

Decision Schedule



Cabinet

TO ALL MEMBERS OF NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL

Decision Schedule published on 8 July 2021

The Chair of Cabinet Member took the following decisions on 7 July 2021. The decision will become effective at Noon on 15 July 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 14 July 2021.

Leader 43/21

Treasury Management Year End Report -2020/21

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 financial year the Council's net borrowing decreased by £25.4m from £153.8m at 31 March 2020 to £128.4m at 31 March 2021.

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

Decision

That Cabinet:

1. Noted and provided comment on the Annual Report on Treasury Management for the Financial Year 2020/21.
2. Noted and provided comment that 2020/21 Prudential Indicators for Treasury Management were in line with those set by Council in February 2020.

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Head of Finance

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 44/21

Revenue Budget Outturn – 2020/21

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The revenue outturn showed an underspend of £14,025k, after core budget contributions to/ from reserves, which represented a 4.6% variance against budget. This variance against budget had arisen, in the main, due to the following:

- Receipt of one off Welsh Government (WG) funds to compensate the Council for additional costs incurred in response to the pandemic and the lost income experienced due to Covid restrictions;
- Underspends across all service areas due to changes in service provision and working practices, and;
- Linked to the above, an underspend against the general revenue contingency budget, council tax reduction scheme and council tax income – all of which were non-service budgets.

The underspend increased by £4,237k since the January forecast and, in the main, this was because of a late decision by WG to allow Children's social care costs to be claimed from the hardship fund and other additional external grant confirmed late in the year.

The report explained the key variances against budget for the financial year ending 31 March 2021 and provided a summary statement of key issues, which had the potential to impact upon financial management in future years.

This report made recommendations to utilise the one off underspend available to help the City recover from the impact of Covid; invest in the local economy and to protect the Council by enhancing its risk mitigation reserves. The details of which could be found within section 5 of this report.

Appendix 1	Overall budget dashboard – March 2021
Appendix 2	Revenue summary monitor - March 2021
Appendix 3	Revenue summary monitor by activity - March 2021
Appendix 4	School balance outturn position
Appendix 5	2020/21 reserve movements
Appendix 6	Delivery of MTFP savings – March 2021

Decision

That Cabinet:

1. Noted the outturn position, which was subject to audit and the major variances for the year (sections 1-3);
2. Approved use of the underspend as set out in section 5 of the report and noted the resulting level of the Council's general and earmarked reserves;
3. Approved reserves transfers as set out in section 5;
4. Noted the school's outturn and the position on the individual and total school reserves.

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Head of Finance
Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 45/21

Capital Outturn and Additions – 2020/21

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The Council had an extensive capital programme, investing across the authority in areas such as schools, heritage assets, energy efficiency schemes, invest to save programmes and investing in the regeneration of the city centre. This report updated the Cabinet on its capital programme and the outturn for the 2020/21 financial year.

The 2020/21 outturn position highlighted the following:

- The capital programme budget received by Cabinet in November for the year totalled £31,966k. Subsequent additions/revisions for 2020/21 financial year spend amounted to £2,128k, taking the overall programme to a combined budget of £34,093k for that year.
- At outturn, £7,134k of this budget required re-profiling of works into later years due to slippage in delivery, which represented 21% of the approved budget agreed for the year. After this, the final budget for the year was £26,959k.
- At outturn, £749k of this budget underspent on completed projects.

Decision

That Cabinet:

1. Approved the additions to the Capital Programme requested in the report (Appendix A)
2. Approved slippage of £7,134k from the 2020/21 budget into future years, noting the re-profiling of the programme this gave rise to
3. Noted the capital expenditure outturn position for 2020/21
4. Endorsed provision of information to Welsh Government to review Band B schools transformation programme costs
5. Noted the available remaining capital resources ('headroom') until 2024/25
6. Noted the balance of and approve the allocation of in-year capital receipts

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Head of Finance
Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 46/21

Responding to the New Normal

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

Newport City Council adapted and developed the way in which it operated in order to maintain services and protect the safety of residents, Members and staff. The organisation, its staff and Elected Members adapted to many challenges and overcame these. There was an opportunity to realise many benefits associated with how we utilised our assets, how we supported the climate-

change agenda and how we supported and enhanced the well-being of our staff through a smart working model.

The report discussed staffing, the Civic Centre, public access, the democratic function and how technology supported the future work environment. It identified the challenges, opportunities and options for a future model, post Covid 19. It linked this to the wider Welsh Government initiatives and our targets around carbon reduction.

Decision

Cabinet agreed to the recommendations outlined in Options 2, 3 4 and 5 within the report, which approved a new operating model, in principle, subject to consultation with relevant Trade Unions and staff on changes to terms and conditions of employment and a review by Democratic Services Committee of dispersed working on members' well-being and support.

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Head of People and Business Change

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 47/21

Mutual Investment Model (MIM) Strategic Partnership Agreement

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The Welsh Government procured Meridiam Investments as its private sector partner to work with it on the delivery of education and community facilities in Wales, under the Mutual Investment Model (MIM) of the 21st Century Schools Programme.

Meridiam Investments and a subsidiary of the Development Bank of Wales (known as WGCo) formed WEPCO Limited (*hereafter referred to as "WEPCo"*) to deliver infrastructure services to a number of Local Authorities and Further Education Institutions (*the Participants*), through a Strategic Partnering Agreement which was completed on 30 September 2020. Under the terms of the WEP Strategic Partnering Agreement (*the SPA*), WEPCo would be required to provide partnering services to the Participants, including (i) project development and delivery; and (ii) supply chain assembly and management. This may lead to the delivery of revenue supported Band B projects pursuant to a separate Project Agreement or, in due course, capital funded projects could be delivered through this contract structure. The Welsh Ministers were also party to the SPA as a Participant.

Following completion of the SPA in September 2020, other Local Authorities and Further Education Institutions had a window within which they could enter into a supplemental agreement to the SPA, namely a "Deed of Adherence". This enabled the Council from the date of execution, to agree with each other person who was or who became a party to the SPA to be bound by the SPA (on the same terms and conditions). The Deed of Adherence was due to be completed later in 2021.

The purpose of this report was to explain the process and seek Cabinet approval to enter into the Deed of Adherence to the SPA, to facilitate the delivery of education and community facilities. The Cabinet was also asked to approve the appointment of Sarah Morgan, Chief Education Officer as 'Participant Representative' to sit on the Strategic Partnering Board.

It was noted that in agreeing to enter into the Deed of Adherence to the SPA, the Cabinet was not being asked to decide to proceed with any MIM project. Any decision to proceed with a project would need to be approved by the Council and come back to the Cabinet in future for determination.

Decision

That Cabinet:

- (a) Approved the execution, delivery and performance of a supplemental agreement to the WEP Strategic Partnering Agreement dated 30 September 2020 (the “Deed of Adherence”) and from the date of execution of the Deed of Adherence to give effect to and be bound by the terms of the WEP Strategic Partnering Agreement dated 30 September 2020 as a party to it, to facilitate the delivery of a range of infrastructure services and the delivery of education and community facilities;
- (b) Approved the terms of the Deed of Adherence and the WEP Strategic Partnering Agreement dated 30 September at Appendix A and B of this report and summarised in Appendix 1 and 2 of this report so as to give effect to recommendation (a), subject to recommendation (c) below;
- (c) Noted that the Chief Education Officer would complete the Deed of Adherence for execution and was approved to complete all information gaps;
- (d) Noted that the Deed of Adherence be executed as a deed and attested in accordance with Section 14.5 of the Constitution; and
- (e) Approve:
 - (i) The appointment of Sarah Morgan, Chief Education Officer as ‘Participant Representative’ to sit on the Strategic Partnering Board for the purposes of Clause 12 (*Parties’ Representatives*) of the WEP Strategic Partnering Agreement; and
 - (ii) The name, address and contact details for the purposes of Clause 40 (*Notices*) of the WEP Strategic Partnering Agreement;
- (f) Noted that in agreeing to enter into the Deed of Adherence it was not being asked during this meeting to decide to proceed with any Project, and that any decision to proceed with a Project would be considered separately and reported back to Cabinet in future report(s) for decision.

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Chief Education Officer
Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 48/21

Covid-19 Response and Recovery Update

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The Covid-19 health emergency was ongoing for over a year when Newport received its first reports in February 2020. This crisis impacted all communities and businesses across Newport as the City had 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 in June, restrictions were easing with the Council and its partners continuing to monitor the Covid-19 cases in the City through the Council's Emergency Response Team (Covid Gold) Newport Incident Management Team (IMT) and liaison with multi agency partners including Welsh Government (WG), Public Health Wales and ABUHB.

Decision

That Cabinet considered 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

Leader 49/21

Post Brexit / Trade Agreement – Newport City Council

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

Since the last report to Cabinet on 16 June 2021, the UK and EU arrangements were in place for over four months and the UK and EU were still adapting to these new changes and there are many uncertainties on what the medium to long term impact(s) of these new arrangements would be for Newport and Wales.

The deadline for EU citizens to apply for EU Settled Status was getting closer with the 30 June deadline. The Council and its partners were promoting and supporting people through the process. However, it remained unknown how many people have not applied and what the outcomes could be for those who have not applied or unsuccessful after the deadline.

In March, the UK Government announced two subsidy schemes (Levelling up Fund and Community Renewal Fund) that would replace EU Structural Funding many areas in South East Wales including Newport benefited from. Applications were submitted to UK Government and were outlined in the report.

Decision

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

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

Leader 50/21

Cabinet Work Programme

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The Leader presented the Cabinet Work Programme.

Decision

Cabinet agreed the Cabinet Work Programme for June 2021 to June 2022.

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Governance Team Leader

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR J MUDD

7 July 2021

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