



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

CABINET DECISION RECORDING LOG

DECISION DETERMINED ON: Wednesday, 2 March 2016

**DECISION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON: 11 March 2016
(Subject to “Call-in” by appropriate Select Committee)**

CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors G. Burrows, P.A. Fox, R.J.W. Greenland, E. Hackett Pain, P.A.D. Hobson and P. Murphy

OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors D. Batrouni, A. Easson, R. Harris, J. Higginson, S. Howarth, V. Smith and B. Strong

DECISION 1

SUBJECT: MCC Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020

DIVISION/WARD AFFECTED: All Wards

PURPOSE:

The Equality Act 2010 was introduced in April 2011 and within its specific duties is the requirement to publish the Council’s Equality Objectives within a Strategic Equality Plan (SEP). This is the Council’s second SEP replacing the version 2012 – 2016 on the 1st April 2016.

DECISION:

To recommend this plan to Council.

REASONS:

The Council’s first SEP (2012 – 2016) concentrated on getting the foundations for Equality and Diversity in place in Monmouthshire. Having done that this second SEP focuses on making a difference to people across the county.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

There are no significant resource implications within the SEP.

CONSULTEES:

Monmouthshire Inclusion Group, GAVO, CAIR, Twitter, Facebook.

INTEREST DECLARED

None

AUTHOR:

Alan Burkitt, Policy Officer Equalities and Welsh Language

CONTACT DETAILS

E-mail: alanburkitt@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01633 644010

DECISION 2

SUBJECT: Welsh Language Standards - Appeal

DIVISION/WARD AFFECTED: All Wards

PURPOSE:

To provide Cabinet with a copy of Monmouthshire's Welsh Language Standards Appeals document which needs to be submitted to the Welsh Language Commissioner by the deadline of the 30th March 2016.

DECISION:

That Cabinet approve the appeal document prior to submission to the Welsh Language Commissioner.

REASONS:

1. To ensure that people who wish to receive a service through the medium of Welsh are treated no less favourably than those who wish to use English while minimising the financial pressures on the council's budgets.
2. To ensure that the Council is able to comply with section 44 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 while minimising the financial costs of meeting the standards.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The resource implications were dealt with in the report of 2nd December. This report carries no further resource implications.

CONSULTEES:

Senior Leadership Team
Cabinet

INTEREST DECLARED

None

AUTHOR:

Alan Burkitt, Policy Officer Equalities and Welsh Language

CONTACT DETAILS

E-mail: alanburkitt@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01633 644010

DECISION 3

SUBJECT: Recycling Review

DIVISION/WARD AFFECTED: All Wards

PURPOSE:

For Cabinet to approve the proposed way forward for recycling collections in Monmouthshire.

DECISION:

Cabinet recommended that:

- I. The principles of the existing collection service of dry recycling materials (red & purple scheme) be continued given the lack of a strong evidence base on the *necessity* to change the collection method for all dry recycling materials;
- II. A robust 6 month pilot is undertaken on *separating glass* at kerbside (option 2);
- III. The pilot results to be reviewed by Recycling Review Member Steering Group, Select Committee and Cabinet and appropriate regulatory bodies prior to proceeding with full implementation following the trial period and adjust collection methodology if necessary;
- IV. The Scottish model (explained in para. 23 below) is reviewed through the pilot period;
- V. That food and garden waste kerbside collections will be split, with food waste to be treated via AD and garden waste via open window; and
- VI. The Council, recognising it is not currently *necessary* to adopt the default position for the WFD requirements for '*separate collections*' keep the service continually under review to ensure that compliance and best environmental and economic outcomes are being

achieved.

REASONS:

MCC needs to replace the fleet over 2016-18. Procuring vehicles commits the service for at least 7 years. Therefore MCC needs to ensure its service is future proofed both in terms of public acceptability, financial affordability, environmental performance and legal compliance.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

There are no immediate financial implications. The MTFP for 2016/17 highlighted the need to replace some of the existing fleet, this will be done hiring in vehicles for the duration of this pilot prior to full implementation.

Whilst indications on savings have been referenced in the report no figures for savings feature within the current MTFP as it would be premature to do so. The figures provided do not also take fully into account the capital investment required (e.g. it includes depot cost but not one off purchase of bags/boxes). However if a change was proposed the Business Case, in line with the principles on capital investment would need to explore the implications of using any savings to enable borrowing to fund this capital expenditure.

CONSULTEES:

Strong Communities Select Committee

The Committee considered the proposal for a pilot to separate glass at its meeting on 28th January. Members were in favour of maintaining the existing scheme believing it to be high performing and importantly well-liked by our public. Members asked that officers review whether glass could be collected in a plastic bag rather than a box or reusable bag. The market however has determined that it wants glass presented loose which restricts collection options.

National Resources Wales

NRW are the monitoring/regulatory body on behalf of WG for compliance with the Waste Framework Directive. The Select Committee report which informed this report was sent to them for comment. No concerns were raised about the proposal. NRW have advised that the Council needs to continually look at the end destination data albeit recognising that there are current data limitations and caveats.

They have asked that officers share the trial results with them for further review.

Welsh Government

The lead officer for waste within WG was sent the Select Committee report and no response has been received.

WRAP

MCC has worked closely with WRAP on the economic modelling. WRAP submitted MCC officers with a report which has been received but not accepted as we disagree on their calculations for option 3 – kerbside sort. This was shared with Members of Strong Communities Select Committee and they were content for MCC's analysis to be taken forward believing it to be robust and realistic.

Public

A public consultation and satisfaction survey was undertaken over January 2016. At the time of writing this report the results had not been analysed but an addendum to the report will be presented to Cabinet on the day.

Interested Stakeholders

Interested stakeholders (Friends of the Earth, Transition Groups, and key partners) were invited to a meeting with MCC officers to discuss the proposals. There was broad acceptance of the process and the recommendation for a pilot. There are some strong views in our community for the Council to adopt kerbside sort believing it to be more environmental beneficial. The report was also shared with Viridor, MCC's strategic waste and recycling delivery partner. They have advised on the appropriateness of the existing transfer stations and what they can or cannot accommodate. They have advised on end markets and managing glass and will also be engaged through our CA Contract review and closer integration to the Blueprint on its CA site requirements.

INTEREST DECLARED

None

AUTHOR:

Rachel Jowitt, Head of Waste & Street Services

CONTACT DETAILS

E-mail: racheljowitt@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01633 748326

DECISION 4

SUBJECT: Play Opportunities Review

DIVISION/WARD AFFECTED: All Wards

PURPOSE:

To consider a future delivery model for staffed play provision.

DECISION:

To approve the proposed future delivery model for staffed play provision.

REASONS:

"Wales: A Play Friendly Country" is Statutory Guidance to Local Authorities on assessing for and securing, as far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient play opportunities for children in their area by addressing the defined measures set out in legislation.

The provision of sufficient play opportunities for children contributes to the Single Integrated Plan themes that People are Confident, Capable and Involved and Our County Thrives; supporting families to benefit from positive environments to nurture their children to grow, develop and prosper; and access to flexible and appropriate play opportunities.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

1. There is currently no dedicated budget for play. Existing staffed play provision (excluding the Bulwark scheme which is funded by Chepstow Town Council) is funded via contributions from ten Town and Community Councils (in 15/16 contributing £30K), income from charges (in 15/16, £52K), and Families First access grant money (in 15/16, £20K and confirmed in principle for 16/17) to enable children with disabilities to access mainstream play schemes. However despite this funding and income generation the current provision has an unfunded element (in 15/16 of circa £40 -50K), principally staffing costs, which is being absorbed by leisure services and impacting negatively on their trading position.
2. Given the reliance on Town and Community Council funding and ongoing discussions with other potential partners it is not possible at this stage to present a budget for the future delivery model but the clear principle will be that the unfunded element is not sustainable and that the community based staffed play element will need to be self-supporting.

CONSULTEES:

Children & Young People's Select (12 November 2015 & 14 January 2016)
Cabinet
SLT
Head of Tourism & Leisure
Policy & Partnerships Team
Finance

INTEREST DECLARED

None

AUTHOR:

Matthew Lewis, Countryside Manager

CONTACT DETAILS

E-mail: matthewlewis@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01633 644855

DECISION 5

SUBJECT: Monmouthshire Local Development Plan Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance

DIVISION/WARD AFFECTED: All Wards

PURPOSE:

1. To advise Cabinet of the results of the recent consultation on Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on Affordable Housing to support the policies of the Monmouthshire Local Development Plan (LDP).
2. To seek Cabinet's endorsement of the SPG, with a view to it being formally adopted as SPG in connection with the Monmouthshire LDP and to recommend to Council accordingly.

DECISION:

To endorse the SPG with a view to it being formally adopted as SPG in connection with the Monmouthshire LDP to take effect from 1 April 2016 and to recommend to Council accordingly. In respect to commuted sums for off-site affordable housing provision, these would apply to planning applications registered as valid on or after 1 April 2016.

REASONS:

Under the Planning Act (2004) and associated Regulations, all local planning authorities are required to produce a LDP. The Monmouthshire LDP was adopted on 27 February 2014 and decisions on planning applications are now being taken in accordance with policies and proposals in the LDP. The Affordable Housing SPG provides further explanation and guidance on the way in which the affordable housing policies of the LDP will be implemented.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

1. Officer time and costs associated with the publication of the SPG document. These will be within the existing Planning Policy budget.
2. A new funding stream will arise from processes introduced in association with the Affordable Housing SPG. LDP Policy S4, Affordable Housing, makes provision for financial contributions to be required to assist in funding affordable housing in the County where residential developments do not meet the thresholds for providing such housing on site. In addition, a process is set out in the SPG for requiring financial contributions in the exceptional circumstances where it is not appropriate or feasible to provide affordable housing on site.

CONSULTEES:

Head of Planning
Senior Strategy & Policy Officer, Housing & Communities
Strong Communities Select (16 July 2015)
Cabinet
SLT
Planning Committee (1st March 2016)

INTEREST DECLARED

None

AUTHOR:

Martin Davies, Planning Policy Manager

CONTACT DETAILS

E-mail: martindavies@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01633 644826

DECISION 6

SUBJECT: Proposed Allocation of Enterprise Redundancy costs to Reserves

DIVISION/WARD AFFECTED: All Wards

PURPOSE:

To request member approval to use reserve funding to meet redundancy costs incurred by the Enterprise Directorate in 15/16.

DECISION:

That the redundancy costs of £580,698 incurred in 2015/16 by the Enterprise Directorate are funded through the Redundancy and Pensions reserves.

REASONS:

1. The redundancies have arisen out of reports agreed by Cabinet entitled Building the establishment and capacity for Enterprise (5th November 2014), Implementation of Community Hubs and Contact Centre (4th March 2015) and Implementation of the re-structure of the Community Learning department (July 2015).
2. The redundancies incurred are a mix of voluntary and compulsory redundancies and will enable the services to meet budget savings of £300,000 through the creation of community hubs, £216,000 reduction in staff costs in Community Learning and £25,000 saving in Leisure. The loss of the two posts in Estates has enabled the creation of a dedicated Cemeteries Officer and a Markets and Facilities Officer with overall oversight of Abergavenny Town Hall.
3. The Cabinet reports highlighted in 4.1 identified that there would be redundancy costs, however these were unknown at the start of the various processes as the costs are unique to the individuals concerned. Given that service areas budgets have been reduced to reflect budget mandate targets they do not have the capacity to meet the budget savings and the redundancy costs.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The redundancy costs which have or will be incurred in implementing staffing re-structures to meet budget mandates and or reducing income is £580,698.

The annual recurring saving as a result of this one off cost is £541,000.

CONSULTEES:

SLT
Cabinet Members

INTEREST DECLARED

None

AUTHOR:

Debra Hill-Howells, Head of Community Led Delivery

CONTACT DETAILS

E-mail: debrahill-howells@momouthshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01633 644281

DECISION 7

SUBJECT: Monmouthshire County Council Youth Service - European Structural Fund (ESF) Programmes: Inspire2Achieve and Inspire2Work

DIVISION/WARD AFFECTED: All Wards

PURPOSE:

1. To propose the implementation of Inspire2Achieve and Inspire2Work programmes led by Monmouthshire County Council's Youth Service utilising European Structural Fund (ESF) monies to deliver pre and post 16 support, intervention and employment opportunities. This is subject to final approval from Wales European Funding Office (WEFO) in March 2016. This report has been presented to the Children and Young People Select meeting on 17th September 2015, Members in principle approved the ESF programme
2. Newport City Council are the lead local authority for the Competitiveness region including Cardiff; Vale of Glamorgan; Newport and Monmouthshire. Members in Monmouthshire need to receive information regarding this programme.

DECISION:

1. For Council to approve the facilitation of the ESF programme in Monmouthshire

through the youth service, in order to offer pre and post 16 support, intervention and employment opportunities.

2. Members are asked to add the ESF programmes to the Council's work plan for annual monitoring and to ensure a holistic approach to provision for young people in Monmouthshire. Should ESF regulations require more frequent financial monitoring once approval has been confirmed Members will be advised accordingly.

REASONS:

1. Inspire2Achieve will ensure that young people in Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 that are identified as at most risk of becoming NEET have a series of interventions and supportive actions to help to improve their attendance, achievement, behaviour and progression.
2. Delivery partners for Inspire2Achieve are MCC Youth Service, Mounton House, Pupil Referral Service and Careers Wales within the programme for Key stage 3 and 4. MCC Youth Service will be working with key stage 5 and Coleg Gwent will be working with 16 – 24 years who are at risk of becoming NEET on their courses.
3. Inspire2Achieve outcomes are; young people at risk of becoming NEET gaining a qualification upon leaving, young people at risk of becoming NEET into education or training upon leaving and young people at risk of becoming NEET at reduced risk of becoming NEET upon leaving.
4. Inspire2Work will enable NEET 16 -24 years gain a range of skills, qualifications and meaningful work placements to feel confident and motivated to enter into sustainable employment or further learning.
5. Delivery partners for Inspire2Work are MCC Youth Service, MCC Enterprise and Melin Homes, in ensuring a good quality provision.
6. Inspire2Work outcomes are; NEET young people gaining qualifications upon leaving, NEET young people in education or training upon leaving and NEET young people entering employment upon leaving.
7. Positive Progression from Inspire2Work will include work-based learning, Engagement and Traineeship Programmes which are delivered by the Youth Service through Torfaen Training and CMC2 YPrentis Programme.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

1. ESF programmes require 55% of total project costs to be match funded. Inspire2Achieve total project cost over 3 years is £792,900; ESF £356,805 and match funding £436,095 and total project cost over 3 years is £346,137; ESF £155,762 and match funding £190,375. See appendix 5 for breakdown of costs
2. For Inspire2Achieve the match funding will be provided by MCC Youth Service, Pupil Referral Service and Mounton House Special School.
3. For Inspire2Work the match funding will be provided by MCC Youth Service and Enterprise

CONSULTEES:

Youth Engagement and Progression Co-ordinator
Youth Service Manager

Head Teachers
Head of Economy and Enterprise
Head of Achievement and Attainment
Post 16 Steering Group
14 -19 Curriculum Group
Skills, Worklessness and Young People's Group
Competiveness Subgroup

INTEREST DECLARED

None

AUTHOR:

Hannah Jones, MCC Youth Engagement and Progression Coordinator

CONTACT DETAILS

E-mail: 01873 833200
Tel: hannahjones@monmouthshire.gov.uk

DECISION 8

SUBJECT: 2016/17 Education and Welsh Church Trust Funds Investment and Fund Strategies

DIVISION/WARD AFFECTED: All Wards

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to present to Cabinet for approval the 2016/17 Investment and Fund strategy for Trust Funds for which the Authority acts as sole or custodian trustee for adoption and to approve the 2016/17 grant allocation to Local Authority beneficiaries of the Welsh Church Fund.

DECISION:

1. That the proposed Investment and Fund Strategy for 2016/17 for the Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund be approved.
2. That the proposed Investment and Fund Strategy for 2016/17 for the Welsh Church Fund be approved.
3. To delegate responsibility for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the Head of Finance (S151 officer) who will act in accordance with the Investment and Funds Strategy.
4. To approve the 2016/17 grant allocation to Local Authority beneficiaries to the Monmouthshire Welsh Church Act Fund of £200,000 to be distributed in accordance with population shares as per the 2010 Census.
5. To endorse the principle that 2016-17 grant allocation in respect of Monmouthshire Farms trust fund accord closely with the previous years investment return at the

end of March 16, to avoid eroding the overall fund. As a guide investment returns are predicted as being circa £15,000.

REASONS:

1. To produce an annual Investment and Fund Strategy in order that the Authority fulfills its responsibilities as corporate and sole trustee in order to comply with the Trustee Act 2000.
2. To approve the 2016/17 grant allocation for the Welsh Church Fund, enabling constituent Local Authorities to make qualifying grant allocations under the Welsh Church Fund Trust Scheme.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

1. The grant allocation to beneficiaries of the Welsh Church Fund is set in the context of the fund balance being maintained over the long term. It is funded through net income generated through investment returns.
2. The appointment of a dedicated treasury advisor to the Welsh Church Fund will be an ongoing annual charge against the Fund. However, in light of the revised treasury strategy which attracts more treasury risk it is deemed prudent and it is anticipated will be more than outweighed by increased investment returns. The fee negotiated is considered to be competitive and further efficiencies are generated from the Authority dealing with one advisor for its treasury advice.

CONSULTEES:

Strategic Leadership Team
Cabinet Members
Head of Legal Services

Results of Consultation

No adverse comments received

INTEREST DECLARED

None

AUTHOR:

Joy Robson, Head of Finance

CONTACT DETAILS

E-mail: joyrobson@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01633 644270

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 for the Welsh Church Fund Working Group meeting 4 of the 2015/16 financial year held on the 21st January 2016

DECISION:

We resolved that the following grants be awarded to:

SCHEDULE OF APPLICATIONS 2015/16 – MEETING 4.

(1) Friends of Tintern requested £2,000 to assist in the purchase of projection and sound equipment to facilitate the continuation and expansion of Community film shows.

Recommendation – £1,000 was awarded to assist in facilitating the expansion of this community arts group.

(2) Caldicot Youth Rugby requested £985 to assist in the installation of a secure Defibrillator cabinet at Caldicot Rugby Club for use by suitable qualified medical personnel.

Recommendation - £500 awarded to assist in providing a secure cabinet for the wellbeing and safety of the community and sports club.

(3) Theatre in Education (Gwent) requested £500 to assist in the redecoration and refurbishment of the theatre fabric and renewal of fire blackout safety curtain.

Recommendation - £500 awarded to assist in providing the renewal of essential safety equipment

(4) Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall requested £1,000 towards the cost of providing an Oil Tank security screening fence and provision of new seating for the hall.

Recommendation - £500 was awarded to assist in the provision of security and community use equipment.

(5) Friends of our' Lady of Tintern' requested £1,000 to assist in the staging of an annual 'Sungvespers' concert in Tintern Abbey.

Recommendation – The Committee decided not to award a grant based upon the income generating capability of the event to cover expenditure costs.

REASONS:

A meeting took place on Thursday, 21st January 2016 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 D.L. Edwards (Chairman)

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

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was agreed that declarations of interest would be made under the relevant item.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Welsh Church Fund Working Group held on Thursday 19th November 2015 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

A total of £2,500 was allocated at meeting 4 of the Welsh Church Fund Committee, Thus, the remaining budget for 2015/16 financial year is £13,759.

CONSULTEES:

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

INTEREST DECLARED

None

AUTHOR:

David Jarrett, Senior Accountant

CONTACT DETAILS

E-mail: davejarrett@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01633 644657