

Minutes



Council

Date: 24 February 2105

Time: 5.00 pm

Present: Councillors M Evans (Chair), D Atwell, E Corten, C Jenkins, D Mayer, R Poole, D Wilcox, M Al-Nuiami, O Ali, R Bright, P Cockeram, M Cornelious, K Critchley, D Davies, V Delahaye, C Evans, C Ferris, D Fouweather, E Garland, G Giles, D Harvey, I Hayat, R Hutchings, R Jeavons, M Kellaway, M Linton, C Maxfield, S Mlewa, R Mogford, A Morris, J Mudd, M Rahman, J Richards, M Spencer, C Suller, T Suller, H Thomas, K Thomas, E Townsend, N Trigg, R Truman, T Watkins, R White and D Williams

Apologies: Councillors T Bond, J Guy, P Hannon, P Huntley, D Mayer, M Whitcutt and K Whitehead

1. Preliminaries

Mayor's Announcements

Armed Forces Support

The Mayor was pleased to announce that the Council had received an award recognising the commitment and support it has given to members of the armed forces. A ceremony was held in Cardiff City Stadium on 30th January to mark the launch of the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Awards in Wales.

The Council was nominated for the support it showed to education welfare officer Tony Hampson and fitness team leader Kris Dowding, who are members of the Army Reserve.

The Mayor passed the award to Councillor Mark spencer, the Council's Armed Forces and Veterans Champion and Mr Hampson. He passed on is congratulations and members applauded the receipt of the award

Holocaust Memorial Day

The Mayor referred to the Holocaust Memorial Day and the service held at the Cathedral on the day of the last Council meeting. The Mayor thanked thank all of those who helped organise the event and those who took part, including Mr Ron Jones, a remarkable man from Newport who survived incarceration at Auschwitz; was in the Auschwitz football team and took part in the 900 mile walk which became known as the "death march". The Mayor considered Mr Jones to be a true inspiration and once again passed on his thanks to everyone involved.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2015 were confirmed as a true record.

3. Appointments

The following appointments were agreed:

- Planning Committee: Councillor Omar Ali to replace Councillor Mark Spencer
- Audit Committee: Councillor Ali was to step down from the Committee
- Caldicot and Wentlooge Internal Drainage District Advisory Group: Cllr Trevor Watkins, Mr Rob Hepworth, Mrs Helen Truman and Mr William Langsford. Substitutes to these: Cllr Paul Huntley, Cllr Herbert Thomas, Mr Alan Speight and Cllr Christine Jenkins
- Newport NORSE Board: Cllr Miqdad Al-Nuaimi was appointed to replace Cllr Cliff Suller
- Newport BID : Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development

4. Police Issues

The Mayor welcomed Superintendent Fernquest to the meeting

Superintendent Fernquest updated members on activities in Newport and action taken by the police and partners in helping to alleviate criminal and antisocial behaviour in the City.

Councillor Al Nuaimi asked for improved enforcement of traffic management issues in the Stow Hill Ward, particularly in relation to the Emlyn Street area and the City Centre, since the rising bollards were not functioning. He referred also to residents parking. Superintendent Fernquest described actions taken on each issue and difficulties faced in enforcement since the bollards were not operational.

Superintendent Fernquest agreed with Councillor Morris that there was a link between many burglaries and drug addiction. He agreed that alternative activities for young people in the City would help.

Councillor Giles referred the Council's support for the White Ribbon initiative that aimed at eradication domestic abuse against women and girls Superintendent Fernquest stated that Gwent Police was playing its role and subscribed to "Claire's Law".

Superintendent Fernquest agreed with Councillor Wilcox that antisocial behaviour can go in cycles, and confirmed that that a multi- agency approach will continue to address ongoing problems.

Superintendent Fernquest updated Councillor Garland on action taken on specific issues in the St Julian's ward

Superintendent Fernquest would raise with local officers issues raised by Cllr Spencer about the need for increasing local patrols

Superintendent Fernquest agreed with Councillor Poole that the vision for Newport has to be a family friendly city centre and that partners need to work together to achieve that goal.

Superintendent Fernquest agreed with Councillor Tom Suller that the use of various and many communication channels was important for the police and partners.

Superintendent Fernquest agreed with Councillor Trigg that community facilities can help alleviate antisocial behaviour and confirmed that ideas can be presented to the Commissioner's Office.

Superintendent Fernquest would not comment on the Council's budget proposals but agreed with Cllr Townsend that if the bollards in the city centre are working it helps with issues such as enforcement of parking regulations.

5. **Budget 2015 - 2016 and Medium Term Financial Plan**

The Leader of the Council stated that the grant notification that came to the Council in December confirmed that the Revenue Support Grant would be reducing by nearly £5.7 million, a 2.6% reduction.

The Leader informed Members that the Welsh Government's revenue support grant makes up some 82% of the funding for the Council's net budget and therefore, the reduction next year, and in the future, mattered significantly. He confirmed that Council Tax cannot make up the difference.

He said that following last year's budget process, this Council had a balanced medium term financial plan and the changes announced last summer markedly changed this.

The Leader introduced a report to Council which brought together the relevant strands of the Council's financial management including the Revenue Budget, Capital Programme, treasury management and the consequential Medium Term Financial Plan.

The Leader stated that the Capital Programme set out in the report showed the final 3 years of the Council's agreed medium term Capital Programme. He said that given the pressure on revenue funds, there were no significant resources or easy solutions to expand the Capital Programme, though demand for capital resources, as always, is high. In saying this, he confirmed the Council would be investing over the next 3 years in its schools, the city centre regeneration as well as the usual cyclical replacement of key IT and vehicle assets

The Leader said that the Cabinet had considered the budget at its February meeting and had listened very carefully to the outcome of what had been the most comprehensive consultation exercise this Council had undertaken. The consultation budget was announced in December and this included important investments on services: £655,000 for schools; £579,000 for out of area education and social care placements; £375,000 investment in recycling to ensure current progress is improved, as Welsh Government specific grant support reduces; and £100,000 to improve on grounds maintenance and weed spraying capacity

To balance the budget, the Cabinet had to propose significant savings and this included 72 new proposals with savings of over £6m and £4.7m of proposals agreed last February.

The Leader stated the proposed budget included a Council Tax increase of 5%. He said budget proposals widely circulated to the public, partners and across the Authority were based on this increase. He said that of all the comments received about the proposals, only one was received that specifically referred to the level of Council Tax and this was in the positive.

The Leader of the Council informed the Council that, in developing proposals, protecting services was uppermost in Cabinet's mind and the temptation to play with decimal points had been resisted.

He said that out of the 72 proposals, only 7 received negative public responses, where more people were against the proposals than were for them.

Of these three had been resolved through alternative proposals: There were alternative proposals for the central library and museum provision. This would provision in the current location and these were currently subject to consultation and there was an agreement with the Health Board which will keep social care teams in the Serennu centre.

Two proposals have been deleted, namely the charging for DIY waste and the loss of the children's psychology service; One proposal had been substantially changed by £56k, to retain the current level of H&S inspections of our playground facilities

One proposal will remain, being the Council Tax help for pensioners. Given that pensioners will still access the statutory benefit available here, this amounts to a maximum of £2 per week, and with a lot of pensioners not even getting that amount as their bills are already under £100, Cabinet felt that this proposal should remain.

The Leader stated the Cabinet said it would listen and it had done.

The Leader confirmed that Newport's Tax is already low and even with a 5% increase, will retain its position as the second lowest rate in Wales, and amongst the lowest across UK unitary councils. In cash terms, it amounts to £44.66 per year for an average Band D property; He said that a 1% reduction from a proposed 5% would only amount to £8.93 for an average band D property per annum but it has a negative £382,000 impact on the Council's finances – which is £382,000 more cuts to services and less service investments.

The Leader mentioned that the Council continues to spend considerably less than the Standard Spending Assessment – the amount Welsh Government deems is needed to fund a 'standard level of services', - by just under £7 million. Whilst this was historical, to make up the difference would require a further Council Tax increase of 13.4% (About £125.00 per Band D property) to make budget equal to SSA – over and above the 5% already proposed. A marginal reduction would have a further detrimental effect to the SSA.

The Leader mentioned that across Wales, 12 Councils are proposing increases of above 4.5%, a further 4 are above 4%. With an increase in 5% Newport was still low in cash terms compared with other areas.

He mentioned this had allowed the Council to invest in school's budgets again. Next year, schools face significant financial pressures of around £2million in relation to increasing pension costs, rising pupil numbers and a pay award to fund. Anything other than at least the full pledge would not be reasonable. He realised however that honouring this will need to be reviewed each year, as the pressure mounts, but for 2015/16, Cabinet recognised the pressure they are under.

The proposals allowed investment in the commitment to paying the 'Living Wage' and social justice; provided budget investments in areas which require it, ensured budgets were as robust as they can be and dealt with the more unpopular proposals according to our residents' views.

Given all this, and the fact that savings required amount to over £10m, the Leader considered the Council Tax increase strikes a reasonable balance. This would produce an average Band D Council Tax of £938.02, an increase of just £44.66 per year, or 86p per week. The Council's overall budget would be just over £261 million. The Leader mentioned that Cabinet continues in its ambition to modernise services and to seek social justice and that that he was confident this Administration is steering a path through these difficult times.

The Leader of the Opposition moved an amendment to the proposals. He stated that he considered the consultation process this year to be the best he had seen and that the Council had listened to some of the concerns. He accepted the task was difficult for the administration but he considered the proposed increase in Council Tax by 5% was too high. He stated that some of the adjustments would be supported as they were important to the public. He mentioned the amendment would allow the increase to be reduced to 4%. The formal proposal was as follows:

“To

- Maintain the Council's net budget down at current level recommended - at £261,370,983
- Reduce the Newport City Council's own 'Council Tax' increase to 4.0% (currently proposed 5.00%), which would result in a Newport City Council Band 'D' Tax of £929.09 (currently proposed £938.02)

He acknowledged that it is for the Council's Cabinet to decide on the detail of the budget. In coming to the above proposed amendment, he asked that the Cabinet consider the following changes:

- Stop Newport Matters- £44k
- Stop Trade Union facility time - £57k
- Stop GAVO core funding - £28k
- Stop SEWREC core funding - £49k
- Reduce Cabinet by 1 further post - £16k
- Reduce the increase in school's funding by £188k

These reduce Newport City Council's expenditure by £382k, being a reduction in Council tax funding of £496k, less consequential reduction in Council Tax Reduction benefit of £114k, which would enable its Council Tax increase to be reduced to 4.00%. “

In seconding the report, Councillor Williams mentioned the following matters in support

- The Council Tax proposal reduction remained high but was fair
- GAVO and SEWREC need share some the outcomes of the reduction in funding

Members of the administration spoke against that the amendment saying

- The budget proposals reflected the outcome of a wide consultation
- The budget had been proposed in a responsible manner

- The proposals in the amendment amounted to a saving of just over £8 per year but reduced spending by £380,000
- The proposed reduction in schools funding would increase the burden on schools that were already facing substantial pressures
- Newport needs a high skilled, high wage economy built on young people playing their part by improving life chances for students through education and where poverty places no cap on education
- “Newport Matters” was a well –received publication and played a significant role in the budget consultation exercise.
- The Opposition Members had opportunities to raise these proposals for consideration during the wide consultation process
- GAVO and SEWREC provided excellent services and one of the outcomes of the budget consultation was to work more closely with volunteers. Voluntary bodies provide a social return on investment for the most vulnerable in society
- Trade Union representatives play an important and valued role in the Council and provided a voice for the highly valued Council staff
- The proposals had been produced late in the process and had not gone through any Equalities Impact Assessments and Opposition Members had not participated in the consultation process
- The administration was proposing one reduction the Cabinet. A further reduction would save only £16,000 and Cabinet Members oversee the use of the budget and the senior management

Councillor Townsend would not support the amendment but remained unconvinced about the proposals by the Cabinet as he had not yet been persuaded by the arguments.

The Leader of the Council stated that the proposed reduction of 1% in the increase would result in a reduction of just £8.93p. He mentioned that the proposals in the amendment would result in the loss of Newport Matters that had proved invaluable in the consultation process.

The proposals included the non-payment of facility time The Leader stated that the Trade Unions had been immensely helpful and without their constructive contribution, agreement on pay and grading and other matters would not have been achieved.

The proposed reduction of grant to GAVO was against the expressed wishes of the public during the consultation process and the work of SEWREC within Newport’s diverse population was respected.

The Leader of the Council also referred to the £ 2m pressure on School budgets. He said that the Council’s Tax bill would remain the second lowest in Wales and among the lowest in the UK.

In summing up the Leader of the Opposition stated his Group valued education and the proposal was not a suggested cut in Education funding but a reduction in the proposed increase for Education.

The Leader of the Opposition mentioned the view of the Fairness Commission was that services such as Education and Social Services could not expect to be protected as others suffer. He considered the 5% increase would lead to suffering by residents.

He considered that there were many other channels available for communication with the public without the expense of ‘Newport Matters’ to the extent that it is produced now

He considered the Unions are cash – rich and should pay the Council for facility time rather than the other way.

As to GAVO, it has an income of over £4m. SEWREC has an income of over £600,000 and have adequate funds to run their services.

The Leader of the Opposition said that the public view was that the Cabinet should be reduced.

The required number of elected members requested a recorded vote on the amendment proposals. The outcome of the vote was as follows:

In favour of the amendment: D Atwell; M Cornelious; M Evans; C Ferris; D Fouweather; M Kellaway; T Suller; R White; and D Williams. A total of 9 members

Against the amendment: O Ali; M Al Nuiami; T Bond; R Bright; P Cockeram; E Corten; K Critchley; D Davies; V Delahaye; C Evans; E Garland; G Giles; D Harvey ; I Hayat, R Hutchings; R Jeavons; C Jenkins; M Linton; C Maxfield; S Mlewa; A Morris; J Mudd; R Poole; M Rahman; J Richards; M Spencer; C Suller; H Thomas; K Thomas; E Townsend; N Trigg; R Truman; T Watkins; and D Wilcox . A total of 34 Members

The amendment was, therefore, **lost**

Members then commented on the substantive motion

The Leader of the Council referred to some typographical errors that had been explained to all Members by the Head of Finance.

Councillor Davies thanked the Leader for identifying funds for a two year scheme to be used to help address problems facing young people not in education, employment of training and help improve people's lives. As Cabinet Member for Skills and Work, Councillor Davies would monitor the use of funds and the outcomes of the project. She mentioned that Newport continues to have a high level of pupils who, at the need of year 11, do not go on employment, further education or training. One of the factors was that Newport is the fourth most deprived area in Wales but had not benefitted from ESF money. The Cabinet Member would meet all Secondary Heads to discuss the way forward and try to make a difference.

Members of the Opposition Group spoke against the motion saying:

- The situation relating to young people not in education, employment or training would get worse as transport grant had been cut for students aged over 16.
- The Opposition Group fully engaged in the scrutiny committees' consultation on the budget and had held local meetings and distributed the Questionnaire to local residents.
- Choices made in the budget could have been different by looking at further discretionary services as proposed in the amendment
- Residents should not pay for time off for trade union duties
- It is not the time to increase council tax and the proposed increase was too high as people are struggling and it would not protect the vulnerable
- This was about the cost to individual householders of modest means.

Members of the Administration supported the proposals saying:

- There had been difficult choices in developing the budget and everything had been seriously considered
- Cabinet Members played an important role in developing budgets on an annual basis
- The proposed amendment differed from the substantive proposal by one – seventh of one per cent of the total budget but resulted in some important further cuts.
- Post 16 students who qualify are eligible to receive a travel grant and post 16 students in Wales can still receive the Education Maintenance grant
- Newport City Council remains the second lowest Band D Council Tax rate in Wales.
- Central Government in Westminster had created the crisis.
- There had been no challenge to the proposals from the Opposition, other than make a saving of such a small amount

In summing up the Leader of the Council reiterated that the Council Tax in Newport would be the second lowest in Wales. He also mentioned that the regeneration of the city is all about regenerating the local economy with rising disposal income. This could only be done by preserving education services

He mentioned that 'Newport Matters' had proved to be a useful tool in communicating with residents and as part of the consultation process. There had been a very good response and the results were a 95% indicator of what people really thought. It said they wanted to support Education, Social Services and those doing voluntary work. The seven items that received negative comment had, in the main, been mitigated.

The Leader mentioned that the increase would lead to Council Tax being some 6% of income in Newport whereas in other areas, the increase would be at 10% of the local income. The consultation process was on the basis of a 5% increase. Anything under 5% would add to the burden of not meeting Standard Spending Assessment.

He said that education and social services to be protected as much as possible and honoured the pledge to pay the minimum wage. This was a well thought out budget that looked after the Council's expressed aspirations.

Resolved

Revenue budget and Council Tax 15/16 (paragraphs 4-30)

- To note that an extensive consultation exercise has been completed on the medium term change/efficiency programme, including the 2015/16 budget proposals and that Cabinet have taken these into account in recommending final details of the programme and the resulting 2015/16 overall revenue budget recommended to this Council.
- To note the Head of Finance's recommendations that minimum General Fund Balances be maintained at £5million
- To note that, in line with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003, the Head of Finance confirms the robustness of the estimates underlying the proposals and the adequacy of the General Reserves in the context of other earmarked reserves and a revenue budget contingency of c£1,500k

- To approve the final detail of Newport City Council's budget, shown in Appendix 1, noting that schools' funding is in line with the Welsh Government pledge
- To approve a Council Tax increase for Newport City Council of 5%, a band D tax of £938.02
- To approve the formal Council Tax resolution, included in Appendix 5 which incorporates Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent & Community Council precepts as follows:

RESOLUTION TO SET COUNCIL TAX LEVELS

1. That the revenue estimates for 2015/2016, as recommended by the Cabinet on 9th February 2015 be approved.
2. That it be noted that the Council at its meeting on 20th February 2007 delegated the setting of the tax base to the Head of Finance and that on 06 November 2014, the Head of Finance acting in accordance with that delegation calculated the following amounts for the year 2015/2016 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

(a) Council Tax Base

55,560.04 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its council tax base for the year;

(b) Council Tax base for parts of the Council's Area

Area	Tax base
Bishton	753
Coedkernew	978
Goldcliff	188
Graig	2,848
Langstone	1,832
Llanvaches	239
Llanwern	314
Marshfield	1,502
Michaelstone	166
Nash	138
Penhow	439
Redwick	111
Rogerstone	4,441
Wentlooge	345

3. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2015/2016 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

- (a) £390,974,695.96 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) (a) to (e) of the Act (**Gross Expenditure**).
- (b) £129,364,568.00 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3) (a) to (c) of the Act (**Gross Income**).
- (c) £261,610,127.96 being the amount by which the aggregate at (3) (a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year (**Budget + Community Council precepts**).
- (d) £209,254,324 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its council fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant or additional grant (**RSG + NNDR**).
- (e) £942.33 being the amount at 3(c) above less the amount at 3(d) above, all divided by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year (**Average Band 'D' Tax for NCC including Community Councils**).
- (f) £239,144.96 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act and detailed below (**Community Council precepts**).

Area	Special Item £
Bishton	7,454.70
Coedkernew	3,423.00
Goldcliff	2,820.00
Graig	51,121.60
Langstone	38,105.60
Llanvaches	5,975.00
Llanwern	7,498.32
Marshfield	22,530.00
Michaelstone	3,600.54
Nash	1,269.60
Penhow	8,586.84
Redwick	2,681.76
Rogerstone	79,938.00
Wentlooge	4,140.00
	239,144.96

- (g) £938.02 being the amount at 3(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(f) above by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates (**NCC Band 'D' Council Tax**).

(h) Council Tax level for parts of the Council's Area

Area	Basic Council Tax £
Bishton	947.92
Coedkernew	941.52
Goldcliff	953.02
Graig	955.97
Langstone	958.82
Llanvaches	963.02
Llanwern	961.90
Marshfield	953.02
Michaelstone	959.71
Nash	947.22
Penhow	957.58
Redwick	962.18
Rogerstone	956.02
Wentlooge	950.02

Being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(g) above, the amounts of the special item or items in 3(f) divided by the amount at 2(b) for the specified area of the council. These amounts are calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(i)

NCC + Community Councils	Valuation Bands								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p
Bishton	631.95	737.27	842.60	947.92	1,158.57	1,369.22	1,579.87	1,895.84	2,211.81
Coedkernew	627.68	732.29	836.91	941.52	1,150.75	1,359.98	1,569.20	1,883.04	2,196.88
Goldcliff	635.35	741.24	847.13	953.02	1,164.80	1,376.59	1,588.37	1,906.04	2,223.71
Graig	637.32	743.53	849.76	955.97	1,168.41	1,380.85	1,593.29	1,911.94	2,230.59
Langstone	639.22	745.75	852.29	958.82	1,171.89	1,384.96	1,598.04	1,917.64	2,237.24
Llanvaches	642.02	749.01	856.02	963.02	1,177.03	1,391.03	1,605.04	1,926.04	2,247.04
Llanwern	641.27	748.14	855.03	961.90	1,175.66	1,389.41	1,603.17	1,923.80	2,244.43
Marshfield	635.35	741.24	847.13	953.02	1,164.80	1,376.59	1,588.37	1,906.04	2,223.71
Michaelstone	639.81	746.44	853.08	959.71	1,172.98	1,386.25	1,599.52	1,919.42	2,239.32
Nash	631.48	736.73	841.98	947.22	1,157.71	1,368.21	1,578.70	1,894.44	2,210.18
Penhow	638.39	744.78	851.19	957.58	1,170.38	1,383.17	1,595.97	1,915.16	2,234.35
Redwick	641.46	748.36	855.28	962.18	1,176.00	1,389.82	1,603.64	1,924.36	2,245.08
Rogerstone	637.35	743.57	849.80	956.02	1,168.47	1,380.92	1,593.37	1,912.04	2,230.71
Wentlooge	633.35	738.90	844.47	950.02	1,161.14	1,372.25	1,583.37	1,900.04	2,216.71
All Other Parts of the City	625.35	729.57	833.80	938.02	1,146.47	1,354.92	1,563.37	1,876.04	2,188.71

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(g) and 3(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that

proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in the valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

4. That it be noted for the year 2015/2016, that the only major precepting authority has stated the following amount in precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Gwent Police	Valuation Bands								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p
All Parts of the City	141.08	164.59	188.11	211.62	258.65	305.67	352.70	423.24	493.78

5. That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(i) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for the year 2015/2016 for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:-

Total Council Tax Demand	Valuation Bands								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p	£.p
Bishton	773.03	901.86	1,030.71	1,159.54	1,417.22	1,674.89	1,932.57	2,319.08	2,705.59
Coedkernew	768.76	896.88	1,025.02	1,153.14	1,409.40	1,665.65	1,921.90	2,306.28	2,690.66
Goldcliff	776.43	905.83	1,035.24	1,164.64	1,423.45	1,682.26	1,941.07	2,329.28	2,717.49
Graig	778.40	908.12	1,037.87	1,167.59	1,427.06	1,686.52	1,945.99	2,335.18	2,724.37
Langstone	780.30	910.34	1,040.40	1,170.44	1,430.54	1,690.63	1,950.74	2,340.88	2,731.02
Llanvaches	783.10	913.60	1,044.13	1,174.64	1,435.68	1,696.70	1,957.74	2,349.28	2,740.82
Llanwern	782.35	912.73	1,043.14	1,173.52	1,434.31	1,695.08	1,955.87	2,347.04	2,738.21
Marshfield	776.43	905.83	1,035.24	1,164.64	1,423.45	1,682.26	1,941.07	2,329.28	2,717.49
Michaelstone	780.89	911.03	1,041.19	1,171.33	1,431.63	1,691.92	1,952.22	2,342.66	2,733.10
Nash	772.56	901.32	1,030.09	1,158.84	1,416.36	1,673.88	1,931.40	2,317.68	2,703.96
Penhow	779.47	909.37	1,039.30	1,169.20	1,429.03	1,688.84	1,948.67	2,338.40	2,728.13
Redwick	782.54	912.95	1,043.39	1,173.80	1,434.65	1,695.49	1,956.34	2,347.60	2,738.86
Rogerstone	778.43	908.16	1,037.91	1,167.64	1,427.12	1,686.59	1,946.07	2,335.28	2,724.49
Wentlooge	774.43	903.49	1,032.58	1,161.64	1,419.79	1,677.92	1,936.07	2,323.28	2,710.49
All Other Parts of the City	766.43	894.16	1,021.91	1,149.64	1,405.12	1,660.59	1,916.07	2,299.28	2,682.49

Capital Programme and 2015/16 budget (paragraphs 31–45)

- To approve the 2015/16 capital budget, in line with the detail contained in Appendix 6

Treasury Management and Investment strategies, Minimum Revenue Provision Policies & Prudential Indicators (paragraphs 46-66)

- To approve Treasury Management Policies in line with the detail contained in Appendix 7
- To approve the Annual Investment Strategy in line with the detail contained in Appendix 7

- To approve the Council's Counterparty list (external bodies for Council investments) in line with the detail contained in Appendix 7
- To approve the Prudential Indicators in line with the detail contained in Appendix 7
- To approve the Minimum Revenue Provision policy in line with the detail contained in Appendix 7

Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital programme (paragraphs 67 – 73 and 31 - 45)

- To note Cabinets approval of the implementation of the full 4 year change and efficiency programme, including all budget investments and saving options (Appendices 2 - 3), as summarised within the Medium Term Financial Plan (Appendix 8) and the final 3 years of the capital programme (Appendix 6). Noting they are subject to on-going review and updating.

6. **Pay and Reward Policy**

All Chief Officers attending the meeting withdrew from the Chamber during discussion of this item

The Leader of the Council presented a report which included a recommendation from the Cabinet and which informed the Council that the Localism Act 2011 required English and Welsh local authorities to produce a "pay policy statement", initially for the financial year 2012-13, and then on an annual basis. The legislation outlined a number of statutory requirements which must be included in any pay policy statement.

In March 2012, Council approved a Pay and Reward Policy which, as well as meeting the statutory requirements, widened the scope of the policy beyond that required by the Localism Act 2011 to cover the pay arrangements of all Council employees, including those in schools.

The annual review of the Council's Pay and Reward Policy has now taken place, and the policy updated where appropriate to take account of changes which have taken place during the last 12 months. Details of the review and the proposed changes were set out in full in the report.

Decision

To approve Pay and Reward Policy 2015 and acknowledge a further report will be required as a result of the Total Reward implementation.

7. **Questions to the Chair of the Cabinet**

There were no questions submitted to the Chair of the Cabinet on this occasion

8. **Questions to Cabinet Members**

There were no questions submitted to Cabinet Members on this occasion

9. **Scrutiny Committees**

There were no questions submitted to the Chairs of Committees on this occasion

10. **Planning Committee**

There were no questions submitted to the Chairs of Committees on this occasion

11. **Licensing Committee**

There were no questions submitted to the Chairs of Committees on this occasion

12. **Standards Committee**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2015 were received

13. **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Resolved

To exclude the press and the public during consideration of the following item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of confidential or exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure

14. **Collective Agreement**

The Council was asked to consider a draft Collective Agreement as recommended by the Cabinet. The Draft Agreement, following a comprehensive pay and grading review, sets out the proposed pay and grading arrangements for Newport City council Local Government Services employees.

Members were informed that negotiations with the relative recognised trade unions (Unison, GMB and UNITE) had taken place over a number of months. During December 2014, both management and trade union representatives reached a position where both sides were satisfied to escalate the draft agreement to the next level of governance. Consequently, papers have been forwarded to the Trade Unions at a national level via the regional representatives for consideration.

The Leader of the Council mentioned the Council's appreciation of the work of the Trade Unions on this issue and the constructive manner in which they had approached the matter. .

If, following this final process, the trade unions, Council and governing bodies are able to approve the draft Collective Agreement there is likely to be a subsequent ballot of Newport employees to determine their view of the proposals.

In coming to a final position, it should also be noted that as consultation and negotiation remains ongoing it is likely that there will be some minor changes to the draft documentation as presented. In this regard delegated responsibility is sought for finalising the collective agreement and associated documents.

The one off implementation costs and ongoing funding of this project have been built into the council's medium term financial plan. Within the plan there is a commitment that the ongoing costs will be met. The plan assumes that schools will not have to bear the cost of adopting the councils pay and grading structure.

A review of Chief Officers pay is planned to commence following the implementation of the new arrangement for Local Government Service Workers.

