

# Decision Schedule



## Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member for City Services Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development

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TO ALL MEMBERS OF NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL

Decision Schedule published on 26 January 2021

The Cabinet Members took the following decision on 25 January 2021

They will become effective at Noon on 2 February 2021 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 2 February 2021.

**Information relating to the 'Call-in' process can be found via Democratic Services.**

In accordance 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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### DL/CS/SD 02/21

#### Bus Emergency Scheme (BES) – Request to all Councils to sign up to the BES 2 Scheme

##### Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

As a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic resulted there was a significant reduction in bus patronage, which reduced the viability of bus services. Emergency funding arrangements, administered by lead local authorities had been operating since April 2020 to maintain a core, albeit reduced bus network.

Welsh Government, working with Transport for Wales, were proposing to enter into a longer-term agreement (designated Bus Emergency Scheme 2) with bus operators and local authorities to protect local bus services.

The proposed agreement formalised Welsh Government's commitment to supporting the recovery of local bus services because of the impact of COVID-19. Funding would address the loss of farebox revenue by operators and the additional costs associated with responding to the COVID 19 pandemic. Under the terms of the agreement, operators would be required to provide bus services that meet local needs under the direction of the Lead Authority for each region, working with and on behalf of its constituent local authorities.

It would operate for a period no later than 31 July 2022 or until market conditions recovered sufficiently for an operator to no longer require BES 2 support for any of its services (whether they be contracted or commercial). The report also set out Welsh Governments proposed future reforms of bus services in Wales.

##### Decision

That Cabinet Members approved the principles of the BES 2 agreement (Appendix 2) to secure (Conditional) financial support for the bus sector and to establish a relationship with their regional lead authority and signatory that ensured that the ongoing emergency funding met the authority's priorities and was delivered on its behalf.

As well as requesting for a further report on bus reform proposals relating to the future management of bus services in Wales.

**Consultation**

Head of Law and Regulation, Head of Finance and Head of People and Business Change

All members were consulted and provided with an opportunity to comment. Any comments received and responses thereafter are set out in the report.

**Implemented By: Head of City Services**

**Implementation Timetable: Immediate**

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COUNCILLOR R JEAVONS, DEPUTY LEADER / CABINET MEMBER FOR CITY SERVICES

COUNCILLOR D DAVIES, CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

26 January 2021

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

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