



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

CABINET DECISION RECORDING LOG

DECISION DETERMINED ON: Wednesday, 6 January 2016

**DECISION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON: 15th January 2016
(Subject to "Call-in" by appropriate Select Committee)**

DECISION 1

SUBJECT: Annual Improvement report and Corporate Assessment

DIVISION/WARD AFFECTED: All

PURPOSE:

To provide Cabinet with the published Annual Improvement Report 2014-15, incorporating the Corporate Assessment.

DECISION:

1. That Cabinet receive the Wales Audit Office Annual Improvement Report 2014-15
2. That Cabinet consider the current position against proposals for improvement in the report and agree the future actions committed in response to the proposals.

REASONS:

To ensure that the authority makes arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions and is able to maximise its contribution to delivering the council's priorities of education of young people, support for vulnerable people; enterprise and job creation and maintaining locally accessible services.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Actions within the report are to be delivered within existing resources. Any more detailed proposals that are developed in response to this report, and which have resource requirements, will require a separate decision.

CONSULTEES:

Senior Leadership Team
Cabinet

INTEREST DECLARED

None

AUTHOR:

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DECISION 2

SUBJECT: Revenue and Capital Budget 2016/17- Final proposals following public consultation

DIVISION/WARD AFFECTED: All

PURPOSE:

1. To update Cabinet with the consultation responses to the budget proposals issued by them on the 7th October 2015 and 3rd December 2015 in respect of the Capital and Revenue budgets.
2. To update members with implications arising from the provisional Settlement announcement of the Welsh Government.
3. To make recommendations to Council on the Capital and Revenue budgets and level of Council Tax for 2016/17.
4. To receive the Responsible Financial Officer's Prudential Indicator calculations for capital financing.
5. To receive the statutory report of the Responsible Financial Officer on the budget process and the adequacy of reserves.

DECISION:

1. That Cabinet considers the responses to consultation and recommends to Council:
 - The 2016/17 revenue budget as attached in Appendix I
 - The 2016/17 to 2019/20 capital programme as attached in Appendix J1, including the revisions to the 21st century schools programme highlighted in paragraph 3.28.
 - That 4.95% increase in the Band "D" equivalent Council Tax for the County continues to be used as the planning assumption in the budget model to apply for County purposes in 2016/17.
2. That Cabinet approves the necessary saving proposals and the release of £1.402 million from earmarked reserves to deliver the changes required and support the 2016/17 revenue and capital budget.
3. That Cabinet approves the draft response to Welsh Government on the provisional settlement.
4. That Cabinet recommends Council to dispose of assets identified in the exempt background paper at best value.
5. That Cabinet considers the Responsible Financial Officers report on the robustness of the budget process and the adequacy of reserves issued under the provisions of

the Local Government Act, 2003.

6. That Cabinet adopts the Responsible Financial Officers report on Prudential Indicators.
7. That Cabinet formally notes that the Schools based budgets are currently protected at cash flat line.
8. That Cabinet approves the following:
 - Further work is undertaken to develop a balanced MTFP over the 3 year period 2017/18 to 2019/20
 - Regular review of the MTFP to ensure it remains up to date

REASONS:

1. To make appropriate recommendations to Council on the revenue and capital budgets for 2016/17, and the resultant Council Tax recommended to be set for County purposes, subject to the results of the public consultation in early January.
2. To sustain the Capital programme and establish capital resources to support the 21st century schools programme by the sale of surplus assets.
3. As required by statute, to consider the Responsible Financial Officers provisional conclusions on the robustness on the budget process and the adequacy of reserves going forward.
4. To approve the Prudential Capital Indicators calculated by the Responsible Financial Officer.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

As identified within the report and appendices.

CONSULTEES:

Cabinet
Strategic Leadership Team

INTEREST DECLARED

None

AUTHOR:

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DECISION 3

SUBJECT: Review of the authorities fees and charges proposed for inclusion within the 2016-17 budget

DIVISION/WARD AFFECTED: All

PURPOSE:

To review all fees and charges made for services across the Council and identify proposals for amending them in advance of the 2016/17 financial year.

DECISION:

1. That the proposed fees and charges for 2016/17 identified for each type of chargeable service made, as outlined in Appendix 1, be adopted.
2. That the increase in charges takes effect at a date no later than 1st April 2016, with any pressures resulting from increases taking place after this date to be managed by Chief Officers within their respective directorate budget allocations.
3. That Chief Officers effectively manage the budget pressures highlighted by services not increasing charges in line with the 2.5% increase assumed in the 2016-20 MTFP. Consideration should also be given to the cost effectiveness and administrative costs that result from implementing small increases to existing charges.

REASONS:

1. To identify the charges to be adopted for 2016/17 financial year.
2. To ensure that resultant pressures are also identified in order to allow them to be managed by Chief Officers within their respective directorate budgets.
3. To identify scope for increasing charges beyond the 2.5% increase modelled in the draft revenue budget proposals, or to consider charging where there is scope to charge for services for which there is currently no charging regime.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

1. Charges included in this report are consistent with final budget proposals being put before Council during the January cycle.
2. Some charges cannot be increased in line with the medium-term financial planning assumption of 2.5%, as a result of there being specific restrictions imposed on the level of charges. Some income budgets are also suffering strain during 2015/16 and it is anticipated that this pressure will carry into 2016/17. The above pressures and other smaller pressures, as outlined in appendix 1, will need to be managed within directorates' 2016/17 revenue budget proposals and as part of the ongoing budget setting process. Currently this pressure is forecast as £96,000 and predominantly affects Operations Directorate most notably, school meals, cap parks and passenger transport.
3. Any other budget pressures that may be generated as a result of fees and charges identified by the MTFP model (and subsequently being increased by 2.5% by the

model) not being contained in appendix 1, possibly as a result of them not falling within a charging regime, will also need to be managed within directorates' 2016/17 revenue budget proposals.

CONSULTEES:

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

INTEREST DECLARED

None

AUTHOR:

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DECISION 4

SUBJECT: ICT in Schools - Update to the Business Case

DIVISION/WARD AFFECTED: None

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to update cabinet on the ICT in schools business case and the number of schools signing up to the ongoing SLA agreement with the SRS.

DECISION:

That cabinet agree to continue with the phase 1 investment to upgrade ICT infrastructure in schools in the light of 3 schools declining to enter into the SLA agreement with the SRS.

REASONS:

1. The Outline business case was agreed on the basis that all schools will sign up to an ongoing SLA agreement with the SRS. All but 3 schools have signed up, and indications are that one school is to remain closed next year.
2. A recalculation of the SLA agreement has been undertaken to ensure it is still viable in the light of 3 schools not signing up to the agreement. This recalculation has indicated that the SLA is viable and it recommended that the programme of upgrading the ICT infrastructure proceeds.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The resource implications are outlined in the report in paragraph 3.6. There are no changes to the resources required for this project.

CONSULTEES:

SLT
All MCC schools
the SRS

INTEREST DECLARED

None

AUTHOR:

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DECISION 5

SUBJECT: Consultation Report on Proposed Closure of Llanfair Kilgeddin VA CIW Primary School

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the report is to inform the outcome of the consultation on the proposed closure of Llanfair Kilgeddin Voluntary Aided Church in Wales Primary School.

DECISION:

To consider the attached consultation report and agree to publish the proposal in the form of Statutory Notice on the closure of Llanfair Kilgeddin Voluntary Aided Church in Wales Primary School.

REASONS:

The consultation report represents the Council's responsibility as part of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to publish a consultation report and:

- Summarises each of the issues raised by consultees.
- Responds to these issues.

- Sets out Estyn's view of the overall merits of the proposal.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

1. The consultation process will be built into the present work programme of officers within Children and Young People Directorate.
2. At the time of the Inspection Estyn recorded the cost to educate the pupils on roll at the school was £5928
3. The home to school transport costs for the existing pupils currently cost £25,650. This figure also includes additional transport costs for the pupils relocating to other Monmouthshire schools.
4. The revenue savings that could be realised if the school were to close amounts to approx. £71,220.
5. Taking into account the additional transport costs per annum as in 5.3 above and the revenue savings outlined in 5.4 above the overall savings to close the school are £45,570.
6. Capital Receipts will not be realised from the sale of land and buildings as they belong to Monmouth Diocesan Trust.

CONSULTEES:

Cabinet Members
DMT
SLT

INTEREST DECLARED

County Councillor R. Greenland declared a personal and prejudicial interest, as a school governor (not LEA appointed). County Councillor Greenland left the meeting during discussion of the item.

AUTHOR:

Debbie Morgan

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DECISION 6

SUBJECT: Consultation Report on proposal to establish and additional learning needs (ALN) Facility and make an alteration to the schools capacity at Monmouth Comprehensive School

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the report is to inform the outcome of the consultation on the proposal to establish an additional learning needs (ALN) Facility and make an alteration to the schools capacity at Monmouth Comprehensive School.

DECISION:

To consider the attached consultation report and agree to publish the proposal in the form of Statutory Notices to:-

- (i) Make a prescribed alteration to the capacity of Monmouth Comprehensive School from 1671 to 1600 places
- (ii) Establish an Additional Learning Needs facility at the school.

REASONS:

The consultation report represents the Council’s responsibility as part of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to publish a consultation report and:

- Summarises each of the issues raised by consultees.
- Responds to these issues.
- Sets out Estyn’s view of the overall merits of the proposal.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

1. The continuation of the process will be built into the present work programme of officers within Children and Young People Directorate.
2. The total capital investment for the additional learning needs facility is £1.2 million which has already been secured as part of the 21st century Schools funding, with 50% coming from Welsh Government.
3. The table below provides examples of the cost of resource base provision compared with special school provision were Monmouthshire pupils are placed.

Example Placement Costs	Pupil numbers	Average cost per pupil
Example of resource base provision in county £406,521	75	£5,420.28
Example of resource base provision in county Less Average Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) £264,965	75	£3,532
Example of Special School placement (Out of county) £41,3136	15	£27,542
AWPU (teaching element	Ages	£1,823.43

only) Secondary	11-14	
	Ages 14 – 16	£2,063.36

As can be seen from above there is a substantial saving in placing children within our own Authority's schools. The funding for the revenue costs for the unit will be generated by saving on out of county placements as the pupils will be educated within Monmouth. Full savings will not be generated in the 1st year and will be over a number of years as pupils are placed in the unit. However there will be corresponding savings within staffing costs.

4. The funding for the 21st century schools programme has been agreed on the basis of the new school having a capacity of 1600 and a 55 place ALN facility.

CONSULTEES:

Cabinet Members
DMT
SLT

INTEREST DECLARED

None

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DECISION 7

SUBJECT: Changing Practice, Changing Lives in Children's Services

DIVISION/WARD AFFECTED: All

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval for a 3 year Service and Financial Plan for Children's Social Services which will form part of the overarching Social Care and Health transformation programme, *Changing Practice, Changing Lives*.

DECISION:

That the 3 year Children and Young People Services and Financial Plan be approved by Cabinet.

REASONS:

Children Social Services in Monmouthshire County Council have been focussed on improving practice and performance for a number of years. Considerable progress has been made, particularly in improving performance against priority performance indicators and addressing the recommendations of the CSSIW review of children's social services which was undertaken in November 2014.

It is critical that the improvements made are: embedded sustainably in practice and commissioning; are delivered by a permanent children's services workforce which is confident in practice who can access a range of evidence based support options which can achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people; and are delivered within the budget for the service set by the Council.

Since April 2015, numbers of looked after children have risen and the service is operating with a significant agency workforce due to a combination of vacancies and absence. These are the predominant reasons for net projected overspend in 2015/16 month 6 of £986K (adjusted for £115K reserve funding).

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The absolute priority is a robust medium term (3 year) service and financial plan which is based on informed analysis, projections of need and evidence of what works. Delivery of the plan needs to be driven by social work practice which is modern, evidence based, underpinned by a principle of intervening at the earliest opportunity and agreeing outcomes which with children, young people.

CONSULTEES:

Senior Leadership Team

INTEREST DECLARED

None

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DECISION 8

SUBJECT: Abergavenny Town Centre Loan -Loan Application

DIVISION/WARD AFFECTED: Bryn-y-Cwm

PURPOSE:

1. To seek Cabinet's endorsement of the Abergavenny Town Centre Loan Board's recommendation.
2. To seek Cabinet's endorsement to amend the Terms of Reference of the Abergavenny Town Centre Loan Board to include appropriate representation on the Board at a local level.

DECISION:

1. To endorse the Abergavenny Town Centre Loan Board's recommendation to award a loan (subject to conditions within the report).
2. To endorse the amendment of the Terms of Reference of the Abergavenny Town Centre Loan Board to add a representative from Abergavenny Town Council to the Abergavenny Town Centre Loan Board.

REASONS:

1. To return back into use a derelict building that would greatly enhance the physical appearance of the area thereby encouraging further private sector investment and employment opportunities.
2. To ensure local representation within the Abergavenny Town Centre Loan Board in the identification and recommendation of appropriate schemes.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The Council is releasing £91,228.81 of the Welsh Government's Vibrant and Viable Places funding in the form of a loan for the refurbishment of a property in Cross Street, Abergavenny. The loan will need to be repaid by the applicants subject to the loan conditions.

CONSULTEES:

All Cabinet Members
Leadership team
Head of Community Delivery
Head of Legal Services
Local Member for Abergavenny

INTEREST DECLARED

None

AUTHOR:

Stephen Griffiths

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DECISION 9

SUBJECT: Welsh Church Fund Working Group

DIVISION/WARD AFFECTED: All Wards

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2015/1, meeting 3 held on 19th November 2015.

DECISION:

We resolved that the following grants be awarded to:

SCHEDULE OF APPLICATIONS 2015/16 – MEETING 3.

(1) Jonathon Griffiths requested £500 to assist in the undertaking of doctoral studies in the Classics at Heidelberg

Recommendation – £500 was awarded to assist in facilitating outstanding educational achievement.

(2) Amelia Seren Roberts requested £500 to assist in completing a Fine Arts Masters degree at Cardiff University.

Recommendation - £500 awarded to assist in facilitating outstanding educational achievement.

(3) Sarah Bray requested £500 to assist in completing a Management Marketing Masters at Swansea University.

Recommendation - £500 awarded to assist in facilitating outstanding educational achievement.

(4) Pandy Hall Management Committee requested £1,000 towards the cost of providing community playground equipment for Pandy Village Hall.

Recommendation - £1,000 was awarded to assist in the provision of community playground equipment where no facility currently exists.

(5) Hereford MS Therapy Centre requested £500 to assist in the provision of MS therapy treatments for residents of Monmouthshire that are treated in Herefordshire.

Recommendation - £500 was awarded for assisting in providing therapeutic treatments to verified residents of Monmouthshire.

(6) Rockfield Parochial Church Council requested £1,000 to assist in the replacement of pathways within the church grounds to assist in the access / egress of disabled persons and improvement of a public right of way

Recommendation – £1,000 was awarded to upgrade pathways for both disabled and

general public ease of use.

(7) Caldicot Methodist Church requested £1,000 to help install anti-bird roosting measures and repair damage to the church already caused by bird fouling.

Recommendation – This application was deferred for further information in regard to Caldicot Town Councils remedial action in regard to the general bird fouling for all residents and businesses of Caldicot town Centre

(8) Raglan Village Hall and Recreation Association (RHVA) require £575 to assist in running a community engagement exercise to assess the needs of the community in the development of the Raglan Community Hub.

Recommendation – an award of £575 was made to assist in the running of the community engagement exercise to establish the priorities and needs of this newly established community self-help group.

REASONS:

A meeting took place on Thursday, 19th November 2015 of the Welsh Church Fund Cabinet Working Group to recommend the payment of grants as detailed in the attached schedule and to confirm administrative procedures for the financial year 2015/16.

County Councillors in attendance:

County Councillor B. Strong (Chairman)
County Councillor A.E. Webb
County Councillor D. Evans

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

D. Jarrett Central Finance Officer
P. Harris Democratic Services Officer

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

A total of £4,575 was allocated at meeting 3 of the Welsh Church Fund Committee, Thus, the remaining budget for 2015/16 financial year is £16,259.

CONSULTEES:

Senior Leadership Team
All Cabinet Members
Head of Legal Services
Head of Finance
Central Management Accountant

INTEREST DECLARED

None

AUTHOR:

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