

Decision Schedule



Cabinet

TO ALL MEMBERS OF NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL

Decision Schedule published on 13 September 2023

The Chair of Cabinet Member took the following decision on 13 September 2023. The decision will become effective at Noon on 21 September, 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 20 September 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.

Leader 35/23

July Revenue Budget Monitor

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The July 2023 revenue monitoring position reflected a forecasted underspend of £1.044m, taking into account the contingency budget and a projected transfer of £2m to the Capital Expenditure Reserve to supplement the overall level of capital funding headroom. Whilst an overall underspend was projected, it was be noted that service areas were collectively forecasted to overspend by £3.679m, excluding schools. This significant service area overspending was offset by underspends in non-service areas, such as Capital Financing.

The most significant element of service area overspending is within Children's Services (£3.532m), where significant demand levels for, and individual cost of, out of area and emergency placements was the underlying factor behind this position. As well as this, Housing and Communities and People, Policy and Transformation were also projecting large overspends, the details of which were outlined further in the report. Partly offsetting the service area overspends was a significant underspend within Adult Services (£1.035m).

Schools were separately projecting expenditure in excess of budget totaling £5.829m. This expenditure comprised both planned, one-off, use of reserves, as well as an element of recurring expenditure, which, for this year, would be offset by available surplus balances. Going forward, there was a risk that this level of recurring expenditure in excess of budget would result in certain individual schools entering a deficit budget position. Therefore, close monitoring would be required during the remainder of this year to ensure that schools were managing their finances as required and taking action to ensure that deficit positions were avoided wherever possible.

Whilst an overall underspend was currently being projected, it was important to note that there were a number of risks that could result in the position deteriorating over the course of the year. For example, the 2023/24 NJC pay award was not yet confirmed and, whilst the current offer was broadly in line with the budget provision made for this year, any increase in the final offer would place an in-year and future year pressure upon the Council's finances. As well as this risk, some of the demand issues that were causing the service area overspending could increase during the year and place further pressure on services such as Children's Services and Housing and Communities. In addition, the recent announcement by the First Minister, regarding the challenges

Welsh Government was facing with its in-year finances, presented a risk that certain, budgeted, grant funding could be withdrawn, leaving the Council to absorb the impact of unfunded costs within its own budget.

The appendices to the report were as follows:

Appendix 1	Overall budget dashboard – July 2023
Appendix 2	Revenue summary monitor - July 2023
Appendix 3	School balance outturn position
Appendix 4	2023/24 reserve movements

Decision

Cabinet:

- Noted the overall budget forecast position outlined within this report, which comprised of service area overspending, offset by underspends against non-service budgets.
- Noted the risks identified throughout the report and in the Head of Finance comments, such as in relation to demand issues being faced and the unconfirmed NJC pay award for 2023/24.
- Noted the overall shortfall in the delivery of savings accepted as part of the 2023/24 revenue budget.
- Noted the forecast movements in reserves.
- Noted the overall position in relation to schools, acknowledging the risk that some individual deficit positions could emerge by the end of the financial year.

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Head of Finance
Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 36/23

Capital Programme Monitoring and Additions Report – July 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 updated the Cabinet on its capital programme and the predicted outturn for the 2023/24 financial year, and specifically.

- The starting capital programme budget for 2023/24 was £94.8m. Additions (largely grants) increased the budget by net £6.3m and reprofiling of budgets into future years reduced this year's budget by £15.8m, and revisions of £388k to provide a revised budget of £84.868m.
- Against this budget, costs were predicted to be £84.835m introducing a £33k projected underspend.

Decision

Cabinet

1. Approved the additions to the Capital Programme requested in the report (Appendix A).
2. Noted the predicted capital expenditure outturn position for 2023/24.
3. Approved the reprofiling of £15.8m from the 2023/24 budget into future years.
4. Noted the available remaining capital resources ('headroom') and the earmarked usage of that resourcing.

5. Noted the inclusion of the Treasury Management prudential indicators, included within the report.

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Head of Finance
Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 37/23

Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) – Preferred Strategy

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

Undertaking a consultation on a Preferred Strategy (Pre-Deposit Plan) document was a statutory stage in developing the Replacement Local Development Plan. The Preferred Strategy proposals were informed by engagement with communities, including consultation on growth and spatial options, and technical work, for example the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal.

A first revision of the Delivery Agreement was endorsed by Cabinet in January 2023. The Delivery Agreement targets a Preferred Strategy Consultation for Autumn 2023.

It was proposed that the Preferred Strategy consultation document was taken forward for public consultation alongside supporting assessments and background papers.

Decision

Cabinet

1. Noted the comments on the Growth and Spatial Options (GSO) and endorsed the responses provided in Appendix A.
2. Considered the preferred growth and spatial strategies and recommend approval by Full Council.
3. Agreed the Preferred Strategy consultation paper, provided in Appendix B, to be taken through formal community consultation by officers.

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Head of Regeneration and Economic Development
Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 38/23

Quarter 1 2023/2024 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 1, there were 15 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 9 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 4 corporate risk register, there was no change to the risk scores. One risk (Failure to achieve completion of the annual Internal Audit plan) was escalated from the Finance service area risk register.

As set out in the Council's Risk Management Policy, Cabinet reviews 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 39/23

Climate Change Plan 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 we needed to take as a Council over the next five years to:

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

Delivery of the plan commenced in April 2022 and this report covers:

- Activity that took place in 2022-23.
- Annual carbon emissions data for us as a council

Decision

Cabinet reviewed progress and approved the attached Annual Report.

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Head of Environment and Public Protection

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 40/23

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

Leader 41/23

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

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR J MUDD

13 September 2023
