measures that were Amber or Green and asked whether for those not set by Welsh Government, the Service Area was confident that the targets were robust and challenging enough. Members were advised that targets were reviewed every year and challenged by corporate colleagues. Some targets could be raised but some, such as invoices were nationally set. This year that action had been amber due to a push. Council Tax showed as Green at 97% but will not remain Green by the end of the year. The Head of Finance confirmed that the targets were robust.

The Chair thanked the Invitees for attending.

People and Business Change:

Attendees:

- Tracy McKim (Interim Head of People and Business Change)
- Rachael Davies (HR and OD Manager)
- Mark Bleazard (Digital Services Manager)
- Shaun Powell (Newport Intelligence Hub Manager)

Apologies were received on behalf of the Cabinet Member Community and Resources and the Head of People and Business Change.

The Interim Head of People and Business Change presented a brief overview to the Committee and highlighted the key areas for consideration. The service area supported the Council in Digital, Human Resources and Organisational Development, Policy Partnership, Health and Safety and Business Change and was projected to come in just under budget. There had been a number of objectives ranging from cultural change around the Corporate Plan, support and driving improvement around corporate risk, support for the Public Service Board and Partnership Plan, complying with equalities duties and welsh language.

This year had seen a number a major project impacts across the council. A new i-Trent and HR system had been brought in, which enabled managers to self-service and work in a more modern way. The Newport Intelligence Hub brought together lots of information and intelligence to support projects and corporate plan outcomes. Performance and risk framework was being redeveloped. A lot of work had been done with the Partnership Board and planning for Brexit had been a large piece of work. There had also lots of grant funding, WLGA and Welsh Government funding. The Service area was also responsible for Digital Strategy and provided client services for SRS.

Members asked the following:

- A Member refereed to Action 7 on Page 39 “*Enhance the City’s Digital Infrastructure including Local Full Fibre Network roll out as part of Cardiff City Region City Deal*”, which showed 0% completed, and asked why hadn’t this progressed. Members were advised that this had been rethought nationally and some outcomes may benefit rural areas more, but Newport is less rural so might not benefit as much. There were challenges around the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) working with stakeholders and Welsh Government to collaborate and the project would be managed by the Cardiff Capital Region. When asked when might a decision be made by DCMS, it was advised that realistically because of lead times of work it would be unlikely to see completion by the end of the year.
- A member referred to the number of Actions showed as green and asked whether the service area targets were robust. Members were advised that some of the goals which had not yet been completed had quite complex sub-tasks below them. Some areas showed as green but were 30% achieved. These would catch up by the end of the year but were not too easy.
- A Member queried the number of abbreviations in the report and requested that future reports include full wording at least once followed by the abbreviation.
- A Member enquired about free Wi-Fi. It was advised that there is free Wi-Fi provided in the Civic Centre and public buildings and also in Friars Walk.
- It was requested that future reports include comment upon “Risk to success” to assist Members to focus scrutiny.

- Member referred to Objective 3, Action 1 on page 45: “Develop effective succession planning practices” and asked could they have reassurance that the target would be met, as growing the Council’s staff was a good solution in place of outsourcing. Members were assured that this action was important to the Council and that small steps had begun such as career pathways. This allowed staff to shadow different service areas or sections in the council if they would like to progress and should be ready shortly. The service area needed to give more effective guidance to management to better understand the skills of the workforce. They are confident that this would be done by the end of the financial year. There had been an internal investment in planning practices. A new graduate system started in September 2019 and the service area was in its third year of the apprenticeship programme.
- A Member enquired whether there was a danger that the Cardiff Capitol Region was preventing things that need to be completed. Members were advised some of the bigger programmes could not have been completed by the Council alone, however working with wider partners could slow things down and can sometimes be difficult. When asked if the service area thought that working with the Cardiff City Region was effective, Members were advised that their only experience had been the Digital Project, and there was a strong relation with the Digital side.

The Chair thanked the Invitees for attending.

Regeneration Investment and Housing:

Attendees:

- Cllr Jane Mudd (Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing)
- Bev Owen (Strategic Director - Place)
- Keir Duffin (Head of Regeneration Investment and Housing)

The Cabinet Member presented a brief overview to the Committee and highlighted the key areas for consideration. Context was provided upon the potential position the service area may be in by the end of year. Highlights were given of the adopted City Centre Master Plan and the Economic Growth Strategy and the Delivery Plan currently being developed, and how the Council worked in partnerships was crucial for delivery. There had been successful external funding for projects. Further highlights were given of the work taking place at the former Hornblower pub which had almost been completed.

Members asked the following:

- A Member congratulated the team for the work that they had done which was appreciated.
- A Member asked about the number of Red Performance Measures on pages 73 and 74 and the reasons. The Cabinet Member referred to PAM/019 % of all Planning Appeals Dismissed explained that where the Planning Committee raised queries and had gone against the Planning Officer’s recommendations and rejected planning applications, the applicant then appealed the decision, which then went to the Planning Inspectorate to determine and can overturn decisions. If a decision was overturned, then this performance indicator is Red. Members were advised that another planning appeal had that day been overturned in the favour of the applicant. Every time this happened, the Council incurred a cost. The Cabinet Member then suggested that the Planning Committee could benefit from a workshop session.
- A Member referred to Objective 6 Action 1 on page 72: “*Begin to use zero emission vehicles and active travel to deliver services*” and asked if there was any update upon the no formal policy and forward plan in place. Members were advised that a Carbon Management Plan was being finalised and the wider process was in the final phase of being developed. They had started off with one officer and now there was an energy

team with two more Officers employed. The picture was changing and there had been a big advancement.

- A Member referred to the good work taking place to regenerate the City Centre which could sometimes be overlooked because of the number of empty shops in the city centre. It was added that although a national problem, as Newport was compact it could be more noticeable and asked could landlords be influenced to reduce rents. Members were advised that this action is on the horizon as Welsh Government were committed to looking at absentee landlords. At a local level, the Business Support Team could offer advice for grant funding, signpost to other sources and provide business start-ups, which could assist. The Council could give grant funding for helping with rent or fittings, and for those businesses looking to expand, such as taking on additional staff or getting new equipment. It is a difficult and challenging time however, some of our businesses are independent and grow and events like the Chartist Uprising Festival increased visitors and footfall to the shops.
- Members discussed the identification of Newport as an area for physical growth by Welsh Government and the consultation that would close on 15th November 2019. Members were advised that reports of other Local Authorities views in the media were their own interpretation.
- A Member congratulated the Cabinet Member and her team upon their successes, said that they should make sure successes are communicated and made known, and asked were these successes expected to continue. The Cabinet Member advised yes, and referred to their open meeting with the Business Improvement District at which the Head of Service had presented. The Cabinet Member represented the Council on this Board and met regularly. Some schemes that the BID are able to support complimented the Authority's and they had one of the best events programmes taking place in the city centre.
- A Member referred to Action "*Maximise new housing units from empty properties*" on page 70 and Action "*% of Empty Private Properties Brought Back into Use*" showing as nothing being achieved, and asked how robustly are these performance measures being looked at, and would the target be achieved. Members were advised that the service area was The Cabinet Member advised that Members may recall the revision of Empty Homes and there was a 15-point action plan to help support and deliver this performance measure. The service area was looking to exceed this target. The Head of Service directed the Members to page 75, PAM /045, "Number of new homes created as a result of bring empty residential properties back into use." It was advised that Newport are second in Wales at delivering this, and both targets needed to be considered to understand the larger discussion.
- Members were pleased to see a Green Plan come together for the zero emissions and asked was work being done to balance out growth vs green agenda and overall well-being of Newport. Members were reminded of the Wellbeing of Future Generations legislation, which overarched everything and advised that one of the things Welsh Government had in place is the Carbon Reduction Strategy. In the report, WG undertook a review on affordable housing, and discovered a high level of carbon emissions came from residential properties. This is an area the Council is working towards. The Head of Service added that in the growth agenda they had a five-year housing plan, unlike many areas. All the regeneration undertaken required green excellence and the City Regeneration Projects, would be looking to reuse existing buildings rather than build more.

The Chair thanked the Invitees for attending.

Conclusion - Comments to the Cabinet

The Committee noted the performance within the Finance, People and Business Change, and Regeneration Investment and Housing Service Plan Mid-Year Reviews and made the following comments to the Cabinet:

General:

- The Committee welcomed the improvement made to the presentation of data and the report layout in response to previous comments made, which made it easier to focus scrutiny upon performance.
- The Committee flagged the need for consistent understanding by Officers of the key and what makes performance: Red; Amber, or; Green and requested some explanation of reasons to be provided in the commentary in future reports.
- The Committee requested that future reports include full wording at least once followed by the abbreviation.
- The Committee requested more detail be included regarding the Service Area Risks in future reports.
- The Committee requested that future reports include comment upon “Risk to success” to assist Members to focus their scrutiny.
- The Committee stressed the importance of succession planning for Service Areas.

4 Scrutiny Adviser Reports

Attendee:

- Meryl Lawrence (Scrutiny Adviser)

a) Forward Work Programme Update

The Scrutiny Adviser presented the Forward Work Programme, and informed the Committee of the topics due to be discussed at the next two Committee meetings:

Monday 18 November 2019:
2019-20 Service Plan Mid-Year Reviews:
- Law and Regulation
- City Services

Monday 13 January 2020:
2020-21 Draft Budget Proposals

b) Action Sheet

The Scrutiny Adviser presented the Action Sheet and advised the Committee of the Actions from the Minutes held on 2 September 2019, as listed on Page 85.

The meeting terminated at 5.55 pm

Minutes



Performance Scrutiny Committee - Place and Corporate

Date: 18 November 2019

Time: 4.00 pm

Present: Councillors C Evans (Chair), M Al-Nuaimi, J Clarke, J Richards and D Williams

In Attendance: Councillor R Truman - Cabinet Member Licensing and Regulation
Councillor R Jeavons – Cabinet member City Services

Gareth Price (Head of Law & Regulation), Paul Jones (Head of City Services)
and Meryl Lawrence (Scrutiny Adviser)

Apologies: Councillors G Berry, K Critchley, D Fouweather and I Hayat

1 Declaration of Interests

None.

2 Service Plan Mid-Year Reviews 2019-20

Law and Regulation

Attendees:

- Cllr Ray Truman (Cabinet Member for Licensing and Regulation)
- Gareth Price (Head of Law and Regulation)

The Cabinet Member presented a brief overview to the Committee highlighting key areas for consideration. Members were advised that the last 4 months had been busy for the department. The Community Safety Wardens were spending more daylight hours in the city centre and wards, as their working hours had changed 3 months ago to work 1pm – 10pm, which gave more time to spend in the area. From 7th October to 6th November 2019, 77 fixed penalty notices had been issued for dog fouling, littering, dogs not being on leads and begging at cash points.

Trading Standards had been successful in prosecutions and closures of shops regarding the sale of illegal tobacco as well as counterfeit and dangerous goods sold online. This had been achieved with reduced resources and less staff. The Stray Dog Service had received two national RSPCA gold awards. The service was run by staff and volunteers and received funding from Partners. The Cabinet Member advised that Newport was the only authority in Wales that received gold awards, which was attributed to the staff in the Team.

Members asked the following:

- A Member queried Action 3.3 on page 21: “Registration Service – Review Discretionary Fees & Charges for the Registration Service”, for which the RAG Status was Green while it was only 10% complete, but had been running from 1st April 2018 and would end on 31st March 2019. The Head of Service advised the Committee that this was a misprint, it

should read 100%, but added that there were a number of objectives that did not lend themselves to percentage type reporting.

- A Member queried Action 4 on page 26: *“Maximise Use of Idox Web Forms – Environment and Community”*, for which the RAG status was Red and the commentary stated that the action had been delayed due to significant vacancies in the Environmental Health Housing Team. The Head of Service advised that there were significant vacancies across the board, but this Action had not been selected for the high-level business plan and did not affect anyone’s day job. Trading Standards had been short staffed and the Action had not been a priority. He added that this was the issue with turnover of staff especially in smaller teams. The service area was sustaining a good level of performance with diminishing resources and when staff do leave, it would reflect on performance. He clarified that the service area did not have a recruitment problem, it was a retention of staff issue.
- A Member enquired about progress upon the rolling out of card payment for customers. The Head of Service advised that some progress was being made.
- A Member referred to Objective 1, Action 2.2 for which the commentary ran from pages 18 to 20 ran was confusing and had unexplained abbreviations which made it difficult to read. The Head of Service accepted that too much narrative had been provided and he would address the issue of the use of abbreviations and apologised for any confusion.
- A Member queried the Performance Measure: *“Percentage of legal prosecutions issued within 20 working days”* on page 36, for which the Performance Status was Red. The Head of Service advised that late last year there had been a number of long-term sickness absences in small teams, but vacancies had been staffed. Performance was currently 100%, however due to the cumulative nature the Measure would not be Green by the year-end. However, when the new financial year began, they would be back on track.
- A Member referred to the overspend of £20k on budget at the end of Quarter 2 referred to in the Executive Summary on page 13 and asked would this be back on track by year-end. The Head of Service advised that since then the Service Area had an underspend of £70k from vacancy provision, but this was not sustainable as the posts would be filled, however the service area remained confident that it would come in under budget at year-end. A number of budget pressures were being managed in the service e.g. CCTV and overspend on registrars staff because of high demand.
- A Member referred to Objective 4, Action 5: *“Secure Purple Flag Accreditation”* on page 29, for which the RAG Status was Amber, and asked would this be completed within timescale. The Head of Service advised that the application would be submitted in January 2020. As a Partnership initiative there had been more consultation and it had been important for civil parking enforcement to be underway to analyse traffic movements before submitting the application. The outcome of the application should be advised in Spring 2020.

The Chair thanked the Invitees for attending.

City Services

Attendees:

- Cllr Roger Jeavons (Cabinet Member for City Services)
- Paul Jones (Head of City Services)

Apologies were offered to the Committee on behalf of the Strategic Director – Place.

The Cabinet Member presented a brief overview to the Committee and highlighted the key areas for consideration. The Service Area was £200k over budget at the Mid Year point and he clarified that the service area spanned a number of Cabinet Members' portfolios and there were some issues with cemetery fees. £1m a year was being spent on the Highway network. With regard to Civil Parking Enforcement, 10,500 tickets had been issued in Newport and a database of hotspots been created, with wardens patrolling across the city. Members were advised that the following the approval of the Scrutiny Minutes upon the Draft Waste Strategy, a Cabinet Member Decision would be taken upon the Waste Strategy.

Transport links had improved and were showing as Amber. The Cabinet Member sits on the Cardiff Capital Region Transport Board. Work upon on risk analysis had identified Newport favourably, however as this is a regional approach, Newport did not control all variables. He also advised that on Page 54, the Performance Measure for: *"% of Municipal Waste recycled at the HWRC"* should read 69.4%.

The Head of Service advised that there had been a number of large projects underway in the first six months of this financial year. These included: the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement; the successful move to smaller Refuse bins, and; 11,000 bulbs had been changed in street lighting in the LED programme, which had reduced the carbon impact and created a budget saving.

The service area had a number of vacancies due to operational turnover that it had struggled to fill, due to their specialist technical nature of the posts. He advised that the Performance Measure: *"Customer Contact Centre average wait time – Council tax"* for which the Performance Status was Red was not within the Cabinet Member for City Services portfolio and was due to the limited resources to respond to the level of demand.

Members asked the following:

- A Member referred to the Performance Measure: % of Municipal Waste recycled at the HWRC" Mid-Year figure of 69.4% and asked for clarification whether Newport was the best performing city in the UK for recycling. The Head of Service advised that if this rate was maintained for the remainder of the year then Newport could be the best performing city in the UK for recycling.
- A Member referred to the decision upon the M4 Relief Road and asked what had been done regarding Objective 4, Action 3: "Drive forward the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Transport" on page 48. Members were advised that this was a corporate objective, and Newport alongside 10 authorities drew down funding, which would be seen across the region in track enhancements and the new Llanwern railway station in Newport, through the South Wales Metro scheme. Information upon the Scheme is available via a website and the Head of Service would provide a link to be circulated to Members of the Committee. He also referred to a separate future phase of the scheme, which included the Ebbw Vale link.
- A Member referred to the use of abbreviations in the report and requested that future reports include full wording at least once, followed by the abbreviations.
- A Member enquired about the timescale for the Ebbw Vale rail connection. It was advised that it is currently in phase 2 in the Metro project, its original date was 2021. Members agreed that this link would be good for potential staff to travel commuting to Newport.
- A Member enquired about payment of Civil Enforcement Parking fines and the number of challenges received. The Head of Service advised that in the first month there had been no payments, followed by spates of payments beginning soon after. There had been 74 challenges but no emerging pattern to the challenges received and the budget model had predicted an expected 10%, which this was well within and would improve over time.

- A Member enquired about the number of callers to the Contact Centre who hang up their call. The Head of Service advised that figures are published online every 3 months, but the issue regarding using this as a performance indicator was differentiating why a call had ended, for example automated messages include information to redirect callers online or to other options, so their reason for calling could have had been resolved.
- A Member praised the Service Area for their work and asked if there would be a review of the Civil Parking Enforcement. Members were advised that there were a few issues to resolve before reviewing, but the Council needed to carry out an annual review. A Member asked whether more traffic management could be needed. The Head of Service replied that there could be some required, but people had changed their parking habits because of challenges made and there were also time limited parking spaces in the city.
- A Member queried Objective 2, Action 3: *"Improve trade waste services"*, on page 45, the commentary for which stated "Action commencing in Quarter 4, 2019/20". The Head of Service advised that these plans were written over a number of years and awaiting Welsh Government consultation upon changes in regulation. The changes are expected to be known on 13th December 2019, following which this Action could progress.
- A Member asked about 58% progress upon the Interventions Newport will seek to influence listed in Objective 4, Action 3 *"Drive forward the Cardiff Capital Regional City Deal Transport"* on page 48. The Head of Service advised of the 1st and 2nd phases of the Metro projects within which Llanwern was a priority additional station. Other stations such as Caerleon and Celtic Springs scored lower on the Welsh Government assessment. The information can be provided to Members as previously stated above.
- A Member asked whether the regional working was creating a bottleneck for projects. The Head of Service advised he did not believe that, and while the Regional Board decides on the projects overall, each of the ten Local Authorities had a representative upon the Regional Board to convey their views upon the issues.

The Chair thanked the Invitees for attending.

Conclusion - Comments to the Cabinet

The Committee noted the performance within the Law and Regulation and City Services Service Plan Mid-Year Reviews and made the following comments to the Cabinet:

General:

- The Committee welcomed the improvement made to the presentation and report layout in response to previous comments.
- The Committee requested that in future reports any excessive narrative in the commentary boxes be streamlined to avoid confusion and full wording used once followed by related abbreviation, as is the convention.
- The Committee requested that future reports include a comment upon Service Areas Budget positions including any budget risks, in the Head of Service Summary.
- The Committee requested whether the time between the end of the period reporting and scrutinising the information could be reduced e.g. Quarter 2 data up to end September, was scrutinised on 18th November.

The meeting terminated at 17:10

Scrutiny Report

Performance Scrutiny Committee – Place and Corporate

Part 1

Date: 13 January 2020

Subject 2020-21 Budget and Medium Term Financial Projections

Author Scrutiny Adviser

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Role / Areas of responsibility	Lead Officer
Budget Overview and Process	Meirion Rushworth, Head of Finance
Overall Budget for Place Directorate	Bev Owen – Strategic Director - Place
Service Specific Proposals:	
City Services	Paul Jones, Head of Streetscene and City Services
People and Business Change	Rhys Cornwall, Head of People and Business Change

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to:

- (i) Consider the budget proposals relevant to the Place and Corporate Service Areas;
- (ii) Determine if it wishes to make recommendations or comments to the Cabinet on the Proposals within the Place and Corporate Service Areas;
- (iii) Determine if it wishes to make any comments on the budget process or the public engagement (to be forwarded to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee for consideration).

2 Context

- 2.1 In accordance with the constitution, the Cabinet is required to consult on the proposals before recommending an overall budget and required council tax to the Council for approval in February.

Scrutiny Committees must be consulted as part of this process. The timetable for the consultation on the budget is as follows:

Cabinet agrees budget proposals as a basis for consultation	20 December 2019
Consultation period	20 December 2019 (afternoon) to 31 January 2020
Cabinet considers feedback from consultation and agrees final budget proposals for recommendation to Council	12 February 2020
Council approves the 2020-21 budget and council tax level	25 February 2020

Structure of Scrutiny of the Budget Proposals

- 2.2 Each Committee will meet to discuss the budget proposals in detail and formulate comments relating to their portfolio:

Committee	Date	Role
Performance Scrutiny Committee - Place and Corporate	13 January 2020	Savings proposals within the Place and Corporate Service Areas
Performance Scrutiny Committee - People	14 January 2020	Savings proposal within the People Service Areas
Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee	24 January 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of comments from all Scrutiny Committees • Comments on the budget process • Comments on public engagement

- 2.3 Recommendations from the Committee meetings on 13 and 14 January will be reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) at its meeting on 24 January 2020 to confirm the list of comments that will be submitted from Scrutiny to the Cabinet. The Chair of this Committee will be invited to attend the meeting of the OSMC where the Committee's recommendations are discussed.
- 2.4 The role of the Overview and Scrutiny is to coordinate the comments from Scrutiny to ensure that there are no overlaps in what is being recommended and ensure that scrutiny as a whole provides a cohesive and consistent response to Cabinet. It also has overall responsibility for comments on the budget process, and public engagement, which it will be focusing on at its meeting.
- 2.5 At its meeting on 20 December, the Cabinet agreed draft proposals for consultation. The full Cabinet Report and Appendices are available on the website ([Link](#)).

Appendix 1 - Budget investments
Appendix 2 - New budget savings for consultation

- Appendix 3 - New budget savings implemented under delegated authority (Cabinet Member and Head of Service)
- 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’
- Appendix 9 - Medium term financial projections
- Appendix 10 - Projected earmarked reserves

Cabinet Proposals – Business Cases

- 2.6 The proposals for consultation are contained within **Appendix 2** (Summary) and **Appendix 5** (Detailed Business Cases). Proposals relevant to the Place and Corporate Service Areas have been extracted and included as Appendices to this report for the Committee’s consideration. ***(The numbering of these appendices has remained the same as the Cabinet report for ease of reference.)***

Cabinet Member Decisions

- 2.7 **Appendix 3** of the Cabinet report contains the proposals delegated to Cabinet Member and Head of Service Decisions. The Cabinet Member Decisions will be subject to the usual democratic decision making process and all Member consultation. These proposals do not form part of the public consultation and as such are not attached to the Agenda for this meeting, but can be viewed via the link to the cabinet report included in **Section 2.5 above** for information.

The Head of Service decisions are operational and are taken under delegated authority by the relevant Head of Service.

Fees and Charges

- 2.8 **Appendix 7** of the Cabinet Report contains the proposed fees and charges for consultation and can be viewed via the link to the Cabinet Report included in **Section 2.5 above**.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 The following attachments are included for the Committee’s consideration:

Appendix A – Cabinet Report 2020/21 Budget and Medium Term Financial Projections (MFTP)

Appendix 2 – Budget savings proposals (summary table).

Appendix 5 – Detailed business cases for Consultation.

Completed Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessments for the 2020-2021 Budget Proposals can be viewed via this [Link](#) to the Council’s webpage.

(Note – the numbering of attached Appendices has remained the same as the Cabinet Report for ease of reference)

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

4.1 Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

- **Assess and make comment** on the proposals relevant to the Place and Corporate Service Areas in terms of:
 - How **reliable** the savings forecasts are;
 - How **achievable** the proposals are;
 - Have **risks** / impact on service users been appropriately mitigated;
 - Is there sufficient and consistent information within the Business cases to enable Cabinet to make an informed decision;
 - How does it fit into the **longer term strategic planning** and vision of the Council;
 - Has the **FEIA** been completed and used to develop the proposal;
 - The extent to which the **Wellbeing of Future Generations Act** has been considered.
- **Conclusions:**
 - Feedback the Committee's assessments of the proposals and highlight what the Cabinet need to be mindful of when taking the decision on the proposals.
 - Feedback to Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on the budget process and public engagement.

Suggested lines of Enquiry

- 4.2 Councillors have a fundamental democratic right to commission financial information and provide challenge to executives and officers about finances. Scrutiny councillors are not expected to be financial experts, but they have a key role in ensuring **accountability** and **value for money** are demonstrated to the public.

- 4.3 The following has been adapted from Section 3.1-3.4: Source: Grant Thornton – Local Government Financial Resilience Review 2012 (“Towards a tipping point?”) to provide examples of the questioning and lines of enquiry that the Committee may wish to consider:

Individual Proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How reliable are the proposed savings? • Is there sufficient evidence within the business cases to have confidence that the proposals are achievable? • Is it clear how this proposal will be delivered and how the savings will be achieved? • Timing of the implementation – will this achieve a full year’s savings? Will anything delay implementation (such as the consultation process for any redundancies)
Links to Strategic Planning	How does the proposal contribute to the achieving corporate priorities?
	How do these proposals fit into an overall budget strategy / what is the long-term approach to budget at the Council?
Assessing Impact	What is the anticipated impact of the budget proposal on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Services ○ Performance (including performance indicators and standards) ○ Clients / services users
	If there is a risk identified, has this been appropriately mitigated? Is this clear within the business case, and is it achievable?
	How will we measure the success / impact of this proposal?
Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessments	Have these been completed?
	Have any impact identified within the FEIA been considered within the business case?

Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

- 4.4 The Committee's consideration of the Draft budget proposals should consider how services are maximising their contribution to the five ways of working. Below are examples of the types of questions to consider:

5 Ways of Working	Types of Questions to consider:
Long-term The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.	What consideration have you given to the long term trends that could affect your proposal or; how could your proposal impact these trends?
	How will the needs of your service users potentially change in the future?
Prevention Prevent problems occurring or getting worse.	What is the objective (or the desired outcome) of this proposal?
	How are you addressing these issues to prevent a future problem?
	How have the decisions, so far, come about? What alternatives were considered?
Integration Considering how public bodies' wellbeing objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.	Are there any other organisations providing similar / complementary services?
	Have you consulted with the health board, third sector, emergency services, businesses and anyone else you think might be impacted?
	What practical steps will you take to integrate your project with existing plans and strategies of other public organisations to help us all contribute fully to the seven national well-being goals?
Collaboration Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the organisation itself).	Who have you been working with? Why? Who have you collaborated with in finding out more about this problem and potential solutions?
	How are you co-working with other sectors?
	How are you using the knowledge / information / good practice of others to inform / influence the Council's work?
Involvement The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.	How have you involved the people who are being impacted by this decision?
	How have you taken into account the diverse communities in your decision making?
	How have you used different / alternative methods to reach people and involve them?
	How will you communicate the outcome of your decision?

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Well-being Objectives	Promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment	Improve skills, educational outcomes & employment opportunities	Enable people to be healthy, independent & resilient	Build cohesive & sustainable communities
Corporate Plan Commitments	Thriving City	Aspirational People		Resilient Communities
Supporting Function	Modernised Council			

6. Background Papers

- [The Essentials – Well-being of Future Generation \(Wales\) Act](#)
- [Corporate Plan 2017-22](#)

Report Completed: 6 January 2020

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APPENDIX A

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Report

Cabinet

Part 1

Date: 20 December 2019

Subject 2020/21 Budget and Medium Term Financial Projections (MTFP)

Purpose To highlight key issues affecting the development of the 2020/21 budget and MTFP, and present the draft proposals for the 2020/21 budget. Cabinet are 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.

Author Chief Executive & Head of Finance

Ward All

Summary Despite local authorities being faced with the biggest budgetary challenges of any part of the Welsh public sector over the last decade, this council has continued to demonstrate good financial management. Coupled with the funding restraints, significant cost pressures affect the council finances in respect of (i) pay and pricing inflationary increases and (ii) increasing demand and associated costs for services. Between both issues, cost pressures 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. Whilst work on this was progressing when the Interim Chief Executive came to post, focus has necessarily been on 2020/21 as the budget challenge for that year was not resolved at that point. Given the time required to finish a strategic, longer-term strategy, the draft budget described in this report is focussed 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.

This update is quite different to previous years in that, at the point of drafting and making public this report, the council are not yet in receipt of the provisional 'revenue support grant' settlement from Welsh Government (WG) – its main grant which funds c75% of its net budget. Since the Chancellors spending round announcement in September 2019, the UK general election has meant that the publication of the Welsh Government's budget has been deferred until 16 December, the same day that the Local Government draft revenue support settlement will also be published. As we await further details on the settlement, the Head of Finance will provide an update at the Cabinet meeting on the 20 December.

The Council's 'Revenue Support Grant' (RSG) funds over 75% of its revenue budget and therefore the settlement received from WG has a significant impact on the investments which are affordable and savings requirement placed upon the council. Both savings and an increase in local council tax are key elements of the 2020/21 budget to ensure that we are in a sustainable position and able to maintain key services as best as possible for the most vulnerable in our communities.

The draft 2020/21 budget proposals are detailed within this report and its appendices.

Section:

1 Our financial challenge – service context

- 2 Setting the budget – financial context
- 3 Financial planning assumptions
- 4 Budget savings
- 5 Budget process and consultation
- 6 Risk, financial resilience and performance
- 7 Report review and statutory comments

Appendix:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 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’ |
| Appendix 9 | Medium term financial projections |
| Appendix 10 | Projected earmarked reserves |

Proposal

1. **Cabinet is 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.

2. **Cabinet is 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 WG 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.

Action by Directors / Heads of Service

Timetable Immediate:

1. Delegated decisions in appendix 3 will be implemented with immediate effect, in line with internal decision making protocols
2. Decisions subject to consultation in appendix 2, fees and charges, and schools funding position to form the basis of the budget consultation process.

This report was prepared after consultation with:

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

Signed

1 Our financial challenge – service context

- 1.1 This section deals briefly with the services related contexts within which the Council is developing its MTFP and the 2020/21 budget. The Council provides over 800 services, for over 153,000 people, living in over 68,000 households. Newport's population is growing, with the largest growth for children under five.
- 1.2 The council faces continuing financial challenges, namely:
- increasing costs around pay / contract prices;
 - increasing demand for services and therefore costs. These stem from demographic and societal changes and are most acute in the larger budget areas of social services and education;
 - Local Government funding in Newport, which sees the 'Revenue Support Grant (RSG)' funding over 75% of its net budget. Funding is therefore controlled largely outside of the Council's own control and influence, and as a result is relatively disjointed from its own spending pressures, requirement and priorities;
 - a historically low, relative council tax level, which would provide a further c£10m funding if it was set at the average Welsh Council level or c£8m if it was set at that level assumed by WG when setting the Councils 'standard spending assessment' compared to current levels.
- 1.3 In addition, the Council is rightly ambitious in providing the best services it can and fulfilling its Corporate Plan ambition of 'Improving People's Lives'. The Council's Corporate Plan sets out 20 clear promises and, in some cases, these require financial investments, which are included in the 2020/21 budget and the Medium Term Financial Projections (MTFP) as appropriate.
- 1.4 Over the last five years, the council has made savings of £41m. To achieve this we have:
- reduced the number of staff we employ by around one quarter
 - sold land, buildings and property no longer needed
 - set up new delivery models
 - developed shared services
 - reviewed our services to become more efficient
 - invested in preventative services
 - helped people to live independently
- 1.5 Having said this, ongoing funding uncertainty, coupled with continuing financial pressures and demands mean that, prior to the acceptance of the proposed savings, even more 'new' savings must still be found – at least £22m by 2023 based on current planning assumptions and projections. In addition, even with a relaxation of previous year's RSG real terms funding reductions, it is evident that, given the high funding gap above, some savings will need to be found to meet future demand and cost increases.

2 Setting the budget - financial context

- 2.1 There are two main elements to the council's financial planning:
- strategic planning: the MTFP
 - within that, the annual council budget.
- 2.2 The Council is required by law to set a balanced budget every year. At the same time, we review and update our MTFP to help project our savings and investments across the next three years. For over a decade councils have faced continued financial pressures together with real-term cuts and 'cash flat' funding allocations, therefore we have had to find savings to meet the funding gap between the funding available (RSG grant and local council tax) , and our expenditure on the wide variety of services we provide.
- 2.3 To meet this gap, in putting together the budget proposals each year we review:

- budget commitments (both investments and savings) agreed in the MTFP previously;
- new areas in need of investment and growth;
- new proposals for savings and efficiencies;
- new proposals on our fees and charges.

2.4 As in previous years, Cabinet will be asked to keep the medium term position in mind, and in February will approve the new medium term savings and investments over the life of the MTFP, to be added to those already approved.

National budget position

2.5 The spending round announced by the Chancellor in September 2019 provided an extra c£600m for the Welsh Government (WG) for day-to-day spending in 2020/21 compared to 2019/20. This comes from decisions by the UK government to increase spending in England on areas such as schools, further education, social care, homelessness and the environment.

2.6 The announcement included the following UK and Welsh headlines:

- in England, Local Government had “for once” been among the winners, having had core spending power increased by £2.9bn in total in 2020/21. This represents a rise of 6.3% from £46.2bn this year to £49.1bn in 2020/21;
- the additional £600m that will go to WG represents 2.3% in real terms growth. £385m of this finding is a consequence of extra cash being spent on the health service in England and £195m due to extra funding for schools in England;
- despite this being the largest one-year increase for over a decade, the Welsh Government’s budget in 2020/21 will still be 2% lower in real terms than in 2010/11. This additional funding does not return spending power to the levels of a decade ago.

2.7 Theoretically, a spending review is a chance to take a long-term view at the government’s spending plans, however, the continuing uncertainties around Brexit curtailed the planning horizon of this exercise and, with the exception of schools and police, a one-year budget was presented with a full multi-year comprehensive review planned for 2020. This does give rise to some uncertainties as to the sustainability of the increases announced for 2020/21 only.

2.8 Since the spending round announcement in September, the UK general election has been called on 12 December and given that we are in a pre-election period, the publication of the Welsh Government’s budget has been deferred until after the election to 16 December.

Welsh Local Government / Newport City Council funding settlement

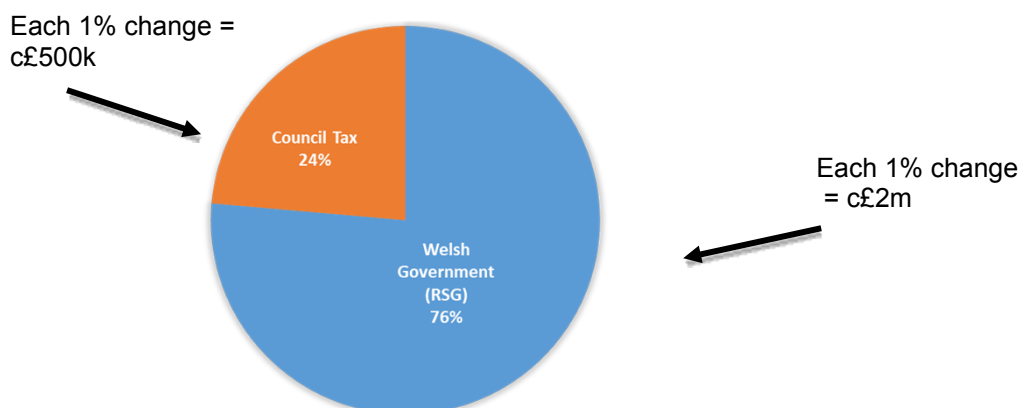
2.9 Welsh Government funding accounts for the largest part of a council’s funding in Wales, typically equating to about three quarters of its net revenue budget funding requirement. This funding is provided through a non-hypothecated grant – the Revenue Support Grant (RSG). In addition to this, other grants provide funding for specific purposes. Welsh Councils continue to ‘push’ for medium term RSG settlements so that they can plan with certainty but this has not happened to date. The draft budget and MTFP is therefore based on planning assumptions and are very likely to change. The scale of the budget challenge is very sensitive to changes to RSG funding as shown in table 5.

2.10 Less than a quarter of a councils funding is raised through local council tax, representing a small proportion of funding that is under the councils own decision-making.

2.11 Given the above scenario in Wales, there is a relatively weak connection between individual Council’s own decision-making on spending priorities / pressures and its ability to raise the funds required to meet that.

- 2.12 In Newport, the RSG funding makes up 76% of its net budget, with council tax at 24%. As the RSG makes up such a large proportion of the councils budget, what happens to this grant is crucial, as any reductions cannot be easily offset by an increase to council tax. For example, it would take a 4% increase in council tax to offset a 1% reduction in the RSG.

Chart 1: Newport Council funding sources – 2019/20



- 2.13 Given the decision to defer the publication of the WG settlement until after the UK general election, the arrangements for the Local Government settlement will broadly follow the same timeline as that proposed for the Welsh Government's budget. The Council will receive its provisional settlement on 16 December. Until then, the budget planning assumption around funding for 2020/21 is that the RSG will increase by 1% compared to 2019/20 levels. The timing of this announcement clearly means that uncertainties remain in terms of both RSG and specific grants. Cabinet will need to consider the draft settlement as they finalise their budget for their February 2020 meeting.
- 2.14 In addition to the assumptions around RSG funding, a number of one off specific grants were received in 2019/20 to fund recurring expenditure. These covered costs in respect of social care, teachers' pay award and teacher's pensions and will amount, in 2020/21, to £5.7m. The budget planning assumptions around this funding for 2020/21 are that this funding will continue, either as further specific grants or transferred into the RSG in addition to the general 1% growth outlined above. The areas of expenditure this funds are:
- | | | |
|-------|--------------------|---------|
| (i) | Social care | £1,500k |
| (ii) | Teachers pay award | £390k |
| (iii) | Teachers pensions | £3,848k |
- 2.15 The Councils final RSG settlement will be announced on 25 February 2020. Apart from late transfers of specific grants into/ out of the final settlement, which are 'neutral' in their impact, the main changes come from Council's confirmation of their individual 'tax bases' – i.e. the number of Band D equivalent properties they confirm they will be basing their council tax income on, which is confirmed after the publication of the draft settlement ordinarily. If a council's tax-base changes by more or less than the Welsh average, their final grant settlement will be increased or decreased accordingly. This 'equalisation' is a key feature of the Local Government grant settlement process. The late draft settlement this year means that this adjustment will be included in the draft settlement itself, which usefully takes away that particular uncertainty in the final settlement.
- 2.16 The Head of Finance (HoF) has set the tax-base for 2020/21 and it will increase by 1.9%, significantly higher than the all Wales average of 0.5% in 2019/20. This growth has the potential to affect the RSG significantly; however, the Head of Finance will provide an update once the impact is known. The MTFP and 2020/21 budget shown in appendix 9 does not allow for any financial impact on this increasing council tax base at this point as it can only be confirmed when the draft settlement itself is confirmed.
- 2.17 The 1% planning increase in the RSG noted in 2.13 above, at £2.1m, therefore represents the combined increase in funding from the increasing tax base plus the adjusted RSG grant. Alongside the permanent funding of the current year's one-off funding at £5.7m outlined in 2.14 above, the WG funding assumptions for 20/21 amount to c£8m of additional funding.

Implementing the Corporate Plan

- 2.18 The Council's business and financial planning is underpinned by the Council's Corporate Plan 2017-22 that sets out a clear set of aspirations and plans for the future under our mission of 'Improving Peoples Lives'. This provides a focus for decisions around spending and will direct activity across the council.
- 2.19 The current medium term financial projections included in appendix 9 and the detailed budget investments in appendix 1 includes funding for the key priorities and promises set out in the plan, as needed. As funding and spending pressures continue to be a challenge, the task of delivering a balanced budget becomes much harder. The Council has yet to develop a 'strategic change programme' which outlines the key areas and initiatives which will guide services and the Council in the future to deliver sustainable services and meet the priorities set by the Corporate Plan. Such a programmes financial impact could be included in the Council's MTFP to deliver a balanced/sustainable medium term financial position. The Council's interim Chief Executive recognises this work as a priority.

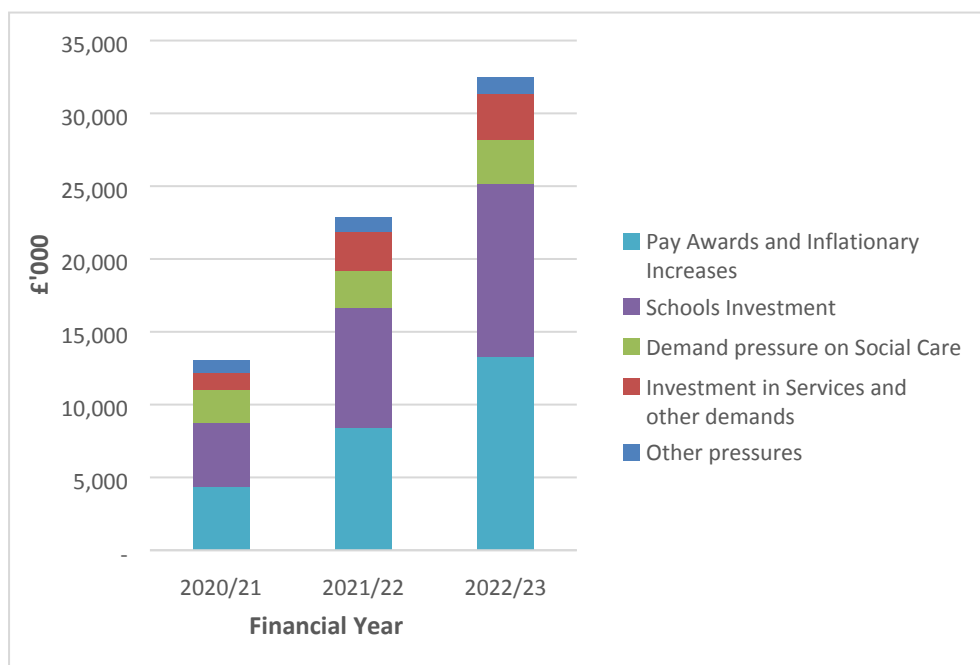
3 Financial planning assumptions

Increasing costs and demand

- 3.1 Financial pressures and demands on our services have increased over a number of years and this increase is projected to continue. Main issues include:
- pay and inflationary cost increases – of the councils £280m net revenue budget over three quarters of expenditure relates to pay and contracts and is therefore subject to inflationary increases year on year;
 - significant increases in demand led services – specifically, children's social care and adult's social care;
 - cost of new and growing schools;
 - growing cost of funding the Council's borrowing costs.
- 3.2 Unavoidable pay and inflationary cost increases, excluding schools, equate to £4,380k in 2020/21 and £13,261k over the three-year period to 2022/23.
- 3.3 In addition to these cost increases, the council has also seen a significant increase in demand led services pressures since 2015/16. In particular, the council is currently forecasting overspends in this year's budget in three key risk areas facing significant demand:
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Adults community care | £1,490k overspend |
| • Independent fostering | £729k overspend |
| • Children's out of area placements | £669k overspend |
- 3.4 During 2019/20 these three areas alone are contributing almost £3m to service area forecast overspend. These areas received significant investment in 2019/20 but demand continues to accelerate beyond the budget available. As a result, further investments in addition to this are proposed within 2020/21 to support the level of demand that is being experienced in order to deliver a robust and deliverable budget.
- 3.5 Detailed demand models for social care have been included within appendix 6 and form the basis of the investments that have been put forward for inclusion within the medium term projections.
- 3.6 For 2020/21 specifically, the council is currently planning to invest around £8.6m in the draft budget over and above an allowance pay and pricing inflation. More details on proposed investments are included in appendix 1 and some of the key items include:
- £4,380k investment in school budgets

- £2,246k for increasing demand in social care demand for both children and adult services
- £788k investment to deliver the promises set out within the Corporate Plan such as the delivery of digital aspirations and a new household waste recycling centre
- £239k due to increasing demand for special education needs provision

Chart 2: Cumulative pressures up to 2022/23 by source



- 3.7 Although the financial pressures facing the Council continue to increase significantly over the three-year period, they outweigh the funding available based on current projections. Even with different and more optimistic funding assumptions, the budget pressures are still higher and savings are therefore going to have to be identified in the future.
- 3.8 Given the challenge of this, it will also be important that the council review carefully all budget pressures/ investments regularly and services operate in such a way as to minimise these and manage demands to the extent possible.

Schools funding

- 3.9 The current position provides a cash increase for the overall school budget. It is proposed that schools receive investment of £4,380k in 2020/21. This represents a 4.5% growth in schools budget. This amount is the calculated/ assessed amount, which covers teacher's pay increases and the additional costs of new/ expanding schools. This is in addition to the anticipated continuation of funding of the 2019/20 teachers pay award and pension increase referred to in paragraph 2.14.
- 3.10 Despite this proposed investment school budgets would remain under significant pressure. Current projections for school budgets in 2019/20 will see them overspending against their available funding by £3.1m and whilst the proposed investment in school budgets outlined above is significant, it covers increasing costs for 2020/21 and no additional for the 'base, current position' where schools are overspending.
- 3.11 The level of in year overspending was highlighted as a risk in 2018/19 and continues to be a significant area of concern. Schools have used £1.7m from school reserves over the last 2 years to fund overspending on their budgets and current projections of £3.1m overspending would see reserve balances fall to zero at the end of this current 2019/20 financial year. Officers continue to work closely with schools to ensure that deficit recovery plans are in place and that action is taken

to reduce spend. This resolution is critical as current spending levels in schools is not sustainable and has the potential to cause a significant and adverse impact on the councils overall finances if it continues. Based on this, Cabinet are asked to consider the level of funding that will be delegated to schools for 2020/21.

- 3.12 Assessed budget pressures in school budgets over the life of the MTFP amount to £11.9m based on current assumptions on teacher's pay/ pensions cost increases and new/ expanding schools costs. These will, like other MTFP assumptions, need to be reviewed regularly and any actual proposed funding increases confirmed through the budget process.

Table 1: School budget pressures 2020/21 to 2022/23

	2020/2021 £'000	2021/2022 £'000	2022/2023 £'000
Teachers - Pay award and increments	1,648	1,469	1,391
Non Teaching school staff - pay award and increments	797	754	646
Contract & Income Inflation	82	83	83
New Schools	1,242	631	647
Secondary School Transitions	611	906	947
Reduced Class Sizes	0	0	0
	4,380	3,843	3,714

- 3.13 Final allocations of grant are yet to be determined across the Education Achievement Service (EAS) region.
- 3.14 Whilst it is recognised that draft assumptions give significant challenge, school funding in overall terms is better than other parts of the council, and has increased by 11% over the last 5 years. This included specific grants and is shown in table 3 below.

Table 2: School budgets by sector – 2013/14 to 2019/20

Year	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Special	Total
2014/15	585	52,234	47,165	2,894	102,878
2015/16	519	52,924	47,480	3,724	104,647
2016/17	494	54,627	48,619	4,040	107,780
2017/18	512	54,959	47,505	4,247	107,223
2018/19	562	57,396	47,497	4,773	110,228
2019/20	496	58,492	49,619	5,091	113,698
Increase in funding over 5 year period (incl specific grants)					10.5%
Increase in funding (excl specific grants & delegations)					13.3%

Council tax

- 3.15 It is well documented that Newport's council tax is low compared to others in Wales, generating approximately 24% of our income. This council's current year budget is well below its 'standard spending assessment', a relative spending needs assessment between all Welsh councils, by £8.3m, which is entirely due to our low level of council tax funding.
- 3.16 A base 4% increase in council tax is already included in our MTFP each year. This year, the draft budget proposals include an additional 3.95% increase to council tax in 2020/21 (appendix 2 & 5) bringing the proposed increase to 7.95%. This is subject to consultation and a final recommendation to Council on the council tax level and will be confirmed in the Cabinet's February 2020 meeting.

- 3.17 For contextual purposes, the table below shows the weekly increases in council tax based on a 7.95% increase. Given the low starting point on Newport council's tax, it will still be lower than most (if not all) of the neighbouring authorities, even at a 7.95% increase and the actual monetary increases in tax are low in themselves. Newport City Council proposed tax increase would maintain its position as one of the lowest in Wales.

Table 3: Scenarios illustrating weekly council tax increases

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Annual increase based on 7.95% increase	£59.36	£69.25	£79.15	£89.04	£108.83	£128.61	£148.40	£178.08	£178.08
Weekly increase based on 7.95% increase	£1.14	£1.33	£1.52	£1.71	£2.09	£2.47	£2.85	£3.42	£3.42

- 3.18 Given that almost two thirds of Newport's chargeable properties are banded A – C the majority of households would see an increase of between £1.14 and £1.52 per week based on a 7.95% increase.

Summary of key budget assumptions

At this point, the following assumptions are included.

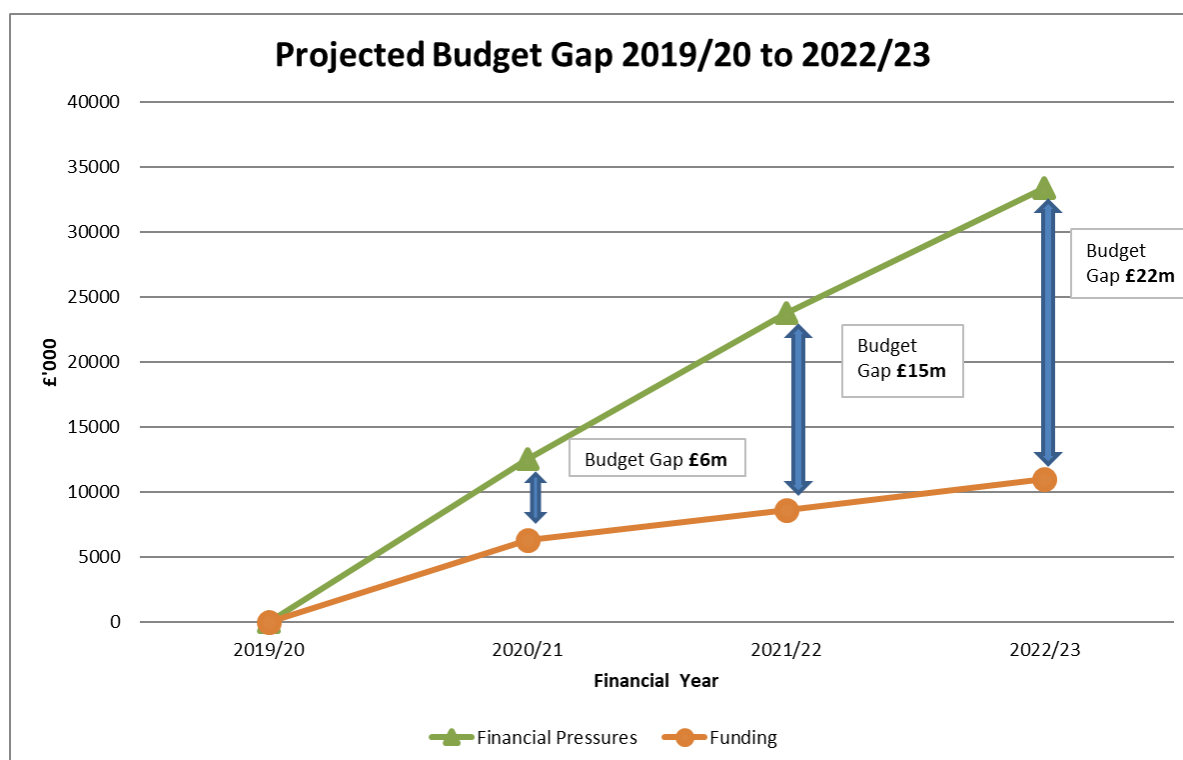
Table 4: Summary of key assumptions

MTFP Summary	2020/2021 £'000	2021/2022 £'000	2022/2023 £'000
RSG Increase - +1% in 2020/21 and 0% thereafter	(2,143)	0	0
Council tax increase - 7.95% in 2020/21 and 4% pa thereafter	(4,215)	(2,289)	(2,381)
One off grants 2019/20 continued/ made permanent	(5,738)	0	0
Budget pressures/ Investments (appendix 1)	13,026	9,870	9,581
General budget transfer to / (from) Reserves	(459)	1,359	0
Previously agreed budget savings (appendix 4)	(554)	(35)	0

Resulting budget gap and sensitivity of assumptions

- 3.19 In summary, the following chart shows the impact that the above assumptions lead to in terms of the Councils medium term financial gap projection.

Chart 3: Projected budget gap 2019/20 to 2022/23

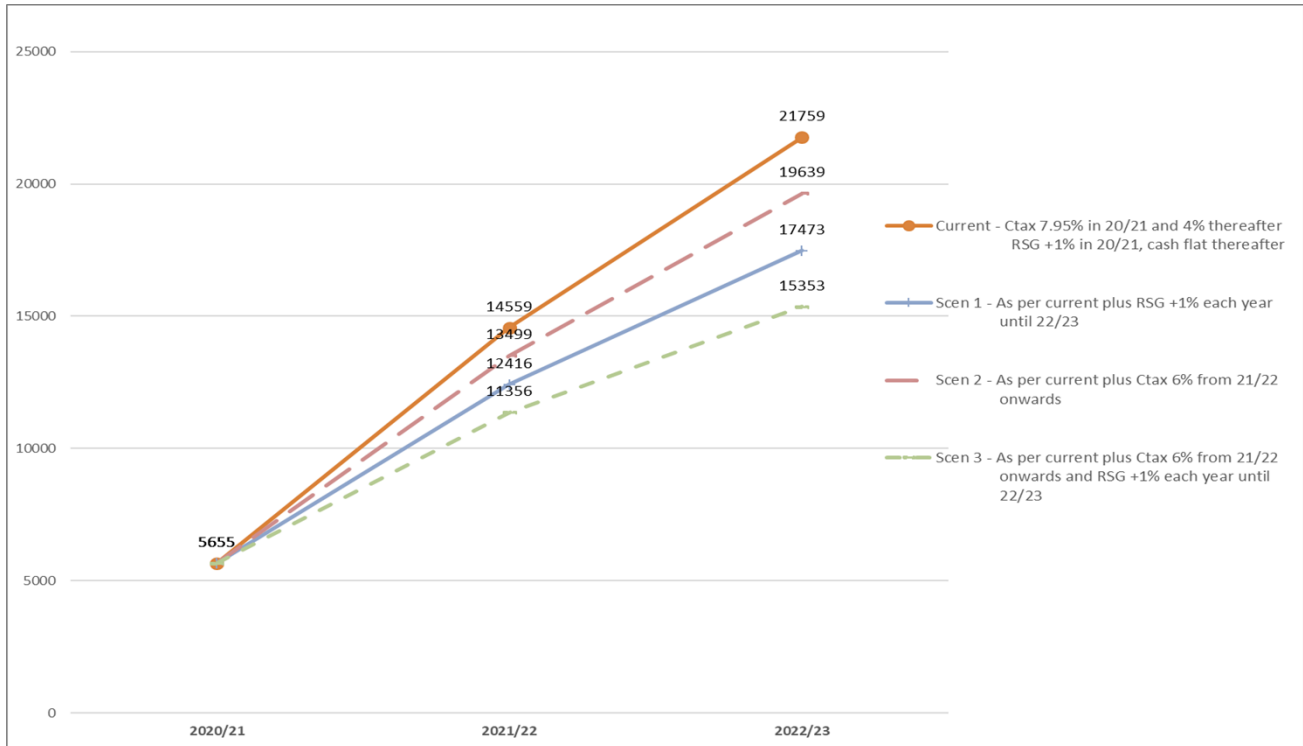


- 3.20 Clearly, the gap is based on current assumptions, listed above, in the MTFP. The draft grant funding for 202/21 will be available from 16 December and that will affect the budget gap/ challenge in 2020/21. Cabinet will need to consider this draft settlement before finalising the 2020/21 budget in their February meeting. We will also, in light of this, review key funding assumptions over the medium term, where appropriate, which the next section details.
- 3.21 If the draft settlement is better than the planning assumptions noted section 2, (increase of £8m), the HoF recommends, as much as possible, a longer term strategic view is taken on how funds are deployed so as to contribute towards sustainable services, as well as meet priorities.
- 3.22 The HoF will continue to work with the senior leadership team and Cabinet to develop the above approach. Some of the key issues, currently, are:
- on-going financial issues on school budgets
 - increasing demand within service areas over and above provision already made within the MTFP
 - accounting provisions required to deal with our regeneration activities regarding loans to developers.

Sensitivity analysis

- 3.23 As table 4 above confirms, the budget gap is significantly affected by the funding assumptions - the WG grant and Council tax increases projections. The graph and table below show the sensitivity that the council faces in respect of these

Chart 4: Sensitivity analysis – budget gap based on RSG and council tax assumptions



3.24 The table below shows how sensitive each of the variables are to changes in assumptions. The key elements within the medium terms projections, which also have the greatest level of sensitivity, include RSG funding, Council tax increases, pay and contract inflation.

Table 5: Sensitivity analysis – key projections

RSG Sensitivity	£'000
RSG growth +/- 1%	2,143
Council Tax Sensitivity	£'000
Council tax change +/- 1%	530
Pay Sensitivity	£'000
Pay inflation - NJC staff +/- 1%	943
Pay inflation - Teachers and soulbury +/- 1%	253
Contract Inflation Sensitivity	£'000
Contract inflation - +/- 1%	2,490

4 Budget savings

4.1 The savings identified for 2020/21 to date total £5,736k. The table below provides a summary of the savings by decision over the 3-year planning horizon.

Table 6: Summary of projected savings

Savings Decision Type	2020/2021 £'000	2021/2022 £'000	2022/2023 £'000	Staff Impact FTE
Budget savings for full Cabinet decision (appendix 2 & 5)	2,379	405	302	20.89
Budget savings delegated to officers (appendix 3)	2,803	319	283	12.5
New Budget Savings	5,182	724	585	33.4
Previously agreed budget savings (appendix 4)	554	35	0	-5
Total Budget Savings	5,736	759	585	28.4

- 4.2 Under the constitution and our scheme of delegation, some budget decisions are taken by the Cabinet collectively. These proposals total £2,379k for 2020/21 and £3,086k over the life of the MTFP. Some lower level, operational and efficiency type budget proposals are delegated to Heads of Service for decision and implementation. These proposals, totalling £2,803k for 2020/21 and £3,405k over the life of the MTFP are listed in appendix 3.
- 4.3 In previous years, only those proposals requiring Cabinet decisions were subject to public consultation. We have changed the process this year and an impact-based approach has been adopted whereby each proposal is considered on a case-by-case basis, regardless of where the decision approving the saving is taken. The list of new savings in appendix 2 and 3 identifies if the proposal is subject to public consultation or not. Regardless of their categorisation, the normal protocols for staff, unions and any other required consultation are being adhered to in respect of all savings.
- 4.4 The savings already agreed in the MTFP last February 2019 are either in progress of implementation or due to be implemented in 2020/21. No further details are shown for these savings, as they have already been approved.

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessments (FEIAs)

- 4.5 All budget proposals have been reviewed, where needed, to ensure the Council understands and mitigates, where possible, fairness and equality issues. FEIAs seek to identify whether proposals will have a positive or negative impact in relation to the protected characteristics, as defined by the Equalities Act. Within Newport, they also include an assessment against the principles of fairness, as presented by Newport's Fairness Commission. Where required, proposals include mitigating measures needed to ensure we meet our equalities responsibilities. Officers have identified those specific proposals where an FEIA would be required and these have been completed. Compliance with the Equalities Impact Assessment and the Equalities Act 2010 is a legal obligation and is intended to result in better-informed decision-making and policy development and services that are more effective for users. The FEIAs for all proposals requiring one can be found [here](#).

Medium term strategic change

- 4.6 Whilst good progress has been made on the 2020/21 budget, significant challenges remain over the medium term, even with more optimistic assumptions around funding as the sensitivity analysis above shows. In particular, significant spending pressures remain to be tackled, particularly in Adults and Children's social care because of growing demand. Containing and then reducing such pressures will require a whole council response, and the active collaboration of our partners such as health services, as part of our new longer-term strategy in going forward.
- 4.7 The success of this longer-term approach will depend on the councils starting with a stable financial platform, and the budget proposals and draft budget set out in this report are designed to do this. Following the announcement of the draft settlement cabinet will need to ensure that we maintain this objective. A key element of this is taking a longer term strategic view is taken on how funds are deployed to contribute towards sustainable services, as well as meet priorities. Proposals for more major changes in service delivery will be brought forward early in the New Year and will

include the need for investment in service redesign, new technological tools and the re-skilling of our staff at all levels to improve productivity and job security.

5 Budget process and consultation

- 5.1 This report presents the draft proposals for the 2020/21 budget. The report asks Cabinet to note:
- the position on developing a balanced budget for 2020/21, acknowledging that the position will be subject to ongoing review and updates;
 - agree that delegated decisions in appendix 3 will be implemented with immediate effect;
 - in addition, that Fairness and Equality Impact Assessments have been completed for all proposals requiring one.
- 5.2 The report also asks Cabinet to agree a series of proposals for public consultation. This includes:
- budget savings proposals in appendix 2 (summary table) and appendix 5 (detailed saving proposals);
 - proposed fees and charges in appendix 7;
 - the position regarding the proposed school funding for 2020/21 in section 3.

Budget engagement

- 5.3 As part of the budget engagement strategy there has been a targeted engagement approach with members of the public in developing budget priorities for the next three years. This will help with budget and service planning.
- 5.4 Bilingual budget engagement surveys have been made available across all libraries across the city and advertised between library staff and the public – these surveys list the services Newport City Council provides and asks members of the public to choose five options – this serves to highlight the difficult decisions the authority has to make whilst gaining the views from the community of their priorities
- 5.5 There have been a number of outreach engagement sessions with communities across public venues including Newport Central Library and Newport City Council Information station. Officers have attended these venues and using an engagement tool have captured the views of residents to gain an understanding of how the public perceives the Council and how the authority uses its budget. Primarily feedback has focused on livability issues including community safety, recycling and lighting.
- 5.6 Officers have also attended an Information day at Newport Centre where approximately 600 members of the public attended and using the engagement tool have gained feedback from older citizens who may not have access to online and digital communications.
- 5.7 In the pre-budget phase, before proposals have been released, through a combination of engagement sessions and surveys there have been over 140 respondents.
- 5.8 Seeking to capture and understand the opinions needs and suggestions of the public, specific service users and other stakeholders has been an important part of the Council's budget setting process in recent years. Each year the budget is informed by extensive consultation, which allows our knowledge and understanding to grow over time. Over the last four budget cycles, we received more than 15,000 responses from the public with over 4,000 in the last financial year.

- 5.9 In addition to external public consultation, proposals will be reported to Scrutiny Committees, the Fairness Commission, Unions, School Forum and Third sector/ Business community throughout December / January. As already noted, further work is required on the Council's Corporate Plan, Change programme and proposals to balance the overall MTFP both in total and over individual years.
- 5.10 A second budget report will be presented to Cabinet on 12 February 2020. This will ask Cabinet to agree its final proposals for the 2020/21 budget and the resulting recommended level of council tax to fund that. The February report to Cabinet will include:
- the results of the public consultation process
 - details and analysis of the grant settlement from Welsh Government
 - any updates from Welsh Government about future grant settlements
 - any emerging details on specific grants, which have financial implications.
- 5.11 Setting the council tax level and resulting total net revenue budget is the responsibility of full Council, so Cabinet's recommendations will be presented to the Council meeting on 27 February for approval and adoption.
- 5.12 Below is this year's timetable for consulting on and approving the 2020/21 budget:

Table 7: Budget consultation timetable 2020/21

Cabinet agrees budget proposals as a basis for consultation	20 December 2019
Consultation period	20 December 2019 to 31 January 2020
Cabinet considers feedback from consultation and agrees final budget proposals for recommendation to Council	12 February 2020
Council approves the 2020/21 budget and council tax level	27 February 2020

6 Risk, financial resilience and performance

- 6.1 A key driver in setting out our budget strategy and MTFP framework is the need to manage the Council's general and financial risks, its financial resilience and performance. This next section looks at these issues, identifies how they are dealt with currently, and issues which need to be considered in setting out the council's 2020/21 budget and medium term projections.

Risk

- 6.2 The Council maintains a corporate risk register, which is regularly reviewed by the Corporate Leadership Team and Cabinet, as well as the Audit Committee from a procedural/ risk management framework viewpoint. The Council's budget strategy and MTFP framework needs to reflect risks and incorporate appropriate financial mitigation, where required. The quarter 2 corporate risk register report will also be presented to Cabinet in December.
- 6.3 Key mitigation issues include the Council's (i) revenue contingency budget (ii) capacity provided by the 'Invest to Save' reserve to support and fund implementation costs of the current and future change programme, and (iii) capacity to develop the strategic and change programmes to meet the corporate plan within financial context.

At this point, the Council's finances and reserves provide the financial capacity to deal with the current risks identified.

- 6.4 There are a number of risks that while acknowledged are not currently included within the MTFP. These include the current schools deficit position as discussed in para 3.11, current service area overspending over and above provision already made within the MTFP and a number of accounting provisions required to deal with our regeneration activities regarding loans to developers. The result of the settlement will determine the level at which these risks can be covered. The Council also holds a number of risk reserves and budgeted contingency to cover this risk.

Financial Resilience

- 6.5 A robust view is being taken in managing budget risks and protecting the financial health of the Council. In that respect, the Council's financial resilience is a key consideration and appendix 8 shows the current 'snapshot' of the key data and information showing an overview of the health of the Council at this time. Key headlines include:
- The council maintains a good level of reserves with the vast majority earmarked for specific purposes and already committed. The contingency base budget and other risk reserves held by the council are all taken into consideration when assessing the level of the general reserve, and help to mitigate the risk to the Council. The decline in school reserves over the last few years is a significant concern and current projections of £3.1m overspending would see reserve balances fall to zero at the end of this financial year. This has the potential to significantly impact on the financial resilience of the overall council unless schools manage within approved budgets. This will need to be considered between this meeting and the February 2020 meeting when the budget is finalised.
 - The council has identified and continues to monitor budget reductions of £6.6 million in 2019/20. This is alongside delivering outturn within budget over recent years, despite the delivery of £41m savings over the last 5 years. This needs to be viewed within the context of continued significant demand which are faced by service areas namely children's and adults social care and schools, which have been highlighted throughout the year as part of the budget monitoring process.
 - Although the 2019/20 forecast overspending across service areas is significant this has been offset by one off underspending/ better income in non-service budget areas and the use of the general contingency budget. This position is not sustainable in the longer term and is a risk though significant investment in services proposed for 2020/21 should reduce overspending if demand can be managed.
 - In light of the continuing financial pressures and demands placed on the Council further savings of at least, £22m need to be found by 2023 based on current assumptions. A strategic longer-term approach is recognised as being needed to deal with this given savings found to date over the last 5 years and more.
- 6.6 Overall, whilst there are some underlying issues and challenges, the Council's financial resilience remains strong and it has financial capacity to develop and change services in response to continuing pressure on funding and increased demand for services.

7 Report review and statutory comments

7.1 Risks

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
Planning parameters	M	M	1 Use of contingency, where required	Head of Finance

around inflation are incorrect			2 Use of reserves, where appropriate	SLT
Planning parameters around Welsh Government revenue grant are incorrect over medium term	H	M	1. Use of contingency, where required 2. Keep the assumptions under constant review 3. Use of conservative assumptions	Head of Finance
Increasing budget pressures over medium term	M	M	1. Manage demand, where possible 2. Keep MTFP under constant review 3. SLT review of all budget pressures within MTFP	SLT

* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

7.2 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

The overall aim of the budget and MTFP is to ensure resource allocation is based on priorities, supports the delivery of the Council's change programme and saving proposals and protects the financial health of the Council.

7.3 Options Available and considered

There are few options available as the Council is required to consult on its budget where decisions do not fall under delegated authority and therefore needs to agree the basis of its consultation.

7.4 Preferred Option and Why

To consult on the new medium term package to ensure that savings are deliverable from the earliest opportunity.

7.5 Comments of Chief Financial Officer

All the financial issues are contained within the main body of the report.

The delay in the notification of the Councils grant settlement does mean we are producing the budget proposals contained in this report with a high level of uncertainty. The sensitivity analysis shown in the report highlights how significant changes in RSG funding can be. Cabinet will therefore need to consider the draft settlement before their final budget-setting meeting in February 2020 and make changes, as necessary.

A key issue will be the development of a strategic and longer-term approach to changing services to ensure sustainability, including Council Tax levels. This will require a stable and solid 'financial platform' to work from and in that respect, the 2020/21 budget is key and should aim to provide that. A key part of that is

- to ensure the budget minimises / does not rely on reserve funding and whilst the draft budget does do that, every opportunity to prioritise this in any update following the draft settlement is recommended.
- that Cabinet take a longer-term strategic view if the settlement is better than current planning assumptions and take the opportunity to deliver sustainable services as well as key priorities.

7.6 Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no specific legal issues arising from the Report at this stage. Cabinet is being asked to approve the draft savings proposals and council tax rate set out in the Report in order to deliver a balanced budget for 20/21 and as the basis for public consultation, where the relevant business cases will have an impact

on service delivery and are not operational matters delegated to Heads of Service. Cabinet will then take the final decisions on those business cases in the light of the responses to the public consultation, prior to making a recommendation to Council regarding the budget for 20/21. The implementation of all these business cases are executive matters, with the exception of any consequential staffing proposals, which are non-executive matters delegated to Heads of Service. However, whichever decision-making process applies, all of the business cases have been the subject of fairness and equality impact assessments to ensure that the Council has regard to its public sector equality duties under the Equality Act and is acting fairly in terms of the impact of the proposed changes on service delivery. In addition, where specific proposals require more focussed consultation with staff and key stakeholders, this will be carried out prior to the implementation of any proposed changes. The setting of the overall base budget and council tax rate for 20/21 is a matter for full Council as these are non-executive reserved matters under the Constitution.

7.7 Comments of Head of People and Business Change

The report outlines the proposals for Cabinet consideration in order to set a balanced budget for 2020/21 with consideration to the medium term financial plan.

Proposals that have an impact on staff will be subject to the required consultation, and consultation with trade unions. As is the case each year when setting the budget, there is a conscious effort to minimise impacts on staff, whilst focusing on priority services and setting a robust and balanced budget. With the continued constriction of governmental funding and the increase in cost pressures, this becomes more and more difficult each year. Due to this the decisions presented for consideration and public consultation are often a series of 'trade-offs' between service priorities.

The business case process has further embedded the five ways of working expressed within the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the organisation has moved to the development of a broader equality impact process, which also includes the five ways of working, alongside protected characteristics and concepts of fairness (developed with the Newport Fairness Commission).

Public consultation on the proposals seeking Cabinet agreement will commence at 4pm on 12th December 2019 and continue until 31st January 2020. Alongside the traditional paper based consultation process and on-line questionnaires, a bus Wi-Fi survey will be used extensively and there will be face-to-face consultation activity during this period. As previous, the Fairness Commission will be asked to provide a consultation response.

7.8 Comments of Cabinet Member

The Chair of Cabinet has approved the report for consideration by Cabinet.

7.9 Scrutiny Committees

The constitution requires that Scrutiny Committees be consulted on Cabinet's draft budget proposals.

7.10 Equalities Impact Assessment and the Equalities Act 2010

This is referenced in paragraph 4.5 of the report.

7.11 Children and Families (Wales) Measure

All proposals will be consulted on widely, as required.

7.12 Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Act is referenced in the report.

7.13 Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Section 17(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a duty on the Local Authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.

Dated:

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APPENDIX 2

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APPENDIX 2 – New Budget Savings for Consultation

Service Group	Activity Short Code	Activity Description	Unique ID	Proposal Title	20/21 (£'000)	21/22 (£'000)	22/23 (£'000)
PEOPLE							
Adult and Community Services	SOC4	Day Opportunities	AS2021/04	Reduction in Day Opportunities Budget	100	0	0
Adult and Community Services	SOC10 & SOC17	Community care packages & telecare contract	AS2021/05	Telecare Service	150	0	0
Adult and Community Services	SOC16	Adult Service Contracts	AS2021/07	Reduction in Funding Awarded to Third Party Organisations	100	0	0
Adult and Community Services	Various	Service Wide	AS2021/08	Staffing Review	297	0	0
Children and Family Services	SOC26	Integrated Family Support	CFS2021/02	Family Support Services - Barnardos Partnership	75	0	0
Children and Family Services	SOC40 & SOC39	Child Safeguard/ Youth Offending Service	CFS2021/05	Staffing across Children's Services	543	0	0
Children and Family Services	Various	Service Wide	CFS2021/06	Reduction of Posts Across Childrens Services	50	0	0
Education	EDU10	Education welfare service	EDU2021/01	Education Welfare Service Savings Proposals	66	0	0

APPENDIX 2 – New Budget Savings for Consultation

Service Group	Activity Short Code	Activity Description	Unique ID	Proposal Title	20/21 (£'000)	21/22 (£'000)	22/23 (£'000)
PEOPLE							
Education	EDU5	SEN Team	EDU2021/02	The Reduction of the Inclusion Enrichment Team	43	0	0
Education	EDU23	Joint Services	EDU2021/03	Gwent Music Service Reduction in Hardship Funding	14	0	0
Education	Various	Various	EDU2021/04	Improved Budget Efficiency within Education Services	62	0	0
PLACE							
City Services	Potentially all codes	Potentially all codes	CS2021/01	Increase in Fees	48	0	0
City Services	STR28	Home to School Transport	CS2021/06	Termination of Home to College Transport provision and Removal of Post 16 Travel Grants to Mainstream Schools and Colleges	45	110	22
City Services	STR13	HWRC	CS2021/08	Increased Recycling - Bag Sorting at Household Waste Recycling Centre	57	0	0
City Services	STR20	Off Street Parking	CS2021/13	Car Parking - Faulkner Road and Civic Centre	41	0	0
CORPORATE							
People and Business Change	PBC10	Digital	PBC2021/03	Digital Savings - Public Building Wi-Fi - "Community Cloud"	95	15	0
Law & Regulation	LAW6 / LAW10 / LAW11	Legal / Environmental Health / Trading Standards	LR2021/04	Reduction in statutory enforcement and prosecution work	153	0	0

APPENDIX 2 – New Budget Savings for Consultation

Service Group	Activity Short Code	Activity Description	Unique ID	Proposal Title	20/21 (£'000)	21/22 (£'000)	22/23 (£'000)
FINANCE AND NON-SERVICE							
Non Service	n/a	n/a	NS2021/01	Council Tax Reduction Scheme	440	280	280
				NEW BUDGET SAVINGS FOR CONSULTATION	2,379	405	302
Funding	n/a	n/a	n/a	Increase council tax increase from 4% base assumption by 3.95% to 7.95%	2,094	0	0

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APPENDIX 5

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Appendix 5 – Budget Savings for Consultation - Proposals

Proposal Number	Unique ID	Service Area	Proposal Title
12	CS2021/01	City Services	Increase in Fees
13	CS2021/06	City Services	Termination of Home to College Transport Provision and Removal of Post 16 Travel Grants to Mainstream schools and Colleges
14	CS2021/08	City Services	Increased Recycling – Bag Sorting at Household Waste Recycling Centre
15	CS2021/13	City Services	Car Parking – Faulkner Road and Civic Centre
16	PBC2021/03	People and Business Change	Digital Savings – Public Building Wi-Fi – “Community Cloud”
17	LR2021/04	Law and Regulation	Reduction in Statutory Enforcement and Prosecution Work
18	NS2021/01	Non Service	Council Tax Reduction Scheme
19	N/A	Non Service	Council Tax Increase

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MTRP Budget Proposal – 2020/21 to 2022/23

Service Area	City Services		
Proposal Title	Increase in fees		
Summary Description, Delivery Arrangements and Timescales	<p>Two areas have been identified with the potential to apply additional fees:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase in emergency road closure charge from £250 per event to £800 per event. This is a fee paid by companies when the need arises to close an adopted highway. The increase is in line with a number of other councils and based on current numbers will generate an additional £27k per annum. 2. Introduce a charge for waste receptacles for new build low-rise properties when residents initially occupy. There is already a charge for Houses in Multiple Occupation and this new charge is part of the Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance, but no value had been set. It is proposed to set the charge at £50 for a set of containers. Based on 420 properties a year, this would generate an additional £21k 		
Decision Point (Please tick appropriate box)	Head of Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cabinet

Public Consultation Required (Please tick appropriate box)	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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PART ONE

Net Savings (£000's)	2020/21 (£'000)	2021/22 (£'000)	2022/23 (£'000)
	48		
One-Off Implementation Costs (£000's)	2020/21 (£'000)	2021/22 (£'000)	2022/23 (£'000)
Revenue – Redundancy/Pension			
Revenue – Other			
Capital – Building related			
Capital – Other			
Implementation Cost - Total			

Impact on FTE Count	No impact on FTE count
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MTRP Budget Proposal – 2020/21 to 2022/23

Does this proposal require an FEIA and/or WFG Act assessment? (Please tick appropriate box)	YES		NO	✓
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For internal use:

Unique reference number	CS2021/01
Activity Code	Potentially all codes

MTRP Budget Proposal – 2020/21 to 2022/23

Service Area	City Services			
Proposal Title	Removal of non-statutory ALN Home to College Transport Provision and Post 16 Travel Grants to Mainstream Schools and Colleges			
Summary Description, Delivery Arrangements and Timescales	<p>Remove the non-statutory provision of Home to College Transport from 1st September 2020 for over 16 Additional Learning Needs (ALN) students who are attending further education establishments.</p> <p>Home to college transport is provided to Additional Learning Needs (ALN) pupils attending Further Education establishments and not continuing in mainstream provision. The current budget does not meet demand and is therefore a budget pressure on the Integrated Transport Unit. The removal of transport would be phased over the next two years so that students currently on two-year courses could complete their courses, but no new applications would be considered for September 2020 onwards. The £113k budget saving would be split £45k in 20/21 and £68k in 21/22.</p> <p>Removal of the payment of travel grants to post 16 pupils attending mainstream schools and colleges (currently £150 per annum)</p> <p>Travel grants are paid on a termly basis to post 16 students attending mainstream schools and further education colleges. This level of payment has remained constant at £50 per term for a number of years. The grant either is paid directly to the student, or if they require a Coleg Gwent bus pass, to the college as a payment towards the provision of this pass. This is a non-statutory provision but is written in the home to school transport policy so any change would need to be published by 1st October for the change to take place in the following September. The £64k budget saving would be split £42k in 21/22 and £22k in 22/23.</p>			
Decision Point (Please tick appropriate box)	Head of Service		Cabinet	✓

Public Consultation Required (Please tick appropriate box)	YES	✓	NO	
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MTRP Budget Proposal – 2020/21 to 2022/23

PART ONE

Net Savings (£000's)	2020/21 (£'000)	2021/22 (£'000)	2022/23 (£'000)
	45	110	22
One-Off Implementation Costs (£000's)	2020/21 (£'000)	2021/22 (£'000)	2022/23 (£'000)
Revenue – Redundancy/Pension			
Revenue – Other			
Capital – Building related			
Capital – Other			
Implementation Cost - Total			

Impact on FTE Count	No impact on FTE count
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Does this proposal require an FEIA and/or WFG Act assessment? (Please tick appropriate box)	YES	✓	NO	
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MTRP Budget Proposal – 2020/21 to 2022/23

PART TWO

Options Considered

Remove the non-statutory provision of Home to College Transport from 1st September 2020 for over 16 Additional Learning Needs (ALN) students who are attending further education establishments:

- Option 1: The complete removal of post 16 home to college transport for ALN Pupils to Further Education establishments.

This option would give a full budget saving over two years, the current first year students would be accommodated in year two to complete their courses.

- Option 2: The partial removal of Post 16 ALN Home to College Transport.

This option was considered by setting up a new policy where students would be assessed by a panel consisting of officers from Education, Transport, Health and Social Services. Transport maybe given to those who had a specific need and was accessing education outside of mainstream establishments subject

- Option 3: Continue with the status quo of uncontrolled provision of home to college transport to post 16 ALN pupils and the continued budget pressure being endured.

Removal of post 16 Travel Grants to Colleges:

- Option A: Complete removal of travel grants to post 16 learners to mainstream schools and further education colleges.
- Option B: Continue with the status quo of paying out travel grants to mainstream schools and further education colleges but with a possible increase in budget costs if numbers applying rise.

Recommended Option

Option 1: The recommended option would be to completely remove the non-statutory post 16 home to college transport for ALN pupils to Further Education establishments. This would provide a budget saving of £113k

Option A: The complete removal of travel grants to post 16 learners as this is a non-statutory provision. This would provide a budget saving of £64k over two financial years from 2021/22.

Specific Links with Wellbeing of Future Generations (WFG) Act

MTRP Budget Proposal – 2020/21 to 2022/23

Integration – The removal of this service would bring in line the policies of the authority on non-statutory post 16 provision for mainstream and ALN pupils.

Long Term – This would remove the uncertainty of the non-statutory transport provision being provided and would allow students to choose their education establishments in the knowledge that the transport costs would not be covered by the authority.

Prevention – The proposal prevents future applications being refused and gives more certainty to students when choosing the further education establishments they wish to access.

Collaboration - The removal of this transport has been supported by education colleagues as it is a non-statutory provision and brings the authority in line with other authorities in having a clear policy. It also brings the policy in line with adult services who have adopted a similar policy recently.

Involvement – The proposal has involved talks with education colleagues and social services colleagues on removing this travel provision.

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment

Yes

For internal use:

<i>Unique reference number</i>	CS2021/06
<i>Activity Code</i>	STR28

MTRP Budget Proposal – 2020/21 to 2022/23

Service Area	City Services																	
Proposal Title	Increased Recycling – Bag Sorting at Household Waste Recycling Centre																	
Summary Description, Delivery Arrangements and Timescales	<p>This proposal involves a new operational procedure for the disposal of mixed waste at the Docks Way Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC). Under the new arrangements, any mixed bagged waste brought to the HWRC intended for the non-recyclable waste skip will have to be taken to a designated bag sorting area. Site operatives will open bags and sort into designated containers.</p> <p>Compositional analysis for Newport's HWRC residual waste has shown that 60% of the contents of these bags can be recycled at the site.</p> <p>To counter this, and to continue to encourage behaviour change such that recycling becomes the norm, many Local Authorities in Wales now require the black bags presented at their HWRCs to be sorted and all recycling removed prior to disposing of the waste. This reduces the opportunity to dispose of waste that could be easily recycled at the kerbside and will positively impact Newport's recycling rate.</p> <p>The arrangement will start in March 2020.</p> <p>Financial breakdown as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1072 794 1776 1046"> <tr> <td rowspan="3">Costs</td><td>Manpower</td><td>43,881</td></tr> <tr> <td>Vehicles/maintenance</td><td>5,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Conditioning/containers</td><td>3,000</td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Savings</td><td>Less disposal costs</td><td>- 67,172</td></tr> <tr> <td>Extra income recycles</td><td>- 41,543</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Total</td><td>- 56,834</td></tr> </table> <p>There will be a one-off capital requirement of £25k to install a sorting area, which would be funded through the Invest to Save reserve.</p>			Costs	Manpower	43,881	Vehicles/maintenance	5,000	Conditioning/containers	3,000	Savings	Less disposal costs	- 67,172	Extra income recycles	- 41,543	Total		- 56,834
Costs	Manpower	43,881																
	Vehicles/maintenance	5,000																
	Conditioning/containers	3,000																
Savings	Less disposal costs	- 67,172																
	Extra income recycles	- 41,543																
Total		- 56,834																
Decision Point (Please tick appropriate box)	Head of Service		Cabinet	✓														

Public Consultation Required (Please tick appropriate box)	YES	✓	NO	
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MTRP Budget Proposal – 2020/21 to 2022/23

PART ONE

Net Savings (£000's)	2020/21 (£'000)	2021/22 (£'000)	2022/23 (£'000)
	57		
One-Off Implementation Costs (£000's)	2020/21 (£'000)	2021/22 (£'000)	2022/23 (£'000)
Revenue – Redundancy/Pension			
Revenue – Other			
Capital – Building related			
Capital – Other	25		
Implementation Cost - Total	25		

Impact on FTE Count	Increase in staff by 1.75 FTE
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Does this proposal require an FEIA and/or WFG Act assessment? (Please tick appropriate box)	YES		NO	✓
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For internal use:

<i>Unique reference number</i>	CS2021/08
<i>Activity Code</i>	STR13

MTRP Budget Proposal – 2020/21 to 2022/23

Service Area	City Services			
Proposal Title	Car Parking – Faulkner Road			
Summary Description, Delivery Arrangements and Timescales	<p>City Services currently operates six pay and display car parks and one multi-storey with a total of 766 spaces.</p> <p>Faulkner Road car park has 159 spaces and is situated in front of the Magistrate's Court within close proximity of the Civic Centre. Although this is a designated public pay and display, it is largely used by council staff who are issued permits.</p> <p>The average income per space at Faulkner Road is currently £381 per year. This compares with an average of £1,500 across the remaining full price pay and display sites. Approximately 100 spaces Monday to Friday are taken by council staff.</p> <p>This proposal is to introduce 50 designated bays that can be used by council staff, leaving the remaining 109 for paying customers. This is estimated to generate an additional £41k based on 100% of standard utilisation.</p> <p>We believe this provides a balance to free up space to members of the public, while retaining some capacity for staff.</p>			
Decision Point (Please tick appropriate box)	Head of Service		Cabinet	✓

Public Consultation Required (Please tick appropriate box)	YES	✓	NO	
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MTRP Budget Proposal – 2020/21 to 2022/23

PART ONE

Net Savings (£000's)	2020/21 (£'000)	2021/22 (£'000)	2022/23 (£'000)
	41		
One-Off Implementation Costs (£000's)	2020/21 (£'000)	2021/22 (£'000)	2022/23 (£'000)
Revenue – Redundancy/Pension			
Revenue – Other			
Capital – Building related	10		
Capital – Other			
Implementation Cost - Total	10		

Impact on FTE Count	No impact on FTE count
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Does this proposal require an FEIA and/or WFG Act assessment? (Please tick appropriate box)	YES		NO	✓
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For internal use:

<i>Unique reference number</i>	CS2021/13
<i>Activity Code</i>	STR20

MTRP Budget Proposal – 2020/21 to 2022/23

Service Area	People and Business Change		
Proposal Title	Public Building Wi-Fi “Community Cloud” - reductions in provision		
Summary Description, Delivery Arrangements and Timescales	<p>Public building Wi-Fi provision has a budget of approximately £175k. A reduction in this service will return estimated savings of £75k from April 2020 onwards. The Gov Wi-Fi service is also available a number of locations, which will minimise any impact.</p> <p>An additional saving is proposed which will require a review of site use, and cancellation of some public Wi-Fi services to achieve a further £25k annually. In 20/21 this will be a part year saving of £20k only due to the notice periods required. Sites will be prioritised based on corporate plan priorities and levels of public use.</p>		
Decision Point (Please tick appropriate box)	Head of Service		Cabinet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Public Consultation Required (Please tick appropriate box)	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
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PART ONE

Net Savings (£000's)	2020/21 (£'000)	2021/22 (£'000)	2022/23 (£'000)
	95	15	
One-Off Implementation Costs (£000's)	2020/21 (£'000)	2021/22 (£'000)	2022/23 (£'000)
Revenue – Redundancy/Pension			
Revenue – Other			
Capital – Building related			
Capital – Other			
Implementation Cost - Total			

Impact on FTE Count	No impact on FTE
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MTRP Budget Proposal – 2020/21 to 2022/23

Does this proposal require an FEIA and/or WFG Act assessment? (Please tick appropriate box)	YES	✓	NO	
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PART TWO

Options Considered
<p>Public building Wi-Fi, known as “Community Cloud”, is a discretionary service providing free Wi-Fi to the public in about 50 council and community buildings. Initial provision of this service was facilitated by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport “Super Connected Cities” funding. The end of this funding stream resulted in the council’s current funding of the Wi-Fi provision.</p> <p>The option to reduce or remove the service is the simplest and lowest risk option. The removal of the service at some sites will impact on some public use but the usage has diminished since the service was initially set up. In addition, the improvements in mobile data coverage and associated increases in data allowances for personal mobile devices over time mean that reductions in access to public Wi-Fi should have less impact than previously.</p> <p>The availability of the Gov Wi-Fi service is also expected to minimise any potential impact of reducing/removing the current service. Priorities for reduction would consider the objectives as set out in the Corporate and Well-being Plan, bandwidth is also being reduced at a number of sites as outlined in a separate business case.</p>
Recommended Option
<p>The recommended option is to review the contract and remove service provision for some public buildings with free ‘Community Cloud’ Wi-Fi.</p>
Specific Links with Wellbeing of Future Generations (WFG) Act
<p>Integration – the existing service is a discretionary one initially driven by central government funding. Reduction of the service does not conflict with any other plans or strategies, although some of the sites which receive the service are important to corporate plan priorities.</p> <p>Long Term – In the long term, it is unlikely that this funding is sustainable. The developments around mobile telecommunications also mean that its value to the community will diminish over time.</p> <p>Prevention – this is a discretionary service that does not have any specific preventative effect.</p> <p>Collaboration - there is no specific collaboration involved in this proposal due to the planned reduction/removal of an existing service.</p>

MTRP Budget Proposal – 2020/21 to 2022/23

Involvement – It is anticipated that there will be some specific engagement with current users to establish their views and the impact on the reduction/removal of the service.

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment

Yes. Until the data is explored, we cannot provide assurance that there is not disproportionate impact on a protected characteristic.

For internal use:

<i>Unique reference number</i>	PBC2021/03
<i>Activity Code</i>	PBC10

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MTRP Budget Proposal – 2020/21 to 2022/23

Service Area	Law and Regulation
Proposal Title	Reduction in Public Protection Statutory Enforcement and Prosecution Work
Summary Description, Delivery Arrangements and Timescales	<p>Reduce the level of statutory enforcement and prosecution work carried out by the Public Protection service and focus on more serious, higher risk offences. This relates to areas of work covered by trading standards and environmental health.</p> <p>Although these are statutory functions, it is a strategic decision for the Council as to how to discharge its statutory enforcement duties. The reduction in the amount of low-level enforcement work undertaken by Public Protection would lead to a corresponding reduction in the numbers of cases referred to the Legal section for prosecution.</p> <p>In relation to trading standards (Commercial), this would entail a reduction in the level of proactive and preventative surveillance and inspection work and a more reactive service. The more complex trading standards investigations into serious fraud and consumer protection offences would continue, and the prosecution work in relation to major offences would also be maintained. However, there would be less routine inspections and “spot checks” being carried out, where there have been no public complaints or intelligence in relation to potential regulatory breaches. Support and advice for businesses to ensure compliance would also not be provided.</p> <p>With regard to Environmental Health Housing work, it is proposed that the process of initially writing to landlords to inform them of complaints, with inspections only following where tenants report no action taken, be extended as the response to all-risk defects.</p> <p>With regard to other areas of work within Environmental Health, it is proposed that systems will also be developed to reduce our response to complaints assessed to have a lower risk of injury or illness. This will apply to Health & Safety at Work, Food Hygiene and Communicable Disease. Reductions may also be made to the small number of proactive Health & Safety at Work interventions we complete, although this would be contrary to the UK-wide commitment between local government and the Health & Safety Executive.</p> <p>Delete one Assistant Solicitor post (£53,835 with on-costs), one Environmental Health Officer (EHO) post (£49,905) and one Trading Standards Officer (TSO) post (£49,905) or equivalent. The Litigation Section is holding a vacant Assistant Solicitor post and, therefore, this part of the saving can be delivered through the deletion of this vacant post. The reduction of posts in Public Protection may also be achieved through a restructure and reallocation of work and the deletion of vacant posts or posts being covered on a temporary agency basis. If the deletion of substantive EHO and</p>

MTRP Budget Proposal – 2020/21 to 2022/23

	TSO posts were unavoidable, then one-off redundancy costs would be incurred.		
Decision Point (Please tick appropriate box)	Head of Service		Cabinet ✓

Public Consultation Required (Please tick appropriate box)	YES	✓	NO	
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PART ONE

Net Savings (£000's)	2020/21 (£'000)	2021/22 (£'000)	2022/23 (£'000)
	153		
One-Off Implementation Costs (£000's)	2020/21 (£'000)	2021/22 (£'000)	2022/23 (£'000)
Revenue – Redundancy/Pension	50		
Revenue – Other			
Capital – Building related			
Capital – Other			
Implementation Cost - Total			
Impact on FTE Count	Reduction of 3 FTE posts– 1 FTE Assistant Solicitor (Grade 10), 1 FTE Environmental Health Officer (Grade 9) and 1 FTE Trading Standards officer (Grade 9) (or equivalent)		

Does this proposal require an FEIA and/or WFG Act assessment? (Please tick appropriate box)	YES	✓	NO	
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PART TWO

Options Considered

There is no other option for delivering this saving by reducing other work and staffing levels within Public Protection and Legal. There is a core statutory service that the Council has a legal duty to deliver. The enforcement work can only be reduced at the margins, where the Council has an element of discretion as to how the work is carried out and to what level. The legal work is demand-led and can only be reduced where there is a reduced demand for the work. Therefore, there needs to be a reduction in the amount of low-level enforcement work undertaken by Public Protection in order to reduce numbers of cases referred to the Legal section for prosecution.

If there is to be a reduction in statutory enforcement work, then the only sustainable way of delivering this saving is to cut back on lower-risk enforcement work and prioritise the higher risk public protection work.

The Council has already taken the decision to reduce other statutory services to deliver previous savings, leaving little scope for any further reductions in this area.

Recommended Option

Reduce the level of statutory enforcement and prosecution work and focus on more serious, higher risk offences. Reduce the numbers of cases referred to the Legal section for prosecution. Delete three full time equivalent posts or equivalent within the relevant teams.

Specific Links with Wellbeing of Future Generations (WFG) Act

Integration – The reduction in statutory enforcement work will have an adverse impact on performance and the delivery of Corporate Plan and well-being objectives in relation to improving public health and building resilient communities. However, this impact will be mitigated by only reducing the lower-level enforcement, including proactive and preventative work, and this will safeguard the higher risk public protection work.

Long Term –By safeguarding the higher level public protection enforcement and the associated legal work, the saving will assist in delivering the longer-term objectives in relation to improving public health and building resilient communities.

Prevention –The proposal will entail a reduction in preventative and early intervention work, which could lead to an increase in non-compliance, but this will be mitigated by a continuation of the higher level enforcement work, which should assist in delivering the longer-term objectives in relation to improving public health and building resilient communities.

Collaboration - Officers will continue to work in collaboration with the Police and other enforcement agencies to address issues of public protection and the reduction in low-level enforcement work should not have a material impact on partnership working.

MTRP Budget Proposal – 2020/21 to 2022/23

Involvement – The proposal will be the subject of full consultation as part of the budget consultation process and managers within the relevant teams have been involved in evaluating and developing the options for service reduction.

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment

No - the statutory investigation and prosecution work is not a front-line public service and, therefore, this decision should not require a full Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment.

For internal use:

<i>Unique reference number</i>	LR2021/04
<i>Activity Code</i>	LAW6; LAW10; LAW11

MTRP Budget Proposal – 2020/21 to 2022/23

Service Area	Finance and Non-Service			
Proposal Title	Council Tax Reduction Scheme			
Summary Description, Delivery Arrangements and Timescales	<p>The Council Tax Reduction Scheme budget is used to subsidise household Council Tax bills when occupants are eligible for support because of income levels. This budget has been underspent for a number of years due to lower numbers of claimants. It is underspending in 2019/20 by c£1.2m.</p> <p>The scheme itself is an 'all Wales national scheme' with nationally set criteria for eligibility and support levels. This proposal has no impact on the scheme itself. The proposal is predicated on reducing the budget to the level of demand, which would, over the three years shown, reduce the current level of underspending on this budget.</p> <p>However, the underspend on this budget has been required to help balance the Council's overall budget, due to significant service areas overspending elsewhere. These service area overspends have significantly exceeded the Council's revenue contingency budget and it is only through this kind of other significant underspending that the overall budget has been able to be balanced.</p> <p>Any reduction will therefore mean that there is less mitigation available to offset other service area overspends and therefore a potential corporate risk.</p> <p>To manage this, it is proposed that the budget is reduced over a three-year period.</p> <p>In addition, claimant numbers will need on-going review to assess if the figures here remain deliverable as any increase in claimant numbers, following a downturn in the economy for example, would require future year budget reductions to be re-assessed</p>			
Decision Point (Please tick appropriate box)	Head of Service		Cabinet	✓

Public Consultation Required (Please tick appropriate box)	YES	✓	NO	
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MTRP Budget Proposal – 2020/21 to 2022/23

PART ONE

Net Savings (£000's)	2020/21 (£'000)	2021/22 (£'000)	2022/23 (£'000)
	440	280	280
One-Off Implementation Costs (£000's)	2020/21 (£'000)	2021/22 (£'000)	2022/23 (£'000)
Revenue – Redundancy/Pension			
Revenue – Other			
Capital – Building related			
Capital – Other			
Implementation Cost - Total			

Impact on FTE Count	n/a
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Does this proposal require an FEIA and/or WFG Act assessment? (Please tick appropriate box)	YES		NO	✓
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For internal use:

<i>Unique reference number</i>	NS2021/01
<i>Activity Code</i>	n/a

MTRP Budget Proposal – 2020/21 to 2022/23

Service Area	Non Service																										
Proposal Title	Increase in Council Tax																										
Summary Description, Delivery Arrangements and Timescales	<p>A base 4% increase is already included in our medium term financial projections each year. This year, it is proposed that an additional 3.95% increase is applied to council tax in 2020/21 bringing the proposed increase to 7.95%.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Percentage Increase</th><th>7.95%</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Newport Band D Tax 2019/20</td><td>£1,209.08</td></tr> <tr> <td>Increase per annum</td><td>£89.04</td></tr> <tr> <td>Increase per week</td><td>£1.71</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It is well documented that Newport's council tax is low compared to others in Wales, generating approximately 24% of our income, compared to around 25% for most Welsh councils. Newport continues to have the second lowest council tax levels in Wales.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Comparison with existing Band D Council Tax (rounded) Current year (2019/20) before any increase</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>NEWPORT</td><td>£1,120</td></tr> <tr> <td>Caerphilly</td><td>£1,131</td></tr> <tr> <td>Wrexham</td><td>£1,153</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cardiff</td><td>£1,211</td></tr> <tr> <td>Torfaen</td><td>£1,315</td></tr> <tr> <td>Monmouthshire</td><td>£1,316</td></tr> <tr> <td>Swansea</td><td>£1,345</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Welsh Government uses the Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) to calculate the level of spending required to deliver a 'standard level' of service in each council area. However, our actual spend is well below our SSA (around £8.3m in 2019/20), which is mainly due to our low level of council tax funding.</p>			Percentage Increase	7.95%	Newport Band D Tax 2019/20	£1,209.08	Increase per annum	£89.04	Increase per week	£1.71	Comparison with existing Band D Council Tax (rounded) Current year (2019/20) before any increase		NEWPORT	£1,120	Caerphilly	£1,131	Wrexham	£1,153	Cardiff	£1,211	Torfaen	£1,315	Monmouthshire	£1,316	Swansea	£1,345
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Monmouthshire	£1,316																										
Swansea	£1,345																										
Decision Point (Please tick appropriate box)	Head of Service		Cabinet	✓																							

Public Consultation Required (Please tick appropriate box)	YES	✓	NO	
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MTRP Budget Proposal – 2020/21 to 2022/23

PART ONE

Net Savings (£000's)	2020/21 (£'000)	2021/22 (£'000)	2022/23 (£'000)
	2,094		
One-Off Implementation Costs (£000's)	2020/21 (£'000)	2021/22 (£'000)	2022/23 (£'000)
Revenue – Redundancy/Pension			
Revenue – Other			
Capital – Building related			
Capital – Other			
Implementation Cost - Total			

Impact on FTE Count	n/a
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Does this proposal require an FEIA and/or WFG Act assessment? (Please tick appropriate box)	YES		NO	✓
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For internal use:

<i>Unique reference number</i>	
<i>Activity Code</i>	n/a