

# Decision Schedule



## Cabinet

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**TO ALL MEMBERS OF NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL**

### **Decision Schedule published on 13 July 2023**

The Chair of Cabinet Member took the following decision on 12 July 2023. The decision will become effective at Noon on 20 July, 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 July 2023.

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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### **Leader 29/23**

#### **Revenue Budget Outturn – 2022/2023**

#### **Options Considered/Reasons for Decision**

The revenue outturn for 2022/23 showed an underspend of £5,066k, after core budget contributions to/from reserves, which represented a 1.5% variance against the £343m budget. This variance against budget has arisen, in the main, due to the following:

- Underspends against non-service budgets, specifically the general and covid contingency budget. Contingency budgets were temporarily increased for 2022/23 following Covid, none of which were required to balance the budget this year.
- Overachievement of interest receivable due to interest rates rising and higher than anticipated investment balances and increased savings on interest payable due to the delayed need to undertake borrowing, caused by slippage in the capital programme.
- Offset by overspending in service areas due to increased demand and costs. The higher than anticipated pay award for NJC staff across the council also significantly contributed to this position.

The underspend increased by £3,980k since the December forecast and, this was mainly because of lower than anticipated demand, in particular inter agency adoption fees, better than anticipated income and late distribution of grant funding from Welsh Government (WG), particularly within central education.

The report explained the key variances against budget for the financial year ending 31 March 2023 and provided a summary statement of key issues, which had the potential to impact upon financial management in future years.

Recommendations were made to Cabinet for the utilisation of the one-off underspend available to invest in corporate priorities and to protect the Council by enhancing its risk mitigation reserves. The details of which was announced at the meeting.

Appendix 1 Overall budget dashboard – March 2023

- Appendix 2 Revenue summary monitor - March 2023  
Appendix 3 School balance outturn position  
Appendix 4 2022/23 reserve movements

## **Decision**

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 and other reserve transfers as set out in section 5 of the report, noting the resulting level of the Council's general and earmarked reserves;
3. Noted the school's outturn and the position on the individual and total school reserves (section 3).

## **Consultation**

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

**Implemented by: Head of Finance**  
**Implementation Timetable: Immediate**

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## **Leader 30/23**

### **Capital Programme Outturn and Additions – 2022/2023**

#### **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 followed previous in-year monitoring reports and updated the Cabinet on its capital programme and the outturn for the 2022/23 financial year.

The 2022/23 outturn position included the following key points;

- The capital programme budget as at December 2022, received by Cabinet in February 2023, totalled £89,834k. Subsequent additions/revisions for 2022/23 financial year spend have amounted to £1,944k, taking the overall programme to a final budget of £91,778k for the year.
- Against that revised budget, final costs were £61,178k introducing a £30,600k net variance.
- Of this variance, service managers and budget holders confirmed that £30,553k related to delayed progress with schemes (slippage).
- At outturn, there was a net £47k underspend in relation to completed projects.

## **Decision**

Cabinet

1. Approved the additions to the Capital Programme requested in the report (Appendix A).
2. Noted the capital expenditure outturn position for 2022/23.
3. Approved slippage of £30,553k from the 2022/23 budget into future years.
4. 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**

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**Leader 31/23**

## **Annual Welsh Language Monitoring Report 2022/2023**

### **Options Considered/Reasons for Decision**

The Council was required to report annually on its progress in complying with the Welsh Language Standards under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. This report covered the seventh year of implementation, following the imposition of the Council's Welsh language standards in March 2016.

The report provided an overview of the Council's progress in meeting the Welsh Language Standards, included information required by law to be published on an annual basis, a summary of key achievements during the year, and priority areas for future work.

### **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: Strategic Director, Transformation and Corporate**  
**Implementation Timetable: Immediate**

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**Leader 32/23**

## **Quarter 4 2022/2023 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 strategic priorities or delivering services to its communities and service users in Newport.

At the end of Quarter 4, there were 14 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.

Overall, there were 8 Severe risks (risk scores 15 to 25); 6 Major risks (risk scores 7 to 14); that were outlined in the report. In comparison to the Quarter 3 corporate risk register, two risks decreased their risk score, and there was no change with the remaining 12 risks. One risk was escalated from the Children's service area risk register and one risk de-escalated from the corporate risk register to the Environment and Public Protection risk register.

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 four 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**

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## **Leader 33/23**

### **Newport City Council Response to External Pressures Impacting Council Services**

#### **Options Considered/Reasons for Decision**

The report provided an update on the external pressures facing the council with the cost-of-living crisis continuing to be the main external pressure faced by our residents, communities, and services during this month.

Collaboration and partnership working was key to supporting our citizens and therefore this report provided information on how this way of working was enabling a greater access for our residents to support, advice and guidance.

### **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**

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

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

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## **Leader 34/23**

### **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, Policy and Transformation

**Implemented by: Governance Team Leader**  
**Implementation Timetable: Immediate**

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LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR J MUDD

12 July 2023

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

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