

## CABINET DECISION RECORDING LOG

**DECISION DETERMINED ON: Wednesday, 5 March 2025**

**DECISION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 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, Martyn Groucutt, Catrin Maby, Sara Burch, Angela Sandles, Ian Chandler, Ben Callard

**OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:**

County Councillors: Richard John, Alistair Neill, Frances Taylor and John Crook

**OFFICERS PRESENT**

Peter Davies - Acting Chief Executive, Jonathan Davies - Head of Finance, Will McLean - Chief Officer Children and Young People, Jane Rodgers - Chief Officer Social Care, Safeguarding, Matthew Gatehouse - Chief Officer People, Performance & Partnerships, Ian Saunders - Chief Officer Customer, Culture and Wellbeing, James Williams - Chief Officer Law and Governance, Nikki Wellington - Finance & Support Services Manager, Ruth Donovan - Assistant Head of Finance, Craig O'Connor - Chief Officer Place, Ian Bakewell - Housing & Communities Manager, Rachel Fry - Strategy & Policy Officer - Affordable Housing

Item Number	Title	Purpose, Consultation & Author	Declaration of Interests	Decision
4a	APPROVAL OF A DISCRETIONARY POLICY FOR COUNCIL TAX PREMIUMS	As set out in the report		<p>RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That Cabinet uses its discretionary powers, under Sections 12A, 12B and 13a of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, to introduce the following additional exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local exception long term empty properties – limited to 6 months</li> <li>- Local exception long term empty 12 months</li> <li>- Time limited discretion, as detailed in Appendix One</li> <li>- Discretionary exception, as detailed in Appendix One</li> </ul> </li> <li>That Cabinet approves the Discretionary Policy for Council Tax Premiums (which details all locally agreed exceptions).</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Information:</b>				
4b	FINAL REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET PROPOSALS 2025/26	As set out in the report		<p>RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That Cabinet considers the responses to consultation and recommends to Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The 2025/26 revenue budget as attached in Appendix B to the report.</li> <li>b) The 2025/26 capital budget and indicative 2026/27 to 2028/29 budgets as attached in Appendix H to the report.</li> </ul> </li> <li>That a 7.8% increase in the Band “D” equivalent Council Tax is applied for County Council purposes for 2025/26. Cabinet asks that efforts</li> </ul>

				<p>continue to be maximised to ensure that individuals and households eligible for council tax exemptions or reductions claim the benefit available to them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That Cabinet approves changes to proposed saving and pressures, updated following public consultation, scrutiny and more up to date information being made available since the draft proposals were released on consultation on 22nd January 2025.</li> <li>• That Cabinet considers the Responsible Financial Officer's report on the robustness of the budget process and adequacy of reserves issued under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2003 and an assessment of the current and future financial risks facing the Council.</li> <li>• That Cabinet adopts the Responsible Financial Officer's recommendation for the prudential Indicators for capital financing.</li> <li>• That Cabinet requests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) That the existing arrangements in place for more regular budget monitoring and scrutiny continue during 2025/26, noting the levels of cost pressure being accommodated by services, and the deliverability risk in achieving required budget savings.</li> <li>b) That the Medium Term Financial Plan continues to be updated and reported regularly, using the most up-to-date information available to assess cost pressures and risks, the underlying modelling assumptions, any service changes resulting from the programme of change, and the ongoing affordability implications of the Community and Corporate Plan.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Additional Information:</b>				
<b>4c</b>	LEADERSHIP FUNDING REVIEW	As set out in the report		<p>RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That cabinet approves an amendment to the funding formula for delegating funds to Monmouth Comprehensive, Caldicot School, Chepstow School and King Henry VIII 3 - 19 for leadership.</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Information:</b>				
<b>4d</b>	TRUST FUND INVESTMENT STRATEGIES	As set out in the report		<p>RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the proposed Investment and Fund Strategy for 2025/26 for the Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund as set by the Trust be endorsed.</li> <li>• To note that the Monmouthshire Farm School Trust Board determined the 2025/26 grant allocation for the year in July 2024. However, this is reviewed at every meeting to ensure that the grants offered do not exceed previous years' investment return at the end of March 2025, and any under spends carried forward from the 2024/25 grant allocation, to avoid eroding the overall fund.</li> <li>• That the proposed Investment and Fund Strategy for 2025/26 for the</li> </ul>

				<p>Welsh Church Fund be approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To delegate responsibility for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the Chief Officer for Resources who will act in accordance with the Investment and Funds Strategy.</li> <li>• To approve the 2025/26 grant allocation to Local Authority beneficiaries to the Monmouthshire Welsh Church Act Fund of £225,000 which is to be distributed in accordance with population data in the draft Local Government Settlement 2025/26.</li> <li>• To endorse the policy that Monmouthshire County Council (as the Welsh Church Fund Trustee) ensures that the constituent councils that benefit from grant distributions, ensure that grants allocated are in line with charitable objects of the fund and that this fact is advertised on their Authority's website.</li> <li>• To endorse the Welsh Church Fund Principles, Policy Considerations and Grant Allocation Criteria for 2025/26 as considered and approved by the Welsh Church Fund Committee in February 2025.</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Information:</b>				
<b>4e</b>	HOMELESS ACCOMMODATION	As set out in the report		<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following consideration of the Business Case, approves the acquisition of the property, utilising Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme Grant subject to Welsh Government approval, and drawing on the existing borrowing headroom and budget envelope of the capital programme, to address the purchase price shortfall.</li> <li>• Approves the delegation of responsibility to approve future property acquisition for homelessness to the Deputy Chief Executive, in liaison with the Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Housing &amp; Tourism and Deputy Leader.</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Information:</b>				