

# Decision Schedule



## Cabinet

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### TO ALL MEMBERS OF NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL

#### Decision Schedule published on 18 December 2020

The Chair of Cabinet Member took the following decision on 16 December 2020. The decision will become effective at Noon on 24 December 2020 with the exception of any particular decision, which is the subject of a valid "call-in".

The deadline for submission of a 'Call-in' request form is 4.00 pm on 23 December 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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#### Leader 59/20

#### Treasury Management Monitoring Report

##### Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

In line with the agreed Treasury Management Strategy, the Council continued to be both a short-term investor of cash and borrower to manage day-to-day cash flows. Current forecasts indicated that in the future, temporary borrowing would continue to be required to fund normal day-to-day cash flow activities and longer-term borrowing would increase to fund new commitments in the current capital programme as well as the impact of reduced capacity for 'internal borrowing'.

During the first half of the financial year the Council's net borrowing decreased by £17.1m from £166.3m at 31 March 2020 to £149.2m at 30 September 2020.

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

##### Decision

- Cabinet noted the report on treasury management activities for the period to 30 September 2020 and would provide their comments to Council.
- Cabinet noted the comments from Audit Committee set out in the report.

##### Consultation

Monitoring Officer, Head of Finance, Head of People and Business Change

**Implemented by: Head of Finance**

**Implementation Timetable: Immediate**

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**Leader 60/20**

### **Quarter 2 Corporate Risk Register Update**

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

The Council's Corporate Risk Register monitored those risks that may prevent the Council from achieving its Corporate Plan or delivering services to its communities and service users in Newport.

At the end of quarter 2, there were 19 risks recorded in the Corporate Risk Register that were considered to have a significant impact on the achievement of the Council's objectives and legal obligations. At the end of quarter two, there were no new or escalated risks from service area risk registers; and no risks were closed / de-escalated. Overall, there were 11 Severe risks (risk scores 15 to 25); 6 Major risks (risk scores 7 to 14) and 2 Moderate risks (risk scores 4 to 6) that were outlined in the report.

#### **Decision**

Cabinet considered and noted the contents of the quarter one update of the Corporate Risk Register.

#### **Consultation**

Monitoring Officer, Head of Finance, Head of People and Business Change

**Implemented by: Head of People and Business Change**

**Implementation Timetable: Immediate**

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**Leader 61/20**

### **Audit Wales – Audit of Newport City Council's Assessment of 2019/20 Performance (Certificate of Compliance 2)**

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

As part of the programme of regulatory activity in accordance with the Local Government Measure 2009, the Auditor General was required to issue two Certificates of Compliance to demonstrate that Council was discharging its duties under the Measure. This was the second certificate following the publication of the Council's Annual Report 2019/20 before the 31 October.

In 2019/20 and 2020/21, Audit Wales provided assurance across a broad range of Council services as well as All-Wales (National) reviews. The report included a summary of the work completed and also their response to Covid-19 crisis sharing best practice and self-reflection work.

#### **Decision**

Cabinet noted the positive outcome of the Certificate of Compliance in relation to meeting its statutory duty under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

#### **Consultation**

Monitoring Officer, Head of Finance, Head of People and Business Change

**Implemented by: Head of People and Business Change**

**Implementation Timetable: Immediate**

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**Leader 62/20**

**Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report**

**Options Considered/Reasons for Decision**

This was the third review of the annual corporate safeguarding report. The original report was established in November 2016 and sought to synthesise the various safeguarding reporting strands into one Corporate Safeguarding report, which provided scrutiny information on how well the council was achieving on its safeguarding arrangements.

This report was out of timescale with the Cabinet timetabling functions due to Covid 19 measures imposed in March 2020 when it was due to be presented to Scrutiny committee and Cabinet. Safeguarding progress within the council continued through the 'lock down' period and work that was planned had continued. For example, the safeguarding champions were now embedded across the Council and met virtually under the current circumstances.

Other legislative changes that would have provided a challenge to the council and workforce was the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) to Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) which were due to be implemented in October 2020. These changes were postponed until March 2022, this would enable the workforce and the regional consortium to plan and train the workforce in readiness for the changes in practice. The Scrutiny Committee received the full Annual Report on Corporate Safeguarding on 30 October 2020, with the caveat that progress was made in the intervening months.

The comments of the scrutiny committee from October 2020 were being addressed in detail in the forthcoming Corporate Safeguarding Report (2021/21) in March 2021.

**Decision**

Cabinet scrutinised and reviewed the progress of the key priority work plans for both corporate safeguarding arrangements and the safeguarding specific teams as identified in 2019/20.

**Consultation**

Monitoring Officer, Head of Finance, Head of People and Business Change

**Implemented by: Head of Children Services**  
**Implementation Timetable: Immediate**

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**Leader 63/20**

**Annual Report of the Director of Social Services**

**Options Considered/Reasons for Decision**

This report was the Director's evaluation of 2019/20 performance for Social Services. It conformed in format and content with the statutory requirements for the Director's Report as set out in the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

**Decision**

Cabinet received and noted the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services 2019/20.

## **Consultation**

Monitoring Officer, Head of Finance, Head of People and Business Change

**Implemented by: Director of Social Services**  
**Implementation Timetable: Immediate**

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**Leader 64/20**

## **Replacment of Local Development Plan: Consultation of Review Report and Delivery Agreement**

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

Following Cabinet's decision to progress with a review of the LDP, a Review Report (RR) and Delivery Agreement (DA), required by regulation was drafted and ready for public consultation.

The Review Report was a key part of the evidence base. In summary, it set out the key legislative, national and policy changes that have occurred since the adoption of the LDP in 2015 and included an assessment of the current LDP to evaluate what policies were working and which policies needed review.

The Delivery Agreement comprised two key elements. A timetable setting out how the Council would manage the programme for preparing the LDP, and the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) which set out who, when and how the Council would consult and engage during the production of the LDP.

### **Decision**

Cabinet was asked to approve the draft Review Report and Delivery Agreement for public consultation in January 2021. Feedback from the consultation and any revisions to the documents would then be reported back to Cabinet in March 2021.

## **Consultation**

Monitoring Officer, Head of Finance, Head of People and Business Change

**Implemented by: Acting Head of Regeneration, Investment and Housing**  
**Implementation Timetable: Immediate**

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**Leader 65/20**

## **Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill Consultation**

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

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill proposed to reform the legislative framework for local government electoral arrangements, democracy, performance and governance. This was an extensive piece of legislation covering the powers of local government, elections, performance and governance of Principal Councils, and collaborative working by Principal Councils – the establishment of Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs).

The Minister for Housing and Local Government was seeking views on the draft regulations which would establish four regional CJCs across Wales. This report included the Council's draft response for Cabinet consideration.

## **Decision**

Cabinet considered and noted the contents of the report and agreed the consultation response for submission by the closing date of 4 January 2021.

## **Consultation**

Monitoring Officer, Head of Finance, Head of People and Business Change

**Implemented by: Head of Law and Regulation and Head of People and Business Change**  
**Implementation Timetable: Immediate**

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## **Leader 66/20**

### **Newport City Council Covid-19 Response and Recovery Update**

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

The Covid-19 health emergency was ongoing since March 2020 and impacted on all communities and businesses across Newport as the City has continued to adapt and respond to the necessary restrictions to minimise the spread of the virus. Newport Council's response was to ensure continuity of services with our strategic partners, support vulnerable residents across communities, support businesses and ensure the safety of staff. This report provided an overview of what action the Council had taken to date and the progress against the Strategic Recovery Aims.

Since the last Cabinet Report and 'Fire Break' in November 2020 community spread of Covid-19 remained prevalent across Newport and South East Wales. With the current restrictions in place the Council's Civil Contingencies 'Gold Team' alongside Strategic Coordination Group and Incident Management Teams had taken necessary actions and shared communications supporting communities and businesses to reinforce the requirements.

## **Decision**

Cabinet considered and noted the contents of the report and noted the progress being made to date and the risks that were still faced by the Council.

## **Consultation**

Monitoring Officer, Head of Finance, Head of People and Business Change

**Implemented by: Chief Executive and Head of People and Business Change**  
**Implementation Timetable: Immediate**

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## **Leader 67/20**

### **Brexit Transition / Trade Negotiations – Newport City Council Preparations Update**

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

At the time of this report, the UK and EU were locked into the final stages of negotiations with no decision made on whether a trade deal would be agreed or not in time for 31 December 2020. For Wales and Newport the uncertainty was making it difficult for businesses and organisations to effectively prepare. From the 31 December 2020, new arrangements would also come into place for people travelling into and out of Europe as well as new immigration laws.

For Newport Council and communities, like many other organisations the full impact of these arrangements after 1 January 2021 were not fully known both in the short term and the longer term. It was widely anticipated that the Council would see cost increases in the price of goods and in some areas potential supply chain issues. This was also likely to have impacted on vulnerable and low income households. For EU Citizens that were living in the UK prior to 31 December 2020 it was now imperative for them to apply for Settled Status, before the six month grace period that commenced on 1 January 2021, when it may become increasingly difficult for applicants to prove their right to remain.

### **Decision**

Cabinet considered and noted the contents of the report and noted the Council's Brexit preparations.

### **Consultation**

Monitoring Officer, Head of Finance, Head of People and Business Change

**Implemented by: Chief Executive and Head of People and Business Change**  
**Implementation Timetable: Immediate**

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## **Leader 68/20**

### **City Centre Leisure and Learning**

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

The city centre Masterplan adopted in January 2019 identified key areas of the city as priority locations for regeneration, linked by commonalities of use and economic drivers. The ongoing regeneration of Usk Way is critical to the City Core.

At the heart of the regeneration proposals was the development of the Newport Knowledge Quarter, which would re-locate the provision of further education into the city centre, close to the city's existing higher education provision. Early development work was on-going with Coleg Gwent to relocate their campus from Nash Road to the city centre, creating an enhanced learning offer as well as bringing footfall into the city centre.

The existing Newport Centre building, constructed over 35 years ago, was suffering from a range of structural issues and required significant investment to bring it up to modern day standards. Following closure of the centre as a result of the Covid lockdown, inspections of the pool had found it required investment up to £2.5 Million to enable the pool area to be re-opened to the public. Following wider survey work, it was estimated that an additional investment of approximately £9.1 Million would be needed in the medium term to maintain the site within operational standards. The existing Newport Centre building configuration was neither efficient nor sustainable and changes in demand over the decades meant that it was no longer able to compete with modern facilities.

It was therefore proposed to build a new environmentally sustainable and energy efficient leisure and wellbeing facility on a brownfield site overlooking the River Usk, near the existing centre. The land on which Newport Centre was currently located would be released to facilitate the relocation of Coleg Gwent's further education campus into the city centre. As part of the proposals for a new leisure and wellbeing facility, the opinions of residents and stakeholders were welcomed in order to ensure that the development delivered a scheme which was ambitious, fit for purpose and reflective of the needs of our residents.

## **Decision**

Cabinet agreed to commence with a public consultation for plans to build a new leisure and wellbeing facility in the city centre, enabling the release of land to Coleg Gwent to support the creation of the Newport Knowledge Quarter.

## **Consultation**

Monitoring Officer, Head of Finance, Head of People and Business Change

**Implemented by: Head of City Services and Acting Head of Regeneration, Housing and Investment**

**Implementation Timetable: Immediate**

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## **Leader 69/20**

### **Cabinet Work Programme**

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

The Leader presented the Cabinet Work Programme.

## **Decision**

Cabinet agreed the Cabinet Work Programme.

## **Consultation**

Senior Officers, Monitoring Officer, Head of Finance, Head of People and Business Change.

**Implemented by: Cabinet Office Manager**

**Implementation Timetable: Immediate**

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**Part 2: Not for publication as consideration of the report involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.**

## **Leader 70/20**

### **Pension Arrangements – Newport Transport Limited**

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

Cabinet were presented with the report outlining details relating to the pension arrangements for Newport Transport Limited.

## **Decision**

Cabinet considered and noted the key issues and agreed to the proposals as set out within the report.

## **Consultation**

Monitoring Officer, Head of Finance, Head of People and Business Change

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**Implemented by: Head of Finance**  
**Implementation Timetable: Immediate**

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LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR J MUDD

18 December 2020

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*This document is available in welsh / Mae's ffurflen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg*

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