

Decision Schedule



Cabinet

TO ALL MEMBERS OF NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL

Decision Schedule published on 15 December 2021

The Chair of Cabinet Member took the following decision on 15 December 2021. The decision will become effective at Noon on 23 December 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 22 December 2021.

Reports relating to staffing issues/Confidential reports are not circulated to all members of the Council as part of the consultation/call-in processes.

Leader 70/21

Report on Treasury Management for the Period to 30 September

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 this year, last year's and this year's underspend alongside the normal up-front loading of RSG created a positive cash-flow situation.

During the first half of the financial year the Council's net borrowing decreased by £13.2m from £128.3m at 31 March 2021 to £115.1m at 30 September 2021.

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 2021 and provided comments to Council.

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Head of Finance
Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 71/21

Quarter 2 2021/22 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 two, there was 18 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 the quarter there were no corporate risks closed or risks escalated to the Corporate Risk Register. There were 11 Severe risks (risk scores 15 to 25); 5 Major risks (risk scores 7 to 14); 1 Moderate risks (risk scores 4 to 6); and 1 low risk (1-3) that were outlined in the report.

As set out in the Council's Risk Management Policy, Cabinet were responsible for review of the Corporate Risk Register on a quarterly basis ensuring procedures are in place to monitor the management of significant risks.

Decision

Cabinet considered the contents of the Corporate Risk Register and continued monitoring these risks and the progress of actions being taken to address the risks identified in the report.

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Head of People, Policy and Transformation
Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 72/21

Audit Wales Audit of Newport City Council's Assessment of 2021/22 Performance

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 Certificate of Compliance to demonstrate that Council was discharging its duties under the Measure. This is the second certificate following the publication of the Council's Annual Report 2020/21 by 31 October.

This would be the final Certificate of Compliance issued by Audit Wales following the introduction of the new Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. Further confirmation was due to be provided by Audit Wales on how they would assess the Council's performance and governance under the new Act.

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, Policy and Transformation
Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 73/21

Newport City Council New Normal Operating Model

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 and 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.

This report set out the next stages of moving to a new operating model in line with our Strategic Recovery Aims, which focused on increased workforce flexibility, the wellbeing of our staff and enabling modern working practices to be implemented to a greater degree, whilst being mindful of our environmental impact.

Decision

Cabinet agree to the recommendations within the report and allow the Director of Transformation and Corporate Services to consult with relevant Trade Union representatives and staff on changes to terms and conditions of employment.

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Director of Transformation and Corporate Services
Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 74/21

Director of Social Services Annual Report – 2020/21

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

This was the Director's evaluation of 2020/21 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 and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

Decision

Cabinet received the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services for 2020/21.

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Strategic Director of Social Services

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 75/21

Covid 19 – Response and Recovery Update

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The UK and Wales was now into its 20th month (since February 2020) of the Covid-19 pandemic. During this time, the crisis impacted all communities, businesses and services delivered by the Council and partners across Newport. Newport as a city had to adapt and respond as necessary to the restrictions to minimise the spread of the virus. The Council's priority was to ensure the continuity of services with our strategic partners, supporting the most vulnerable residents, support businesses and ensure the safety of staff and customers. The report provided an overview of what action the Council has taken to date progress against its Strategic Recovery aims and Wellbeing Objectives.

Since the last Cabinet report in November, Wales and the region continued to see high numbers of positive Covid cases and as the city and the Council enter into the autumn and winter period, there was likely to be further impact on hospital admissions and health care services with uncertainty around the new Omnicron variant.

Decision

Cabinet considered and noted the contents of the report and for Cabinet / Cabinet Members to receive updates from officers as part of their portfolio.

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Director of Transformation and Corporate Services

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 76/21

Post Brexit / Trade Agreement – Newport City Council

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The UK was approaching nearly one year since it left the European Union and Single Market on 31 December 2020. Over the course of the year the UK saw significant impacts across its economy resulting from entering into a new trade agreement with the EU and also the wider global impacts which affected trade, employment and cost of living for households. For households in Newport and Wales these impacts were affecting low-income households with the cost of living due to increases in the cost of food, goods and energy prices. The Welsh Government announced a £51.7m Winter package that would give households on certain benefits a contribution to mitigate some of these costs.

Newport Council continued to face ongoing pressures on the cost of goods and services as increases in costs were being passed onto the consumer. The Council alongside other sectors were also facing pressures on staffing and recruiting staff into key roles especially in Social Services, Housing and Support and City Services.

Since the deadline passed for EU and EEA citizens to apply for EU Settled Status, (31 October 2021), the Home Office received 6.2m applications and have concluded 5.9m applications. 52% of applications were granted Settled status with 42% granted Pre-settled Status. The remaining 7% was either refused, withdrawn or invalid claims. There was no data available for the current status of claims in Newport.

Decision

Cabinet considered and noted the contents of the report and for Cabinet / Cabinet Members to receive updates from officers as part of their portfolio.

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Chief Executive and Head of People, Policy and Transformation
Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 77/21

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: Governance Team Leader
Implementation Timetable: Immediate

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR J MUDD

15 December 2021
