

**CABINET
DECISION RECORDING LOG**

DECISION DETERMINED ON: 17th JUNE 2015

DECISION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON: 26TH JUNE 2015
(Subject to "Call-in" by appropriate Select Committee)

SUBJECT: FUNDING FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES BUDGET INVESTMENT IN 2015/16

DIVISION//WARD AFFECTED: ALL

PURPOSE:

To identify one off savings in 2015/16 to fund the investment in Children's services approved at last Cabinet.

DECISION:

To approve the release of one off savings of £400k as identified in Appendix 1, noting the impact in the service areas.

REASONS:

To establish one off funding for the investment in Children's services in 2015/16.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Budgets identified in the Appendix will be vired to the Children's services budget for one year only. In 2016/17 the on going investment required in Children's services will be taken into account in the Medium Term Financial Plan.

CONSULTEES:

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

CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors P. Fox, R. Greenland, P. Hobson and P. Murphy.

OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors D. Batrouni, P. Jones, M. Powell and S. White.

INTEREST DECLARED:

None

AUTHOR:

Joy Robson – Head of Finance

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DECISION RECORDING LOG**

DECISION DETERMINED ON: 17th JUNE 2015

DECISION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON: 26TH JUNE 2015
(Subject to "Call-in" by appropriate Select Committee)

SUBJECT: EFFECTIVENESS OF COUNCIL SERVICES – QUARTER 4 UPDATE

DIVISION//WARD AFFECTED: ALL

PURPOSE:

1. To provide Cabinet with an update on how the authority performed against national performance indicators in 2014-15 and the latest refresh of the Cabinet Dashboard.
2. To ensure that Cabinet have available the latest data needed to inform future service improvement and are able to set targets for the coming year based on the latest available performance information.

DECISION:

1. That Cabinet use this report to help their continuous monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of services and the extent to which they are contributing to the council's priorities of the education of children, support for vulnerable people, promoting enterprise and job creation and maintaining locally accessible services.
2. That Cabinet approve the targets for measures in the national performance framework as shown in in appendix 1

REASONS:

To provide Cabinet with timely information to ensure that the authority is well-run and able to maximise its contribution to achieving the vision of building sustainable and resilient communities.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

None.

CONSULTEES:

Strategic Leadership Team
Cabinet

CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors P. Fox, R. Greenland, P. Hobson and P. Murphy.

OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors D. Batrouni, P. Jones, M. Powell and S. White.

INTEREST DECLARED:

None

AUTHOR:

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**CABINET
DECISION RECORDING LOG**

DECISION DETERMINED ON: 17th JUNE 2015

DECISION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON: 26TH JUNE 2015
(Subject to "Call-in" by appropriate Select Committee)

SUBJECT: A CITY DEAL FOR SOUTH EAST WALES

DIVISION//WARD AFFECTED: ALL AUTHORITY

PURPOSE:

To provide an update on recent work to attract a City Deal for South East Wales and to seek authority to be a partner in progressing towards the preparation of a formal City Deal proposal.

DECISION:

1. To agree that Monmouthshire should become an active partner in progressing a City Deal for South East Wales and participate in preparatory work that may / will lead to the negotiation of a City Deal with UK Government, Welsh Government and surrounding authorities.
2. To agree a sum of £30,300 to be taken from the Priority Investment Reserve as a contribution to an overall fund of £500,000 being established by the ten South East Wales Councils to take forward necessary specialist preparation of a detailed proposal over the next 18 months.
3. To agree to this report being presented to full Council on 26 June 2015 to ensure all Members are aware of this work and have an opportunity to debate it.
4. To update Cabinet / Council at appropriate times to enable Cabinet to decide whether they wish to remain part of this process.

REASONS:

1. The development of a successful proposal relies on agreement of a set of minimum objectives for participant areas. This means that there must be a minimum guaranteed outcome for all participant areas, typically in terms of access to job opportunities. To that end, the Infrastructure Fund created by a City Deal is required to invest according to a strict set of criteria. Essentially, eligible projects are evaluated against the net economic impact they would have on the City Deal area and also the contribution they would make towards meeting the agreed minimum objectives. The crucial requirement of city leaders therefore is to set, and agree with UK Government, the 'rules' by which the Infrastructure Fund invests. In many areas this has led to a drastic change to the order of priority for capital investment, and typically it has seen transport investment focus on projects that bring people and jobs closer together.
2. Overall the effective building blocks required by local authorities to deliver a coherent City Deal proposal include:
 - Agreeing appropriate and sound objectives and minimum outcomes
 - Identification of resources to support the development of the City Deal as well as to contribute to the overall fund and cover the cost of financing requirements
 - Operationally effective governance that also fits in with the UK Government's agenda in terms of the devolution of powers to city-regions
 - Effective tools for prioritisation that provide rigour to the expected levels of impact in terms of jobs and GVA, as well as reducing the risk that local authorities are exposed to in terms of meeting the required objectives to trigger payments from the UK Government
 - Functional economic geography consistent with effective decision making and ensuring that a scale where net impact can be maximised
 - An element of local financial risk taking that shows the commitment of partners.
3. The scale of impact anticipated from some of the largest deals is significant:
 - Greater Manchester's £2.75bn Transport Fund is expected to deliver up to £3.6bn in annual GVA and 37,000 jobs;
 - Leeds City Region's £1.45bn Transport Fund is expected to deliver up to £2.6bn in annual GVA and 23,000 jobs;
 - Glasgow City Region's £1.13bn fund is expected to deliver up to £2.2bn in annual GVA and 28,000 jobs.

Governance Arrangements

4. Effective local partnership/governance arrangements are at the heart of successful City Deals and will determine the extent to which Government is prepared to invest in a locality. The deals agreed by Government to date have been based on a variety of approaches reflecting local circumstances. The largest deals have clearly been achieved where the strongest local partnership arrangements exist and in most cases these have been local authority led. That is the case for both Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire, the largest of the City Deals in England, and is the case for Glasgow.

5. In all cases, the private sector has had an important role to play. Inherently, local business is at the heart of the concept of a City Deal. City Deals are intended to grow the local economy, to increase GVA, by providing the infrastructure for business to flourish. It is therefore imperative to engage with local business in shaping priorities and supporting delivery. More to the point, the public sector funding provided to deliver key infrastructure projects will always require significant private sector investment.
6. The potential scale of the deal will rely on many factors including the extent of match funding contributions available from local sources and the appetite for taking risk. In terms of potential, based on a pro-rata calculation of the Glasgow deal, to achieve the same percentage of GVA uplift (5%) it would require an infrastructure fund in the region of £800m.
7. The initial stage is to submit an outline proposal to the UK Government that will provide a high-level proposition, outlining the key aims and objectives of the Deal, and an initial summary of proposed governance arrangements. This will represent only the start of a detailed process that is likely to take up to 12 – 18 months to complete. It will require a significant level of technical expertise in developing appropriate economic modelling tools by which projects and programmes can be prioritised.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

1. The process involved in getting to a final submission is resource intensive and will require participating partners to support the allocation of a number of staff and a budget for the provision of appropriate specialist advice.
2. A key factor in determining the scale and scope of City Deals has been the level of maturity of existing partnership/governance arrangements. There seems to be a clear correlation between the scale of funds negotiated and the level of local trust and co-operation that can be demonstrated to be in place.
3. In the South East Wales context, it is clear there will need to be a significant role for Welsh Government in taking forward a City Deal proposal not least to ensure adequate funding is available to match any new monies provided by Central Government. There may also be a role for EU funding as part of the mix.
4. In all cases, the business community has played a role in the City Deal process. In some cases local business has led the process through Local Enterprise Partnerships. The larger agreements have been led by consortia of local government, strongly supported in close partnership by the local business community.
5. The latest and largest Deals have required a significant element of local risk taking both in terms of the 'Payment by Results' approach and a requirement for local capital investment. The Payment by Results approach potentially introduces cash-flow consequences in terms of upfront costs being locally funded in advance of any Government contribution which is dependent on agreed outcomes being achieved.
6. At this initial stage, an allocation of £30,300 as a contribution to a wider funding pool of £500k to enable preparatory work. This work will move a 'high level concept' to a 'detailed proposal'. Cabinet are not at this point committing beyond participating in this necessary preparatory work.

CONSULTEES:

Strategic Leadership Team
All Cabinet Members
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Bridgend County Borough Council
Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cardiff City Council
Merthyr County Borough Council
Newport City Council
Torfaen County Borough Council
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council

CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors P. Fox, R. Greenland, P. Hobson and P. Murphy.

OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors D. Batrouni, P. Jones, M. Powell and S. White.

INTEREST DECLARED:

None

AUTHOR:

Paul Matthews – Chief Executive

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