

Decision Schedule



Cabinet

TO ALL MEMBERS OF NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL

Decision Schedule published on 07 March 2024

The Chair of Cabinet Member took the following decision on 06 March 2024. The decision will become effective at Noon on 14 March 2024, 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 13 March 2024.

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 15/24

Quarter 3 2023/24 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 3, 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 8 Severe risks (risk scores 15 to 25); 7 Major risks (risk scores 7 to 14); that are outlined in the report. In comparison to the Quarter 2 corporate risk register, one risk score decreased (Failure to achieve completion of the Internal Audit Plan). All remaining risks did not change score.

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.

Decision

Cabinet considered the contents of the quarter three 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 16/24

Newport City Council Risk Management Policy

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

Newport City Council was responsible for delivering a multitude of different services and activities through its statutory and non-statutory duties. The Council faced many complex and wide-ranging opportunities, challenges and risks that could prevent it from delivering these services effectively. The Council's Corporate Plan 2022-27 set 4 Well-being Objectives and to deliver these the Council and its services needed to take well-managed opportunities and risks when making decisions.

This Risk Management Policy provided an overview of the Council's risk management arrangements and also its risk appetite statement on how the Council managed the opportunities and risks throughout the delivery of this Corporate Plan. The Risk Management Policy was developed in consultation with Cabinet, Governance and Audit Committee, the senior officer group and other risk related services such as Health and Safety, Insurance and Civil Contingencies.

To support the implementation and embedding of the policy, the Council had a Risk Management procedure document with ongoing support and training provided to Elected Members and officers.

Decision

Cabinet approved the Council's Risk Management Policy and risk appetite statement.

Consultation

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

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

Leader 17/24

Pay and Reward Policy 2024/25

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The Localism Act 2011 required English and Welsh local authorities to produce a "pay policy statement" on an annual basis. The legislation outlined a number of statutory requirements which must be included in any pay policy statement.

The Pay and Reward Policy outlined the current position in respect of pay and reward within the Council. It would be reviewed and reported to Council on an annual basis to ensure it met the principles of fairness, equality, accountability, and value for money for the authority and its residents.

The Pay and Reward Policy 2024/25 was reviewed and no changes were proposed this year outside of the normal increases in values. It was noted that amendments were made to some provision in 2023/24 with the appropriate agreement, these amendments were reported to Cabinet and subsequently Council. This statement would come into immediate effect once fully endorsed by Council.

Decision

Cabinet reviewed and recommended to Council the Pay and Reward Policy in order to meet the statutory requirement for a pay policy statement to be approved and published by Council on an annual basis.

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Head of People, Policy and Transformation

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 18/24

Property Services Arrangements

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The Norse joint venture partnership established in July 2014 came to an end on 31 December 2025 (extended from the original end date of July 2024). This partnership provided an integrated property and facilities management service including professional services such as estates management and design, building maintenance, premises management and cleaning, supported by a direct labour work force. The partnership continued to provide a range of essential services to the Council, with considerably increased annual turnover since its inception.

Following an initial report to Cabinet in December 2022, a review of potential models for future service delivery took place supported by evidence and undertaken by Scrutiny.

Taking into account the review of the models, combined with the significant work being delivered by Newport Norse, the report considered the key risks and potential benefits, and recommended the establishment of an arms-length trading company wholly owned by Newport City Council to be established by the end of the current joint venture in December 2025. The details of the proposed model and mobilisation plan would be developed by relevant officers to establish arrangements to develop a detailed proposal and report to Cabinet on progress.

Decision

Cabinet agreed, in principle, the future model for delivery of property services as a local authority trading company as outlined in the report, and direct the Strategic Director for Transformation and Corporate Services, in consultation with the Council's Statutory Officers:

1. To prepare a proposal document regarding the setting up of an arms-length company wholly owned by the Council for the purpose of delivering property services to the Council from January 2026.
2. To obtain such advice and information as was necessary in order to enable the preparation of that document.
3. To take such mobilisation steps as was necessary to enable the setting up of the new model, but not including the registration of the company at Companies House.
4. To report back to the Cabinet at a later date regarding the proposal and progress of the above.

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Strategic Director – Corporate and Transformation

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 19/24

Sustainable Communities for Learning: Rolling Programme for Investment 2024/2033

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme provided match funded investment for school infrastructure improvements at a 65% intervention rate. The next wave of this scheme, a 9-year rolling programme, was due to begin in April 2024.

The priorities for the programme over this period were identified and driven by strategic aims which included reducing poor quality school accommodation, ensuring a sufficiency of school places to meet demand across primary and secondary sectors, and creating additional Welsh-medium places and pathways to meet the ambitious targets outlined in the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP).

Outline scoping was undertaken to inform the overall cost of the programme and the Council's own financial contribution. The availability of that required on-going assessment and review to ensure it was affordable within the Council's financial and capital planning. The deadline for Local Authorities to submit a Strategic Outline Programme to Welsh Government was 31 March 2024.

Decision

Cabinet agreed that the investment objectives upon which Newport City Council's Sustainable Communities for Learning 9-year rolling programme was based was appropriate and that as a result a Strategic Outline Programme reflecting those objectives could be submitted to Welsh Government for consideration.

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Head of Education
Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 20/24

Newport City Council Response to External Pressures Impacting Council Services

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

This monthly report provided an update on the external pressures facing the Council which include the cost-of-living crisis and pressures on housing and homelessness services across Newport.

As with previous months, collaboration and partnership working was key to supporting Newport 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

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

Implemented by: Head of People, Policy and Transformation, Head of Housing and Communities and Head of Prevention and Inclusion
Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 21/24

Cabinet Work Programme

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The Leader presented the Cabinet Work Programme.

Decision

Cabinet agreed the Cabinet Work Programme.

Consultation

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

6 March 2024

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