

# Decision Schedule



## Cabinet

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**TO ALL MEMBERS OF NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL**

**Decision Schedule published on 20/03/2020**

The following decisions were taken on 18/03/2020. They will become effective at Noon on 30/03/2020 with the exception of any particular decision(s), which is (are) the subject of a valid "call-in".

The deadline for submission of a 'Call-in' request form (available from Democratic Services) is 4.00 pm on 27/03/2020. Reports relating to staffing issues/confidential reports are not circulated to all Members of the Council as part of the consultation/call-in processes.

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### **CAB 13/20**

#### **Quarter 3 Corporate Risk Register Update**

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

The report presented an update to Cabinet of the Corporate Risk Register for the end of quarter 3 (31<sup>st</sup> December 2019).

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

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

Cabinet was asked to consider the contents of the quarter 3 update of the Corporate Risk Register.

##### **Decision:**

Cabinet agreed the contents of the Corporate Risk Register and to monitor the progress of actions taken to address the risks identified in the report.

##### **Consultation**

Senior Leadership Team; Corporate Management Team.

**Implemented By: Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Service**

**Implementation Timetable: Immediate**

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### **CAB 14/20**

## **EAS Business Plan 2020/21**

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

The report asked Cabinet to consider and agree the EAS Business Plan and Newport Local Authority Annex 2020/21.

The report confirmed that through this activity, members will ensure that the plan promotes appropriate support and challenge for schools in Newport to continue to improve and that areas that have been identified as requiring improvement within Newport are addressed.

Cabinet was asked to:

1. Ensure that the Business Plan and accompanying Annex document enables appropriate support and challenge for schools and that it addresses the areas for improvement that have been identified within Newport's Education Strategic Plans, and,
2. Approve the EAS Business Plan 2020/2021 and the Newport Local Authority (LA) Annex 2020/2021

### **Decision:**

Cabinet approved the EA Business Plan 2020/21 and the Newport Local Authority Annex 2020/21.

### **Consultation**

Chief Education Officer; Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships.

**Implemented By: The Education Achievement Service in partnership with the Local Authority**

**Implementation Timetable: The Business Plan and related Local Authority Annex will commence from 1 April 2020**

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## **CAB 15/20**

### **Outcome of Newport School Categorisation**

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

The report submitted to Cabinet provided information on the outcome of the School National Categorisation process for the academic year 2019/20.

Cabinet was asked to:

1. Acknowledge the position regarding National Categorisation, and,
2. Consider any issues arising that the Cabinet may wish to draw to the attention of the Chief Education Officer.

### **Decision:**

Cabinet agreed the report.

### **Consultation**

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills; Chief Education Officer; Head of Finance; Monitoring Officer; Head of People and Business Change.

**Implemented By: Chief Education Officer**

**Implementation Timetable: Not Applicable**

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**CAB 16/20**

**Cabinet Work Programme**

**Options Considered/Reasons for Decision**

The Leader presented the Cabinet Work Programme.

**Decision:**

Cabinet agreed the programme.

**Consultation**

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

**Implemented By: Cabinet Office Manager**

**Implementation Timetable: Immediate**

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**CAB 17/20**

**Suspension of Meetings and Emergency Powers - Statement by the Leader of the Council**

The Leader set out the following measures for how Newport City Council will move forward during the current COVID-19 emergency:

1. In line with other Welsh local authorities in Wales and in accordance with Government advice on public health measures to deal with the coronavirus/COVID-19 outbreak, all public meetings are immediately suspended. This will mitigate the spread of the virus and also enable the Council to focus on the delivery of critical services for the vulnerable.
2. Therefore, all scheduled Council meetings; full Cabinet and all committee and sub-committee meetings, including Scrutiny Committees, Planning and Licensing will be cancelled until further notice. All other non-essential meetings will also be cancelled.
3. It is anticipated that Emergency Powers' Legislation from both Westminster and the Welsh Government will be received in the next few days, which will suspend certain statutory duties and timescales during this emergency period. This will obviate the need for the Council to hold an Annual General Meeting in May and will permit the continuance of existing appointments and members' allowances during this interim period. It will also suspend other duties, such as the disqualification for councillors for non-attendance at meetings for more than six months. In addition, Welsh Government will be asked to remove critical timescales for certain decisions, such as the determination of planning and other applications and school admission appeals. This will give local authorities the power to suspend all non-essential business during this critical period.

4. To enable the Council to continue to transact business and deliver essential services during this period, the following governance arrangements will apply, in accordance with the officer and members' schemes of delegation in the Constitution and the urgent decision-making procedures. Newport City Council is fortunate in that its current schemes of delegation to individual officers and Cabinet Members lends itself to this process, without the need to make wholesale changes to the Constitution, unlike other councils and puts Newport on a fairly robust footing to move forward:
- (a) All decisions relating to operational service delivery and staffing matters are already delegated to Heads of Services under the Constitution and this will continue.
  - (b) The Leader and Cabinet Members also have individual delegated powers to take strategic executive decisions within their respective portfolios and these decisions can be signed-off electronically, without the need for a public meeting. Therefore, the process of Cabinet Member reports will continue, and all members will be given the opportunity to comment on these reports before any decision is taken. The only difference is that members will not be able to request a face-to-face meeting with Cabinet Members to discuss any comments or objections and these matters will be dealt with in writing.
  - (c) The urgent powers delegations under the constitution also allow the Leader to take decisions that would usually go to full Cabinet and the Head of Paid Service to take non-executive and emergency decisions that would usually go to full Council. In the absence or unavailability of the Leader, the Deputy Leader is able to take urgent Cabinet decisions and, in the absence of both the Leader and Deputy, another Cabinet Member is authorised to take those decisions. Again, any written reports will be circulated for consultation beforehand, unless they are so urgent that they cannot wait.
  - (d) The process of written Questions at Any Time will continue but the Leader asked all members to refrain from submitting non-urgent or non-essential questions during this critical time, so as not to detract from the delivery of critical services.

It was with the deepest sadness the Leader made this statement and is an indication of the seriousness of the situation we are facing. Regular updates will be provided to Members and the Council's website will continue to be updated. The Leader confirmed this situation is unprecedented in our lifetime and at this point the Leader closed the meeting, thanked all cabinet colleagues for their support and for them to continue to show the outstanding leadership within their portfolios, their communities and the citizens of Newport at this very difficult time.

Signed: .....

Councillor Jane Mudd, Chair of the Cabinet

Date:

