

# Decision Schedule

## Cabinet

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**TO ALL MEMBERS OF NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL**

**Decision Schedule published on 30/06/2020**

The following decisions were taken on 24/06/2020. They will become effective at Noon on 08/07/2020 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 07/07/2020. 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 18/20**

#### **Newport City Council's Strategic Recovery Aims in response to the Covid-19 Health Emergency Options Considered/Reasons for Decision**

The report set out the Strategic Recovery Aims that will enable the Council's services to recover and operate whilst continuing to support the Council's Strategic aims set in the Corporate Plan 2017/22.

The report confirmed the Covid-19 health emergency has posed significant and unprecedented challenge to the way the Council delivers its services and the impact on the way of life. Since March 2020, the Council's focus has been to preserve life, minimise the spread of the virus and support its communities and the vulnerable.

In moving towards the recovery of Council services, to enable operation under a 'new normal' and to maintain focus on the Council's Corporate Plan 2017/22, new Strategic Aims have been drafted for Cabinet's approval.

Cabinet was asked to endorse the Strategic Recovery Aims that will enable the Council's services to recover and operate whilst continuing to support the Council's Strategic aims set in the Corporate Plan 2017/22.

#### **Decision:**

Cabinet endorsed the report which will enable the Council to provide a strategic way forward for its Members, staff, service users and partners as the Council responds to the Covid 19 health emergency.

#### **Consultation**

Corporate Management Team; Leader of the Council.

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Date of Issue: 30 June 2020

**Implemented By: Cabinet**  
**Implementation Timetable: Immediate**

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**CAB 19/20**

**Covid-19: Economic Impact and Recovery**

**Options Considered/Reasons for Decision**

The report asked Cabinet to endorse the Covid 19: Economic Impact and Recovery Strategy which will Support and facilitate Newport's businesses to recover and continue operating.

The report confirmed the Newport Economic Growth Strategy 2015 was updated and refreshed in February 2020 and recognised that by 2020 Newport had become a more competitive city with a growing influence in high value sectors and a rapidly expanding tourism sector. The Prime Minister's announcement of lockdown on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 effectively shut down large swathes of the economy and necessitated unprecedented intervention from the UK Government to mitigate the worst of the economic damage a prolonged lockdown would bring.

As we start to emerge from the pandemic the Council needs to identify what areas of Newport's economy will require support, where new opportunities may be found and how the Council can shape the 'new normal'. This recovery strategy will form an addendum to the adopted Economic Growth Strategy.

Cabinet was asked to proceed with adopting the Covid-19 Economic Impact and Recovery Strategy as an addendum to the Economic Growth Strategy (as updated in February 2020) to ensure that the Council continues to support Newport's economy and identify where new opportunities may be found in order to shape the 'new normal' and continue to capitalise on opportunities for growth and investment until 2025.

**Decision:**

Cabinet agreed the proposal.

**Consultation**

Acting Chief Executive; Head of Finance; Monitoring Officer; Head of People and Business Change; Leader of the Council.

**Implemented By: Cabinet**  
**Implementation Timetable: Immediate**

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**CAB 20/20**

**Financial Management and Costs – Covid-19**

**Options Considered/Reasons for Decision**

The report outlined to Cabinet the key issues and risks to the Council finances resulting from the Covid-19 situation, the estimated additional costs and funding for the Council's response to this situation and progress in administering financial support given to local businesses and taxpayers during the Covid-19 lockdown period.

The report confirmed that in line with the challenges arising from Covid-19, the response and resulting financial cost has been equally unprecedented. The City Council has responded very

well to the particular needs of its communities, businesses and its more vulnerable households/individuals and the report explained progress in supporting these and their associated costs.

The report noted that particular financial challenges will be faced this year and without further support for costs and lost income from Welsh Government, the Council is facing a significant financial challenge from lost income and increased unavoidable costs. In that context, the Council's strong financial position, through its reserves and revenue budget contingency, exists for the more immediate challenges the Council would face, though there will be impacts on priorities and/or increased future costs to bear if reserves are used. These mitigations will only be available for this purpose if services manage within their core budgets in other respects. This is therefore a priority.

The position is very dynamic and therefore there is on-going uncertainty in how things will eventually roll out and what funding support Welsh Government will give Local Government. The report noted that the Council's finance teams are working with service colleagues to finalise a full budget monitor forecast. This follows specific forecasts for key Covid-19 costs already undertaken. Cash-flow is closely monitored and planned/forecasted.

Cabinet was asked to:

- Note and comment, as necessary, on the financial support administered and delivered to local businesses, organisations and households
- Note the Council's costs in the delivery of specific Covid-19 service support in the first quarter of the year, and in particular that funding support for these costs is currently planned to cease at the end of June, with exception of free school meal provision which will continue until the end of August.
- Note and comment, as necessary, on the key areas of financial risks and challenges the Council will face this year as a result of the current situation and the uncertainty that surrounds much of this given the very dynamic nature of the situation.
- Note, agree and instruct the importance that all services operate within their core budget for 'non Covid-19 response activities' in this coming year as best they can, given the additional challenges created by Covid-19.

**Decision:**

Cabinet agreed the report.

**Consultation**

Strategic Director of Place; Leader of Council; Heads of Service.

**Implemented By:**

- Head of Finance and Heads of Service to provide robust, regular budget forecasts taking account of latest developments and on-going trends in income and expenditure;
- Heads of Service to provide robust financial management within their service areas and ensure specific Covid-19 costs are eligible for reimbursement, wherever possible.

**Implementation Timetable: Immediate**

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**CAB 21/20**

**COVID-19: Test, Trace & Protect – Creation of a Contact Tracing Cell in Newport**

**Options Considered/Reasons for Decision**

The purpose of the report was to advise Cabinet about the work that had been undertaken, to date, to establish a Local Contact Tracing Team in Newport and to ask Cabinet to formally endorse the urgent action and approach taken by officers to develop and implement the service.

The report confirmed that Welsh Government have required local authorities to work together on a regional basis, with support from Local Health Boards, to establish regional Contact Tracing Services, to operate on Health Board footprints. The requirement was for services to be developed 'at pace', to be operational from 1 June 2020. Newport City Council met this requirement and the Contact Tracing Cell is operational.

The Report recognised that these are just interim arrangements for the first 3 months, to get the service operational in an extremely short timescale. A future strategy will need to be agreed in conjunction with other partners, to develop a delivery model and governance structure for the longer-term. Key to this will be the funding that Welsh Government make available to pay for the service, as this cannot be delivered within existing resources

Cabinet was asked to:

- Note the decisions taken to date and endorse the approach adopted, to date, to deliver a Contact Tracing Cell in Newport as part of a Gwent Contact Tracing Service.
- Note that a future strategy will need to be agreed in conjunction with other partners, to develop a delivery model and governance structure for the longer-term, dependent on Welsh Government funding.

**Decision:**

Cabinet agreed the report.

**Consultation**

Head of Law & Regulation; Head of Finance; Head of People & Business Change

**Implemented By: Head of Law & Regulation**  
**Implementation Timetable: Immediate**

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Signed: .....

Councillor Jane Mudd, Chair of the Cabinet

Date: