

Decision Schedule



Cabinet

TO ALL MEMBERS OF NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL

Decision Schedule published on 13 November 2024

The Chair of Cabinet Member took the following decision on 13 November 2024. The decision will become effective at Noon on 21 November 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 20 November 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 57/24

September Revenue Budget Monitor

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The September 2024 revenue monitoring position reflected a forecasted underspend of £0.786m, taking into account the contingency budget. This compared to a forecast underspend of £0.112m reported in respect of July 2024, with the change in position largely due to an improvement in the Adult Services position. Service areas were collectively forecasted to overspend by £6.215m, excluding schools. This significant service area overspending was offset by underspends in non-service areas, such as Capital Financing, producing a broadly balanced overall revenue budget forecast at this point.

The most significant areas of service area overspending were within Housing and Communities, due to the demand for temporary accommodation, and within Education, due to increased costs of Additional Learning Needs (ALN) / special school transport, and expenditure on local ALN provision.

Schools were separately projected to overspend on their revenue funding by £3.765m and this was after the £600k recently invested in schools by Cabinet. The forecasted in-year overspend and resulting balances would have been worse without this investment. This overspend would be funded from schools' own reserves. The overspending related to both one-off as well as recurring expenditure, the latter being a key aspect of the secondary school's position. Going forward, there was a risk that this level of recurring expenditure, in excess of base budget funding would result in certain individual schools entering a deficit budget position i.e. negative reserves, unless they made the savings required to balance their individual budgets. 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 a broadly balanced position was currently forecast overall, demand for services, in particular homelessness and children's social care could further increase and was closely monitored. In the previous monitor reported to Cabinet, teacher's pay, and pension costs funding was a significant risk. It was likely that funding for these would now be available though the amount is yet to be confirmed. Similarly, NJC pay was a risk, but the pay offer has now been accepted and is within budget allowed.

The appendices to the report were as follows:

Appendix 1	Overall Budget Dashboard - September 2024
Appendix 2	Revenue Summary Monitor - September 2024
Appendix 3	School Balances Position
Appendix 4	2024/25 Forecast Reserve Movements

Decision

Cabinet:

- Noted the overall budget forecast position outlined within the report.
- Noted the overall shortfall in the delivery of savings accepted as part of the 2024/25 revenue budget.
- Noted the overall position in relation to schools, acknowledging the risk that further individual deficit positions could emerge by the end of the financial year.
- Noted the forecasted movements in reserves.
- Approved the recommended reserve transfers, as set out in 4.3.
- Noted the risks identified throughout the report, such as continued demand issues being faced by services in housing and social care.

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Head of Finance

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 58/24

Capital Programme Monitoring and Additions Report – September 2024

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 forecast for the 2024/25 financial year, and specifically:

- The starting capital programme budget for 2024/25 was £90.7m. This was revised to £82.7m at the September Cabinet meeting. This report requested approval to increase the 2024-25 budget by a net £4.8m to now be £87.5m.
- Against this revised budget, costs were predicted to be £83.5m introducing a £4.0m net variance, predominantly slippage.

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 2024/25.
3. Noted the amendments and indicative slippage for the capital programme.
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.
6. Noted the use of the headroom as outlined in the report.

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Head of Finance
Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 59/24

2025/26 Budget Proposals

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

Budget preparations this year continued to be challenging, building on the unprecedented circumstances of the last few years. The Council, like others, were dealing with significant budget pressures, mainly from increasing demand and cost increases, resulting in significant budget shortfalls over the immediate and medium term.

The fiscal outlook for 2025/26 and the medium term was currently uncertain. The UK Autumn Statement on 30 October 2024 confirmed additional funding for Wales, but the implications of this for the Council would not be clear until the draft Welsh Government budget and local government settlement that followed in mid-December 2024.

While work to update the medium-term financial plan and refine the 2025/26 budget was ongoing, this report set out the first tranche of savings proposals for 2025/26.

The appendices to the report were as follows:

- Appendix 1a New budget savings for consultation.
- Appendix 1b New budget savings implemented under delegated authority – officers and Cabinet; requiring no consultation.
- Appendix 2 New budget savings for consultation – detailed proposals.

Decision

Cabinet:

- Agreed the following draft proposals for public consultation:
 - Budget savings proposals in Appendix 1a (summary table) and Appendix 2 (detailed proposals).
- Approved:
 - Implementation of the delegated decisions in Appendix 1b.
 - The use of the Transformation Fund to fund the implementation costs of the proposals listed in Appendix 1b totalling £776,000.

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Head of Finance
Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 60/24

Summary Of Estyn Inspection Outcomes – January 2022 To July 2024

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

This report provided a summary of school Estyn report outcomes from January 2022 to July 2024. The report identified the schools and the dates on which the inspections took place, together with the follow up category and recommendations.

Decision

Cabinet to accepted the report for information.

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Chief Education Officer

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 61/24

Regional Partnership Board Annual Report

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 laid out the statutory framework for the presentation of the area plan and an annual report on the work of the Regional Partnership Board. The format and nature of the report was determined by Welsh Government with a requirement for submission to the statutory partners and Welsh Government.

The Annual Report was a reflection of the work of the past year.

Decision

Cabinet reviewed progress made against the objectives; and provided feedback/comments.

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Strategic Director Social Services

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 62/24

Air Quality Action Plan 2024 to 2029

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

An Air Quality Action Plan for Newport City Council from 2024 to 2029 was prepared which set out how Newport City Council would achieve compliance with air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide levels. Historically these levels had been exceeded. The plan identified the following as key themes in tackling of air quality in Newport: [1] Emissions from New Development; [2] Emissions form Transport; [3] Education and Awareness; and [4] Active Travel and Green Infrastructure. Continuing compliance would result in eventual revocation of all Air Quality Management Areas

and an Air Quality Strategy would then be produced to support Newport City Council in its subsequent air quality actions.

Decision

Cabinet approved the Newport City Council 2024-2029 Air Quality Action Plan and agreed for the plan to be taken to Council for a decision on its adoption.

Consultation

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

Implemented by: Head of Environment and Public Protection

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

Leader 63/24

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 D BATROUNI

13 November 2024

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