



**CABINET
DECISION RECORDING LOG**

DECISION DETERMINED ON: 3rd SEPTEMBER 2014

DECISION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON: 12th SEPTEMBER 2014
(Subject to "Call-in" by appropriate Select Committee)

SUBJECT: REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2014/15 MONTH 3 OUTTURN FORECAST STATEMENT

DIVISION//WARD AFFECTED: ALL AUTHORITY

PURPOSE:

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the forecast outturn position of the Authority at the end of month 3 for the 2014/15 financial year.
2. It also seeks to review the quality of monitoring information so that Members can continue to have a confidence in its accuracy as a catalyst for change.

DECISION:

1. To consider the position concerning 1st quarter revenue monitoring and seek assurance of the action Chief Officers are taking to address the over spends in their service areas.
2. To consider the position concerning school balances and note the potential for in year withdrawal of school improvement grant by Welsh Government.

3. On an exception basis, to note the variances in approach and progress concerning the mandates identified in para 3.3.3, with a view to receiving further updates from those areas identified, or alternative proposals to achieve the original savings target.
4. To consider the position concerning 1st quarter capital monitoring, note the slippage identified in respect of Abergavenny library and 21st Century schools feasibility, and approve the use of capital receipts to finance the identified overspend.
5. To consider the review of financial monitoring, and conclude whether it remains an accurate management tool on which to identify financial performance.

REASONS:

To improve budget monitoring and forecasting information being provided to Senior Officers and Members.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

As contained in the report.

CONSULTEES:

Strategic Leadership Team
All Cabinet Members
All Select Committee Chairman
Head of Legal Services
Head of Finance

CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors G. Burrows, P. Fox, R. Greenland, E. Hackett Pain, P. Hobson, G. Howard and P. Murphy.

OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors D. Batrouni, R. Harris, s. Howarth, M. Powell, J. Prosser and V.E. Smith.

INTEREST DECLARED:

None

AUTHOR:

Mark Howcroft – Assistant Head of Finance

CONTACT DETAILS

Tel. 01633 644740

e-mail. markhowcroft@monmouthshire.gov.uk



**CABINET
DECISION RECORDING LOG**

DECISION DETERMINED ON: 3rd SEPTEMBER 2014

DECISION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON: 12th SEPTEMBER 2014
(Subject to "Call-in" by appropriate Select Committee)

SUBJECT: MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN and BUDGET PROCESS 2015/16 to 2018/19

DIVISION//WARD AFFECTED: WHOLE AUTHORITY

PURPOSE:

1. To highlight the context within which the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) will be developed for 2015/16 to 2018/19
2. To agree the assumptions to be used to update the MTFP, and provide an early indication of the level of budget savings to be found.
3. To agree the process for developing the MTFP and budget for 2015/16

DECISION:

- 2.1 That the budget assumptions outlined in paragraphs 3.7 to 3.11 in the report are agreed and updated during the budget process should better information become available.

2.2 That the budget process as outlined in paragraph 3.16 is adopted including member budget scrutiny and consultation conducted through all-member seminars, Member and Officer Working Groups, Community Engagement, Select, and Consultation meetings (for Business Rate purposes).

REASONS:

To ensure that short and medium term budgets are constructed to maximize available resources in favour of the Council's priorities and based on the best available knowledge of local and national funding and expenditure pressures.

To provide the opportunity for full and informed engagement, consultation on and scrutiny of budget proposals and processes.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Nil at this stage

CONSULTEES:

Strategic Leadership Team
All Cabinet Members
Head of Legal Services
Head of Finance

CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors G. Burrows, P. Fox, R. Greenland, E. Hackett Pain, P. Hobson, G. Howard and P. Murphy.

OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors D. Batrouni, R. Harris, S. Howarth, M. Powell, J. Prosser and V. Smith.

INTEREST DECLARED:

None

AUTHOR:

Joy Robson - Head of Finance

CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: 01633 644270

Email: joyrobson@monmouthshire.gov.uk



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

CABINET DECISION RECORDING LOG

DECISION DETERMINED ON: 3rd SEPTEMBER 2014

DECISION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON: 12TH SEPTEMBER 2014
(Subject to "Call-in" by appropriate Select Committee)

SUBJECT: CHILDREN'S SERVICE FINANCIAL STRATEGY

DIVISION//WARD AFFECTED: ALL

PURPOSE:

To propose a financial strategy for Children's Services, based on analysis of demand and statutory requirements to inform the Medium Term Financial Plan and ensure the continued viability and effectiveness of the service.

DECISION:

- 2.1 That Cabinet accept the findings and proposals in this report and reference them within the wider MTFP discussions
- 2.2 That a figure of £500k is required in the 2015/16 budget to establish a sustainable base budget for the service in the context of current and projected demand.
- 2.3 That Children's Services continue to actively pursue their practice improvement agenda to enable them to manage future demand
- 2.4 That the Children's Services budget continues to be monitored carefully during 2014/15 and managed within the overall budget of the authority, This to include a zero based budget exercise to ensure all aspects of the budget are examined..

REASONS:

4.1 The children's services budget continues to be under significant strain and this impacts on the whole authority's MTFP. The analysis underpinning this report was carried out to give an honest and accurate picture of the demands on the service.

4.2 Work is ongoing to improve effectiveness at a practice and organisational level. For example improving social work recruitment processes, building the skills and support available to foster carers to increase the range of children who can be supported and working with legal colleagues to improve timeliness and minimise costs.

4.3 Alongside this active improvement agenda this report proposes addressing the budgetary shortfall to establish a realistic budget for this key service area.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 The current budget position (month 3) is showing an overspend in children's services of £583,000. The analysis summarised above would suggest that this is a broadly realistic position. Simply stated the additional LAC demand since 2010 of £ 1.2m, plus additional related pressures would be in the region of £1.4m. Taking into account the additional uplifts of £900k during 2012/13 and 13/14 a figure of approx. £500k is arrived at.

5.2 There are additional pressures such as staffing but these are common to those experienced across other services and are being actively addressed. Therefore these should be borne by the service and separate business cases come forward as necessary.

5.3 Trends for LAC continue to be upward and an argument could be made for building in smaller additional figures into subsequent MTFP years. However the intense pressure on the Council's budget, the volatility of LAC figures and our focus on improving practice leads me to propose that we do not build additional resources in at this point

5.3 Consequently my recommendation as statutory director is that a base budget adjustment is made to place children's services on a firm footing to deliver their statutory duties.

CONSULTEES:

Senior Leadership Team
All Cabinet Members
Head of Legal
Head of Finance

CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors G. Burrows, P. Fox, R. Greenland, E. Hackett Pain, P. Hobson, G. Howard and P. Murphy.

OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors D. Batrouni, R. Harris, S. Howarth M. Powell, J. Prosser and V. Smith.

INTEREST DECLARED:

None

AUTHOR:

Simon Burch, Chief Officer Social Care and Health

CONTACT DETAILS:

E-mail: simonburch@monmouthshire.gov.uk



**CABINET
DECISION RECORDING LOG**

DECISION DETERMINED ON: 3rd SEPTEMBER 2014

DECISION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON: 12TH SEPTEMBER 2014
(Subject to "Call-in" by appropriate Select Committee)

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF REVIEW OF THE MANAGEMENT OF MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S PUBLIC CAR PARKS

DIVISION//WARD AFFECTED: COUNTYWIDE

PURPOSE:

To introduce changes to the Council's public car park facilities following a review of current arrangements and scrutiny of the proposals by the Economy and Development Select Committee.

DECISION:

1. That in car parks where charging is already in place the new schedule of car park charges provided in appendix 1, section 1 be implemented with the increase taking effect 28 days after publication of the relevant notice.
2. Subject to statutory consultation necessary to amend the car parking order and any amendments proposed thereafter, to be reported to Cabinet, that all other recommendations (excluding 1. mentioned above) be introduced as soon as practicable subject to specific timescales mentioned within the proposals.

(1) That charging of blue badge holders is introduced only when new pay machines are introduced into the relevant car parks and access to the machine nearest to the disabled bays is improved to facilitate disabled access.

(2) That charging in the Cinderhill St car park and Rowing club car park , Monmouth is not introduced until such time as additional free parking is provided by a new car park to be developed on the Rockfield Road (opposite the fire and ambulance stations).

3. That during the statutory consultation period officers investigate alternative methods of mitigation associated with blue badge holders.

4. That car parks be designated short stay or long stay and that the maximum parking period in a short stay car park be 4 hours with no return within 2 hours (with the exception of those choosing to pay the short stay all day charge).

5. That the statutory consultation process include for the introduction of a £1 daily charge from Monday to Saturday in Byefield Lane Car Park, Abergavenny.

REASONS:

The need for the review is outlined in the Economy and Development Select Committee report of the 14th July 2014 (Paragraph 4.5) but in summary the main issues are:

(1) Charges have not been reviewed for 7 years and the budget has overspent in recent years as actual income falls short of budget assumptions

(2) The needs of individual towns are diverse and can no longer be accommodated in a blanket strategy.

(3) The pay machines need renewing and the car parks generally need improvement.

The proposals within the report that have come from the review and the work undertaken by the select committee provide a new strategy for the provision of car parking by the authority that recognises the different needs of towns, provide incentives to shoppers and invests income raised through a new charging regime into improvements within the car parks.

4.2 Further consultation since the original report was commissioned has been undertaken with Town and community councils and chambers of commerce. Consultation on the proposals surrounding the introduction of charging for blue badge holders has also been undertaken with stakeholder groups with the original proposals in the February report being amended by July by way of mitigation.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Appendix 3 provides a schedule of the estimated financial impact of the various proposals listed in appendix 1. In many instances these costs are based upon current activity revised to reflect proposed changes to charges etc.

It should be noted that changes in parking behaviour caused by the changes will further impact upon the estimates. This creates a risk of variation from the financial forecast provided in appendix 3

If all proposals are implemented then the net financial benefit after recovering the deficit position is £37,788. If all aspects of the proposals are not approved then this will alter the financial forecast in appendix 3. For example any reduction in income may jeopardise investment proposals as the forecast is modelled on capital investment being funded by prudential borrowing funded by revenue income.

If the proposals are approved a further report to Council will be required to approve an amendment to the capital budget (members should note that £200,000 has already been approved in the capital budget for the development of the Granville St car park).

CONSULTEES:

SLT
Cabinet members

CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors G. Burrows, P. Fox, R. Greenland, E. Hackett Pain, P. Hobson, G. Howard and P. Murphy.

OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors D. Batrouni, R. Harris, S. Howarth, M. Powell, J. Prosser and V.E. Smith.

INTEREST DECLARED:

None

AUTHORS:

Roger Hoggins, Head of Operations
Debbie Jackson, Fleet Manager
Amanda Perrin, Car Park Manager

CONTACT DETAILS:

rogerhoggins@monmouthshire.gov.uk
debbiejackson@monmouthshire.gov.uk
amandaperrin@monmouthshire.gov.uk