

**CABINET  
DECISION RECORDING LOG**

**DECISION DETERMINED ON: Wednesday, 19 February 2025**

**DECISION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

*Decisions made by full cabinet and individual cabinet members are subject to "Call-in" by the appropriate Select Committee. Should a decision be subject to call-in it will not take effect as stated above and will be presented again at a later date.*

**CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:**

County Councillors: Mary Ann Brocklesby, Paul Griffiths, Martyn Groucutt, Catrin Maby, Angela Sandles, Ian Chandler and Ben Callard

**OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:**

County Councillors: Richard John and John Crook

**OFFICERS PRESENT:**

Peter Davies – Acting Chief Executive, James Williams – Chief Officer Law & Governance, Will McLean – Chief Officer Children & Young People, Ian Saunders – Chief Officer Customer, Culture & Wellbeing, Jonathan Davies – Head of Finance, Hannah Jones -Head of Economy Employment and Skills.

Item Number	Title	Purpose, Consultation & Author	Declaration of Interests	Decision
4a	UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025/26	As set out in the report		<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approves the recommendations of the Monmouthshire People &amp; Place partnership in relation to the investment of funds from the local authority's allocation for 2025/26.</li> <li>Approves the draft local investment plan and projects contained within.</li> <li>Authorises the commencement of activity as outlined in the draft local investment plan from 1st April 2025, ahead of the regional lead local authority (Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC) receiving an updated Memorandum of Understanding from UK Government.</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Information:</b>				
4b	2024/25 Revenue Budget - Financial Update	As set out in the report		<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>notes the forecast revenue budget deficit of £1,593,000 (0.7% of total budget) which is a significant improvement of £2,760,000 since the previous update.</li> <li>requires budget recovery action to continue for the remainder of the year to ensure all services to bear down on avoidable cost and identify further</li> </ul>

				<p>income opportunities wherever possible in order to bring the budget back to a balanced position.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• notes a forecast 78.3% delivery of the £10,940,000 budgeted service savings required for the year. This results in a shortfall in savings of £2,376,000 that is included in the above deficit.</li> <li>• notes that funding to meet the increase in the rate of the employer's contribution to the teacher's pension scheme has been fully received since the previous financial update, and that this no longer represents a budget risk.</li> <li>• notes the budgetary risks that are inbuilt into the forecast, namely. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The volatility of demand for high-cost services, particularly within Adults &amp; Children's Social Care and in Additional Learning Needs;</li> <li>➤ The potential impact upon the Council's financial resilience from the forecast increase in the cumulative schools reserves deficit that is being carried on the Council's balance sheet;</li> <li>➤ The risk of further non-delivery of the £10,940,000 of budgeted savings targets;</li> <li>➤ The trend of reducing debt recovery, particularly within Council tax where there is a significant increase in the number of discounts and exemptions awarded, and a slowing down in collection rates;</li> <li>➤ The limited reserve cover available to the Council.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• notes the forecast increase in the deficit on cumulative schools reserves as outlined in Appendix 3 of the report of £5,240,000. This would result in school balances ending the financial year in a deficit of £6,144,000, with twenty-four (69%) of thirty-five schools forecast to be in a deficit balance.</li> <li>• notes that schools which are forecasting to end the 2024/25 financial year in a deficit balance have brought forward recovery plans outlining the proposed actions to address their budget shortfalls, however the current budget circumstances indicate that it will take schools a considerable amount of time to fully recover deficit balances.</li> <li>• notes a forecast Capital budget underspend of £243,000, alongside an indication of slippage in capital schemes of £13,199,000.</li> </ul>
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**Additional Information:**