

Decision Schedule



Cabinet

TO ALL MEMBERS OF NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL

Decision Schedule published on 13 October 2022

The Chair of Cabinet Member took the following decision on 12 October 2022. The decision will become effective at Noon on 20 October 2022, 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 19 October 2022.

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 50/22

July Revenue Budget Monitor

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The July 2022 revenue position forecasted an overspend of £3,150k; which excluded schools. This overspend was after use of all the revenue budget contingencies of £4,853k included in the 2022/23 revenue budget, as agreed by Cabinet in February 2022. In addition to the base budget contingency, other revenue budgets were temporarily available to augment this for 2022/23 to the level shown above.

As well as the revenue budget contingency of £4,853k, further 'Covid contingency' was earmarked from re-purposed reserves at £1,820k and this was one-off funding only. This was not included/used in this forecast and the Head of Finance recommended that the Council managed the position down to the available revenue budget which allowed the reserve to be utilised for other potential future use, as much as possible.

A small number of significant issues gave rise to the position, as followed:

- Overspend on pay budgets. Impact of pay award (not yet final) which represented a total increase to salary budgets of around 8%, against a budgeted increase provision of only 4%, excluding schools. - £2,398k
- Overspend on Housing budgets. Homelessness provision - £2,719k
- Overspend in Children's social care. Placement costs - £2,886k

A further net £600k of overspending was in this forecast, which included non-delivery of savings both this current year and previous year's savings. More detail was included in the report.

Schools are separately projected to overspend by £6,073k and this would reduce school reserves by that amount. As well as the impact of a higher pay offer compared to the budget increase allowed for, schools were drawing down on reserves built up over the previous two years as they moved to catch up / strengthen provision after the impacts of Covid and catch up on maintenance/related improvements. Robust monitoring needed to be maintained in this area, as whilst no schools set a deficit budget, there were a number of schools at risk of entering a deficit position again, especially once the impact of the pay awards was reflected in individual school forecasts.

The overall overspend was a significant concern at this early part of the year. Even whilst forecasts were still liable to refinements, there was reasonable certainty on the key issues flagged up which gave rise to the overspending - homelessness costs and placement numbers for example. The position required robust action requiring services to find ways to reduce pressures, identify in-year mitigating savings and, wherever possible, utilise any additional grant funding to offset overspend positions. Any overspend would require immediate funding from reserves at the year-end.

The appendices to the report were as follows:

Appendix 1	Overall budget dashboard – July 2022
Appendix 2	Revenue summary monitor – July 2022
Appendix 3	Projected school balances
Appendix 4	2022/23 projected reserve movements

Decision

That Cabinet:

- Noted the overall budget forecast position resulting from the issues included in this report and the potential for an overspend position to exist at the end of the financial year.
- Agreed that the Chief Executive and the Executive Board instigated specific measures to manage the overall forecasts within the core revenue budget, including revenue budget contingencies.
- Noted the risks identified throughout the report and in the Head of Finance comments, particularly in relation to the Teachers and NJC pay awards for 2022/23, homelessness and the lasting impacts of the pandemic.
- Noted the forecasted movements in reserves.
- Noted the overall position in relation to schools, when compared to previous years, but also noted the risk that deficit positions could emerge in the future if good financial planning and management was not undertaken.

Consultation

Monitoring Officer, Head of Finance, Head of People, Policy and Transformation

Implemented by: Head of Finance
Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 51/22

Capital Programme Monitoring Quarter 1 2022/23

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 in the regeneration of the city centre. This report updated the Cabinet on its capital programme and the predicted outturn for the 2022/23 financial year, and specifically.

- The starting capital programme budget for 2022/23 was £117.4m. Additions (largely grants) increased the budget by net £15.8m and revisions/reprofiling of budgets into future years reduced this year's budget by £51.8m, to provide a revised budget of £81.4m.
- Against this budget, costs were predicted to be £80.9m introducing a £0.5m net variance.
- Of this variance, service managers and budget holders confirmed that £0.4m related to delayed progress with schemes.

- Slippage approval was not being sought to revise the budget yet, as a trial to influence accountability and performance.

Decision

That Cabinet

1. Approved the additions to the Capital Programme requested in the report (Appendix A), and
2. Noted the predicated capital expenditure outturn position for 2022/23.
3. Noted the available remaining capital resources ('headroom') and the earmarked usage of that resourcing.

Consultation

Monitoring Officer, Head of Finance, Head of People, Policy and Transformation

Implemented by: Head of Finance
Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 52/22

Corporate Risk Register Update Quarter 1 2022/23

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 one, there were 16 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 one there were no corporate risks closed.

Overall, there were eight Severe risks (risk scores 15 to 25); eight Major risks (risk scores seven to 14); that were outlined in the report. In comparison to the quarter four Corporate risk register, there were no new and/or escalated risks, and no risks were closed. One risk increased in risk score; one risk had decreased in risk score; with the remaining 14 risks remaining the same score. No risks were escalated or de-escalated in quarter one.

As set out in the Council's Risk Management Policy, Cabinet reviewed the Corporate Risk Register on a quarterly basis ensuring procedures were in place to monitor the management of significant risks. The Register was likely to change following the approval of the new Corporate Plan and priorities for service delivery.

Decision

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

Consultation

Monitoring Officer, Head of Finance, Head of People, Policy and Transformation

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

Leader 53/22

Corporate Plan 2022/27

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The Well-being of Future Generations Act required all public bodies to carry out sustainable development to improve Wales' economic, social, environment and cultural well-being. To meet this statutory requirement, Newport City Council must set and publish its Well-being Objectives to maximise its contribution to each of Wales' Well-being Goals through its Corporate Plan. The Plan would also build upon the achievements of the last Corporate Plan and the Council's response to the challenges faced by Newport as it moved forward from the Covid pandemic, responded to the cost of living crisis, and created new opportunities for communities across Newport.

This report provided an update to Cabinet on the development of the Corporate Plan considering the comments and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) and consultation work.

Decision

Cabinet agreed the key principles of the draft Corporate Plan and its ongoing development in preparation for consideration by Cabinet and Council in November.

Consultation

Monitoring Officer, Head of Finance, Head of People, Policy and Transformation

Implemented by: Head of People, Policy and Transformation

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 54/22

Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report 2021/22

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

Under the Equality Act (2010), the Council was required to report annually on the progress made against the six Strategic Equality Objectives contained within its Strategic Equality Plan. The Equality Act also required Local Authorities to publish staff equalities data contained within this report.

This report was the second Annual Report on progress towards meeting Equality Objectives in the Authority's third four-year Strategic Equality Plan (SEP), as approved by Council in July 2020.

Decision

Cabinet approved the attached final monitoring report and published it on the Council's website, in accordance with statutory deadlines

Consultation

Monitoring Officer, Head of Finance, Head of People, Policy and Transformation

Implemented by: Head of People, Policy and Transformation

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 55/22

Climate Change Plan Introductory Annual Report

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

Climate Change was one of the defining global challenges of our generation and there was an urgent need for the world to decarbonise, to limit global temperature rise and avert the worst impacts of climate change.

Newport City Council Climate Change Organisational Plan sets out themes, priorities, actions and milestones that was needed to be taken as a Council over the next five years, this was to:

- Reach net zero as an organisation by 2030.
- Review the services provided to ensure they supported the city's journey to net zero and adaptation to climate change.

Delivery of the plan commenced in April 2022 and a progress and review report would be published annually. This report was an introductory annual report and sets out some of the progress that was made prior to, and in the year before the adoption of the plan. The annual report covered:

- Projects that took place in 2021-22.
- The annual carbon emissions reporting process for us as a council.

Decision

Cabinet reviewed progress and approved the attached Introductory Annual Report.

Consultation

Monitoring Officer, Head of Finance, Head of People, Policy and Transformation

Implemented by: Strategic Director, Environment & Sustainability, Head of Service for Environment & Public Protection

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 56/22

Gwent Regional Partnership Board: Market Position Statement

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

In Gwent, individuals had a choice as to the services available to meet their needs. However, the stability of the market was likely to be put to the test during financial year 2022/2023 as increasing cost pressures, allied to recruitment and retention difficulties would further expose the sector to increased levels of risk, this was especially so in the adult domiciliary and residential care markets.

Care Homes were currently largely able to meet the demand for the services. Domiciliary care services reached critical levels due to staffing availability and providers continued to have issues with recruitment and retention. Currently the demands for domiciliary care services were significant, with individuals choosing to remain at home if possible, and these demands were likely to exacerbate already strained resources.

In children's services, the external provider market was subject to instability caused by acquisitions and mergers. There was also currently a lack of competition and choice in the market and the

costs and profits were significantly higher than they would be in a healthy, competitive marketplace.

Working throughout the pandemic in conjunction with partnership agencies, alongside independent providers within the care home and domiciliary care sector required and allowed statutory agencies to work differently, applying creative commissioning in the best interest of citizens. This had further strengthened the positive working relationships between health and social care and provider partners in the region.

The issues raised in this MSR would be picked up in the Area Plan and measures to mitigate threats to market stability would be outlined. It was also important however, to note that a range of actions aimed at mitigating the current challenges faced by the sector were being dealt with at local, regional and national levels.

Decision

That Cabinet:

- a. As required under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA), accepted and agreed the Market Stability Report for the local authority area.
- b. Agreed to continue, as an authority to engage with Regional Partnership Board (RPB) and support the development of the regional Area Plan, where actions would be identified setting out how priorities would be addressed.

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Strategic Director – Social Services, Head of Adult Services
Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 57/22

Newport City Council Response to External Pressures

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

Over the last three years, public services, charities, not for profit and the private sector faced unprecedented challenges and opportunities as a result of Brexit, Covid pandemic, and now the cost-of-living crisis and the Ukrainian conflict.

Since July 2022, the Council was continuing to respond to the impacts which the cost-of-living crisis was having on households, businesses and council services. With inflation and cost of living expected to increase further over the autumn and winter, the Council would continue to lead and administer schemes to provide financial support and services during this challenging period.

Newport Council was also having to respond to the Ukrainian conflict supporting Ukrainian families to settle in Newport through the UK Government Homes for Ukraine scheme. This was in addition to existing resettlement and community services provided for refugees, Asylum seeker schemes which all placed demands on our Council services.

Decision

Cabinet considered the contents of the report on the Council's activity to respond to the external factors on Newport's communities, businesses and council services.

Consultation

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

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

Leader 58/22

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

12 October 2022

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