



**CABINET
DECISION RECORDING LOG**

DECISION DETERMINED ON: 15TH OCTOBER 2014

DECISION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON: 24th OCTOBER 2014
(Subject to "Call-in" by appropriate Select Committee)

**SUBJECT: HOUSING & REGENERATION MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN PROJECT MANDATE –
INTEGRATED APPROACH TO HOUSING OPTIONS**

DIVISION//WARD AFFECTED: ALL AUTHORITY

PURPOSE:

To approve an in principal proposal to establish an integrated approach to Housing Options delivery with Torfaen County Borough Council and to establish a new Housing Solutions Service for Monmouthshire and Torfaen.

DECISION:

To adopt and approve the implementation of the proposal to deliver a combined Housing Solutions service for Monmouthshire and Torfaen, on a one year pilot basis. (Appendix 1 of the report).

REASONS:

The proposal supports the implementation of the Housing & Communities Medium Term Financial Plan project, as agreed by Cabinet on 8th January 2014 and helps the Council to prepare for the impending duty to prevent homelessness in April 2015 arising from the current Housing Bill, in particular to ensure the provision of 'reasonable steps' to prevent homelessness.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The project will save £55,000 over three years, including this financial year.

CONSULTEES:

Cabinet;
Senior Leadership Team;
Chair of Adults Select Committee;
People Management Advisor, Programme and Employee Services;
Unison;
Head of Housing – Torfaen County Borough Council;
Head of Finance.

Appendix 3 of report -Adults Select Committee has received specific reports on this proposal (10th December 2013, 18th March 2014 and 9th September 2014).

CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors D. Batrouni, S. Howarth and M. Powell.

INTEREST DECLARED:

None

AUTHOR:

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**CABINET
DECISION RECORDING LOG**

DECISION DETERMINED ON: 15TH OCTOBER 2014

DECISION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON: 24th OCTOBER 2014
(Subject to "Call-in" by appropriate Select Committee)

SUBJECT: EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE – GOVERNANCE CHANGES

DIVISION//WARD AFFECTED: ALL AUTHORITY

PURPOSE:

To endorse changes to the governance structure of the South East Wales Education Achievement Service.

DECISION:

1. To endorse a model of governance that captures the requirements of the Wales Government national model.
2. In addition to the requirement of the National Model, the current Joint Executive Group (terms of reference Appendix 3 of the report) be retained and that an Audit Committee for the Company (terms of reference Appendix 4 of the report) be established.
3. That a report will be brought to the next meeting of Council to:
 - a) agree two Council nominations to the Audit Committee (drawn from the Children and Young People Select Committee)
 - b) agree a replacement as a Council nominated Main Board Director given the intention of the Leader to stand down from this

Clarification to be obtained regarding end of paragraph 3.3 'The Executive Board will recommend to the EAS Board appropriate levels of remuneration for the managing director and top team and appoint or remove the Managing Director'.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

None.

CONSULTEES:

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Chief Executives of Newport, Torfaen, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent and Monmouthshire Local Authorities
- Leaders of Newport, Torfaen, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent and Monmouthshire Councils
- Consortium Directors of Education
- South East Wales Education Achievement Service
- Cabinet Members for Education across the five local authorities

CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors D. Batrouni, S. Howarth and M. Powell.

INTEREST DECLARED:

None

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**CABINET
DECISION RECORDING LOG**

DECISION DETERMINED ON: 15th OCTOBER 2014

DECISION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON: 24th OCTOBER 2014
(Subject to "Call-in" by appropriate Select Committee)

SUBJECT: SCHOOL LITERACY RESOURCE CENTRE

DIVISION//WARD AFFECTED: COUNTYWIDE

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to consider closing the School Literacy and Resource Centre Service..

DECISION:

1. To agree to close the School Literacy Resource Centre and end the loan service to schools in Monmouthshire and Torfaen to achieve the 2015/16 £20,000 saving in our base budget.
2. To agree to resource Monmouthshire's share of the costs, £194,786, associated with closing the service from reserve funding.
3. To agree to distribute Monmouthshire's portion of the resources including books, historical artefacts and religious resources to schools, museums, libraries and the Family Literacy Service in Monmouthshire. The sale or recycling of the book stock and shelving may generate a very small income to would be shared proportionally with Torfaen however, given the age of the stock this could not be guaranteed.

REASONS:

1. The withdrawal of Torfaen from the service and the lack of up-take for the SLA by Monmouthshire schools mean that service does not have access to sufficient funds to continue to operate. Monmouthshire's contribution to the service is £188,631 as identified above plus the removal costs of which we do not have the budget to cover.
2. This provision has been provided to schools free since its introduction. During the budget considerations for 2014-2015, this area was identified as being able to support the budget pressures going forward and the residual income has been included into the proposals.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

1. The closure of the savings will deliver a further £20,000.
2. There are the following additional expected costs should the closure go ahead:
 - Total costs of service including redundancy costs up until the end of December 2014 and premises costs to reinstate the building £188,924
 - Deficit reserve falling to MCC as the service did not get authorisation to go into deficit £ 90,573
 - Total estimated final costs £279,497
 - Payable by MCC as calculated using the SLA. **£188,631**
 - Payable by TBC £ 90,866

CONSULTEES:

School Budget Forum
Monmouthshire Schools
Torfaen Schools
Councillor Hacket-Pain
Monmouthshire Library Service
Education Achievement Service
SACRE
Staff
Trades Unions
Employment Services

CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors D. Batrouni, S. Howarth and M. Powell.

INTEREST DECLARED:

None

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**CABINET
DECISION RECORDING LOG**

DECISION DETERMINED ON: 15th OCTOBER 2014

DECISION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON: 24th OCTOBER 2014
(Subject to "Call-in" by appropriate Select Committee)

SUBJECT: INFORMING THE FUTURE OF CULTURAL SERVICES

DIVISION//WARD AFFECTED: ALL

PURPOSE:

To propose the commissioning of a critical piece of work to inform options and opportunities for the future of Monmouthshire County Council's cultural assets and attraction

DECISION:

1. To approve the need for a detailed examination of the options and opportunities to inform the future of Monmouthshire County Council's core cultural services and attractions;
2. To agree Invest to Redesign funds of up to £30,000 in commissioning an independent examination of the options and the development of a business strategy with which to support the model of future service delivery; and,
3. To approve that the piece of work is commissioned and completed within a six month timeframe, with updates to Economy and Development Select Committee in order that the service can begin implementation of findings in 2015/16

REASONS:

Informing the future of cultural services is critical because:

- The continuing turbulent economic climate means that the revenue funding available for the service will decline, rendering it unviable in a short period of time;
- The size of the backlog of capital investment, maintenance and repair is significant and will require external support and contributions;
- Many of the main capital and revenue funding opportunities available are not currently obtainable by public bodies such as Councils;
- New business models are required that require specialist approaches and knowledge of markets and not-for-profit entities;
- Customer and community expectations are shifting and improvements and developments are rightly expected. Customers care less about who runs services and more about what is delivered and the quality of outcomes;
- The scale of social, economic and environmental change over the next 5-10 years will be such that planning needs to begin now in order for us to foresee new challenges and develop appropriate solutions to them;
- Potential exists for new funding opportunities; to attract expert help, support and guidance and to secure new investment and growth options; and,
- A new business strategy is required, along with a new guiding philosophy and belief-set in order to achieve success

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

1. The major resource implication associated with this piece of work at this formative stage, is outlay of a maximum of £30,000 from the Invest to Redesign reserve to commission the independent appraisal and inform a new business strategy for cultural services. This figure is based upon costs for similar pieces of work in other local authorities and whilst it is less than that which is typically required, it is felt that a considerable amount of information and assessment exists already through the Development Trust and as such, the work can be undertaken within a £30k cost envelope. For monitoring and evaluation purposes, the cost allocation will be overseen by the Chief Officer and S151 Officer
2. The brief for the piece of work is currently in development and will be signed off by the Cabinet Member prior to release. The brief will specify that a business strategy emerges to include all aspects of financial planning, asset considerations, governance, structures and accountability along with a fully-costed business plan that is able to inform and shape medium-term delivery and apply itself to the stretching targets outlined in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. It is important that this piece of work is not undertaken by an employee of the Council since the need for impartiality and a fundamentally new and sustainable model of operational delivery, is the key outcome

CONSULTEES:

All Cabinet Members
Leadership Team
Monmouthshire Museums Development Trust
Head of Tourism, Leisure and Culture
Cultural Services teams

CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors D. Batrouni, S. Howarth and M. Powell.

INTEREST DECLARED:

None

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**CABINET
DECISION RECORDING LOG**

DECISION DETERMINED ON: 15th OCTOBER 2014

DECISION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON: 25th OCTOBER 2014
(Subject to "Call-in" by appropriate Select Committee)

SUBJECT: WRITTEN FEEDBACK REPORT FROM ESTYN MONITORING VISIT (2) JUNE 2014

DIVISION//WARD AFFECTED: ALL AUTHORITY

PURPOSE:

To provide Cabinet with information contained in the second regulatory report been received by the Authority since May 2013 and the arrangements to follow up on any recommendations made.

This report details all of the regulatory feedback that has been received by the authority as a result of the second Estyn Monitoring Visit in June 2014.

The regulatory report contains recommendations or proposals on areas of service delivery where the authority can make improvements.

DECISION:

1. That Cabinet takes note of the proposals included in this report and make plans to implement the findings.

2. To monitor the progress of work towards the recommendations contained within the report through the scrutiny of continued self-evaluation in the CYP Directorate.

REASONS:

To enable standards to be raised further and faster within the CYP Directorate.

CONSULTEES:

Strategic Leadership Team
All Cabinet Members

CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors D. Batrouni, S. Howarth and M. Powell.

INTEREST DECLARED:

None

AUTHOR:

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**CABINET
DECISION RECORDING LOG**

DECISION DETERMINED ON: 15th OCTOBER 2014

DECISION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON: 24th OCTOBER 2014
(Subject to "Call-in" by appropriate Select Committee)

SUBJECT: PEOPLE & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DRAFT STRATEGY 2014-17

DIVISION//WARD AFFECTED: COUNTYWIDE

PURPOSE:

To introduce the Draft People and Organisational Development Strategy 2014-17.

DECISION:

1. To approve the release of the draft People and Organisational Development Strategy to allow engagement and feedback from employees and communities, ahead of it being presented back to Cabinet for approval.
2. To endorse and promote the draft programme plan as a living document to be updated and refined as further evidence of need is established.

REASONS:

1. Our people are central to the success of our council and county. Against the backdrop of continued economic constraint, local government reform and a growing awareness of the areas in which to make sustained improvements – we must equip our people with the mind-sets and tools to meet the changing demands of our organisation and society.
2. Organisational culture impacts our ability to be innovative and forward thinking and we must create the conditions in which everyone is enabled to flourish.
3. Our workforce must be able to react and adapt as rapidly as the communities we serve. We want our people to be innovators and problem solvers, continually seeking and responding to challenges. One such challenge will be galvanising the talent that exists outside of our payroll. Our goal is to support talent development both within and outside of our organisation and to engage all the people with whom we can create value.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

There are no additional resource implications associated with this draft strategy at this stage, with all resource requirements in the interim being met from existing budgets. For any projects that cannot be subsequently be met from existing budget individual business cases will be developed.

CONSULTEES:

Cabinet
Senior Leadership Team
People Development Manager

CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors D. Batrouni, S. Howarth and M. Powell.

INTEREST DECLARED:

None

AUTHOR:

AUTHOR:

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**CABINET
DECISION RECORDING LOG**

DECISION DETERMINED ON: 15th OCTOBER 2014

DECISION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON: 24th SEPTEMBER 2014
(Subject to "Call-in" by appropriate Select Committee)

SUBJECT: VALE OF USK LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

DIVISION//WARD AFFECTED: ALL

PURPOSE:

To endorse and approve the draft Vale of Usk Local Development Strategy (LDS) for wider consultation with associated partners. The purpose of the LDS is to inform how the RDP funding for the 2014-2020 period will be spent.

DECISION:

1. To endorse and approve the draft Vale of Usk LDS for wider consultation with associated partners.
2. To provide in principle agreement to a 20% match funding contribution required to fund the RDP activities in the Monmouthshire wards, acknowledging that a level of budget provision already exists under the existing RDP.
3. To endorse the current Partnership with Newport City Council (NCC) and approve the extended partnership requirements requested by Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC), with MCC acting as Administrative Body.

REASONS:

1. To endorse and approve the draft Vale of Usk Local Development Strategy (LDS) for wider consultation with associated partners, with the LDS informing how RDP funding for the 2014-2020 period will be spent.
2. Investment in the new RDP programme has the potential to:
 - Make the area more connected in terms of rural programme identity and linking common assets for mutual benefit;
 - Provide more opportunity for communities to learn from each other with the opportunity for Monmouthshire as a mature rural development area to share lessons learnt as well as for Newport to trial new ideas and projects that Monmouthshire has never piloted;
 - Consolidate the significant investment that has taken place in Monmouthshire through previous rural development programmes and extend the reach in terms of physical and digital improvements and community led initiatives;
 - Recognise the value of countryside and landscape and how this connects rural and semi-urban places. This will be key in making the Vale of Usk area coherent and understanding how the environment can play a part in access, heritage, identity, mobility, tourism, exploration and realising local economic development initiatives; this is about whole place and community;
 - Place digital technology as a horizontal activity as a way to delivering smart, dynamic and enterprising communities and businesses whilst being underpinned by a training and mentoring culture.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

1. The RDP provides the authority with the means, through a 20% match funding contribution, to access a significant revenue grant funding opportunity. The proposed vision outlined in 3.7 above is consistent with the Authority's vision to build sustainable and resilient communities and is wholly aligned with the Whole Place approach.
2. This is a significant programme with a predicated £2.7m RDP funding provision based on a 5% EU funding allocation to LEADER activities. If the EU funding allocation was to be increased to 6% then the total funding will be £3.24m. The Authority anticipates WG confirmation of the funding levels in the coming months. The costs for administering and managing delivery of the programme amount to £675,000 on a 5% EU funding allocation (£810,000 at 6%) and are 100% funded.
3. The total programme for implementation amounts to £2.53m on a 5% EU funding allocation (£3.04m at 6%), with the Authority and NCC's funding packages amounting to £2.10m and £430,000 respectively (£2.52m and £516,000 respectively at 6%). WG/EU funds 80% of these costs, with constituent authorities match funding the remaining 20%. This would require a £420,315 match funding to be underwritten by MCC based on Monmouthshire's eligible wards. The remaining £85,935 will be underwritten by NCC. If the EU funding allocation was to be increased to 6% then the match funding elements rise to £504,378 (MCC) and £103,112 (NCC).

4. The revenue match funding contribution for MCC would be payable over the 7 year life of the 2014-2020 RDP programme. An estimated profile has been established that indicates that greater levels of expenditure will be incurred in the latter stages of the programme. The match funding contribution therefore peaks in year 7 at £116,754 (5%) or £140,105 (6%), with lower levels of match funding contribution being required in earlier years of the programme. Given that the average match funding contribution per annum of £60,045 (£72,054) falls within the existing 2014/15 revenue budget that exists to support the current programme it is proposed that a designated earmarked reserve is used to carry forward funding that would be required to fund the later years of the programme.
5. If TCBC are to join the partnership then the funding 'pot' would be expanded by a further £995,000 (5%) or £1,194,000 (6%). TCBC would then be required to underwrite the match funding of £175,588 or £210,706 respectively.
6. As explained the LDS is yet to be finalised and so are the budgets. A final version of the LDS will be submitted to the Cabinets of the respective administrations in the New Year, seeking approval for the required match funding contributions.

CONSULTEES:

Senior Leadership Team
Cabinet Members
Head of Legal Services
Vale of Usk LAG
Wider Monmouthshire and Newport Communities

CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors D. Batrouni, S. Howarth and M. Powell.

INTEREST DECLARED:

None

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