



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

CABINET DECISION RECORDING LOG

DECISION DETERMINED ON: Wednesday, 4 November 2015

**DECISION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON: Friday, 13 November 2015 (Subject to
“Call-in” by appropriate Select Committee)**

CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors D. Batrouni and S. Howarth

DECISION 1

SUBJECT: Call In Strong Communities Select Committee Individual Cabinet Member Decision 23rd September 2015 - Employ consultant to undertake protected species surveys for Troy House

DIVISION/WARD AFFECTED:

PURPOSE:

To seek cabinet member approval to engage a consultant to undertake protected species surveys for Troy House, Mitchel Troy, at a cost of £9,665. The costs of the proposal are met fully by existing budgets.

DECISION:

That a consultant be employed to undertake protected species surveys (bats, otter, water vole, and preliminary ecological assessment) with the production of necessary reports to inform a decision on the redevelopment of this site.

IES Consulting has been selected via a tender exercise having assessed both the cost quoted and the quality of their proposed work. The work will cost £9665. VAT is not payable.

REASONS:

The decision was called-in by the Strong Communities Select Committee and scrutinised at a meeting held on 12th October 2015. The committee resolved to refer the matter back to Cabinet for re-consideration as the reasons within the Cabinet Log did not adequately explain why the Council should pay the fee for the private developer.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

As set out above, expenditure of £9665 is required from the existing revenue budget for Development Management. There are no additional staff costs over and above those associated with any other planning application/Listed Building case.

CONSULTEES:

Cabinet Members

Kellie Beirne, Chief Officer – Enterprise (supports the proposal)

Natalie Davies, Accountant (costs can be fully met within the existing budget)

INTEREST DECLARED

None

AUTHOR:

Mark Hand

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DECISION 2

SUBJECT: Revenue and Capital Monitoring 2015/16 Month 6 Outturn Forecast Statement

DIVISION/WARD AFFECTED: All Wards

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the forecast revenue outturn position of the Authority at the end of reporting period 2 which represents month 6 financial information for the 2015/16 financial year.

This report will also be considered by Select Committees as part of their responsibility to:

- assess whether effective budget monitoring is taking place,
- monitor the extent to which budgets are spent in accordance with agreed budget and policy framework,
- challenge the reasonableness of projected over or underspends, and
- monitor the achievement of predicted efficiency gains or progress in relation to savings proposals.

DECISION:

1. That Members consider the position concerning the second period of revenue monitoring in 2015/16 (£1.066 million deficit) and seek a further report back to the next Cabinet outlining the Recovery Plans to be put in place to address the overspends in service areas.
2. That Members note the forecast use of earmarked reserves and, in order to ensure adequacy of reserves for the MTFP, approve the following change in practice:
 - Increase workforce planning and redeployment to reduce the need for reserves to cover redundancies

- Any request for reserve funding must first explore whether existing budgets, or external funding sources can be used for the proposal accepting this may require a change in priorities if existing budget are used
- Use of reserves to implement budget savings must use the saving first to repay the reserve
- IT investment bids will need to be considered in the core capital programme when the IT investment reserve is extinguished, this may necessitate displacing some of the core capital programme allocations depending on the priorities agreed

REASONS:

To improve budget monitoring and forecasting information being provided to Senior Officers and Members.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The forecast overspend and use of earmarked reserves, requires action to be taken to ensure that the budget is kept on track and earmarked reserves are maintained at an adequate level for the MTFP.

CONSULTEES:

Strategic Leadership Team
All Cabinet Members
All Select Committee Chairman
Head of Legal Services
Head of Finance

INTEREST DECLARED

None

AUTHOR:

Mark Howcroft, David Jarrett

CONTACT DETAILS

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DECISION 3

SUBJECT: Providing Members with an evaluation of the effectiveness of safeguarding within Monmouthshire

DIVISION/WARD AFFECTED: All Wards

PURPOSE:

To provide members with information and analysis regarding the safeguarding of children and young people. Comprehensive strategic and operational information is provided via a suite of three cross referenced reports:

1. **Strategic Report for Safeguarding September 2015**; this provides an evaluative

overview for Members on progress, areas for further work and includes case studies.

Pages 1-5 of this report will enable Members to obtain a good summary of the current safeguarding agenda.

2. **Safeguarding Report Card September 2015**; this provides detailed evidence and analysis for Members wishing to review safeguarding performance in more depth.

3. **Service Improvement Plan for Safeguarding 2015 – 2016, Quarter 2 Review**; this is the mid-point review of the annual plan for the safeguarding unit detailing progress against identified the priorities and actions.

DECISION:

That cabinet members receive the attached reports, noting the progress and areas for further work and using them as the basis for challenge.

REASONS:

Safeguarding and child protection concerns some of the most vulnerable children in Monmouthshire. This is an important opportunity for cabinet members to consider the current arrangements for safeguarding.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

None directly from this report.

CONSULTEES:

Paul Matthews – Chief Executive
Tracy Jelfs – Head of Children’s Services

INTEREST DECLARED

None

AUTHOR:

Jane Rodgers

CONTACT DETAILS

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DECISION 4

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 2 of the 2015/16 financial year held on the 25th September 2015

DECISION:

That the following grants be awarded to:

SCHEDULE OF APPLICATIONS 2015/16 – MEETING 2.

- (1) Little Mill and District Women's Institute requested £200 to assist in the provision of new park bench made of recyclable material for Little Mill Hall Park
Recommendation – £200 was awarded to assist in the provision of a community asset
- (2) St. Arvans Community Plan Steering Group requested £1,000 to help establish a self help group for community development schemes
Recommendation - £200 awarded to assist the establishment of a community self help group
County Councillor A. Webb declared an interest
- (3) Kids Cancer Charity T/A Christian Lewis Trust requested £500 to provide a respite break for a Monmouthshire family in West Wales.
Recommendation- £500 granted to facilitate respite for a qualifying family
- (4) The Children's Cancer Trust applied £250 to provide a sensory library for children in the Abergavenny area
Recommendation - £250 granted to assist in the provision of sensory toys for children affected by cancer
- (5) St. Mary's Church, Llanvair Discoed requested £1,000 contribution to the replacement of surface water drainage channels
Recommendation - £1,000 granted to enable the provision of preventive maintenance infrastructure
- (6) St. Mary's Church, Undy applied for £1,000 to assist in essential remedial repairs to the clock tower of the church
Recommendation - £1,000 granted to enable structural repairs to ensure sustainability of the clock tower
- (7) St. James Church, Wyesham required £1,000 to purchase a replacement pipe organ for the church
Recommendation - £1,000 granted to help purchase a new electronic organ for church and community use
- (8) Leona Dennehy requested £500 to assist in educational subsistence costs on the grounds of hardship
Recommendation - £250 granted to assist in the relief of hardship
- (9) Monmouth Music Theatre requested £1,000 to assist in covering the costs of an theatre production of the Wizard of Oz in Monmouth
Recommendation – £200 to cover the expenses associated with this community group production
- (10) Birbeck Road Park Regeneration Group applied for £1,000 to assist in the provision of playground equipment in this community facility
Recommendation – £1,000 to facilitate the purchase and installation of a children's

community asset

- (11) Master Caleb Vator requested £2,000 to assist in the provision of education and music tuition support
No recommendation was made based upon the requested information after review

REASONS:

To approve the recommended grant awards from the Welsh Church Fund

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

A total of £5,600 was allocated at meeting 2 of the Welsh Church Fund Committee, Thus, the remaining budget for 2015/16 financial year is £20,834.

CONSULTEES:

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

INTEREST DECLARED

County Councillor P. Fox declared a personal non-prejudicial interest as a signatory for an application. County Councillor E.J. Hackett Pain declared a personal non-prejudicial interest as a signatory for an application.

AUTHOR:

David Jarrett

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