

**CABINET
DECISION RECORDING LOG**

DECISION DETERMINED ON: Wednesday, 3 March 2021

DECISION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON: Friday 12th March 2021

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 P.A. Fox, R.J.W. Greenland, R.John, P. Jones, S. Jones, P. Jordan, P. Murphy, J.Pratt

OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors L. Dymock, D. Batrouni, J.Watkins, and S. Howarth

OFFICERS PRESENT

Matt Phillips, Peter Davies, Paul Matthews, Will McLean, Nicola Perry, Julie Boothroyd, Frances O'Brien, Matthew Gatehouse, Ian Saunders, Jonathan Davies, Cath Fallon and Sharon Randall-Smith

Item Number	Title	Purpose, Consultation & Author	Declaration of Interests	Decision
4	SOCIAL JUSTICE STRATEGY	As set out in the report		RESOLVED: That Cabinet approve the revised Social Justice Strategy (Appendix A) and associated Action Plans (Appendix B, C and D)
Additional Information:				
5	REPORT TO FEDERATE THE GOVERNING BODIES OF KYMIN VIEW AND LLANDOGO PRIMARY SCHOOLS	As set out in the report		RESOLVED: That Cabinet agree to federate the Governing Bodies of Kymin View Primary School and Llandogo Primary Schools with effect from 1st September 2021 and in line with the reasons stated within this report.
Additional Information:				
7	EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE (EAS) BUSINESS PLAN 2021-2022 (2nd draft for consultation)	As set out in the report		RESOLVED: That Cabinet approve the EAS Business Plan 2020-2021.
Additional Information:				
8	REVENUE & CAPITAL MONITORING 2020/21 FORECAST OUTTURN STATEMENT - MONTH 9	As set out in the report		RESOLVED: That Cabinet recognises a net revenue forecast non-COVID surplus at month 9 of £142k that represents an improvement of £660k since month 7, primarily as a result of the positive action taken during the financial year in curtailing non-essential expenditure and through cost reductions.

				<p>That Cabinet requires senior officers to continue to bare down on all costs for the remainder of the year and wherever possible seek to take advantage of grant monies that materialise late in the year to further increase the year end surplus and in doing so afford Cabinet headroom for policy choice and that includes strengthening the Council's limited reserve and useable capital receipt balances to meet future financial challenges.</p> <p>That Cabinet can be reasonably assured based on continued dialogue with Welsh Government and funding received to date that all associated and eligible income losses and cost pressures will be funded noting:</p> <p>a) A total net revenue forecast deficit at month 9 of £5.15m, an improvement of £1.28m from month 7 and inherent within which is a forecast deficit of £5.28m that is directly associated with the extraordinary financial pressures attached to COVID-19;</p> <p>b) That since the budget forecasts have been produced for month 9 that Welsh Government has notified the Authority that a further sum of £2.02m will be made available to the Authority relating to claims made to the Hardship fund to cover additional expenditure incurred in December 2020 and income losses incurred during quarter 3 of the financial year, and that will in turn reduce the £5.28m COVID-19 related forecast deficit to £3.26m. A further £1.53m is also expected to be received for items claimed but not yet approved pending further clarification being provided to Welsh Government.</p> <p>In taking the approach set out above, Cabinet recognises the extraordinary nature of the current year and accepts that significant recurring services pressures have been incorporated into the ongoing budget setting process for financial year 2021/22 unless otherwise mitigated.</p> <p>Cabinet notes the extent of forecast movements in Schools reserve usage contained in appendix 1.</p> <p>Cabinet considers the forecast capital outturn spend of £22.38m alongside significant slippage of £40.45m, and the presumptions made around the financing consequences, as outlined in appendix 1.</p>
Additional Information:				
9	FINAL REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET PROPOSALS	As set out in the report		<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet considers the responses to consultation and recommends to Council:</p> <p>a) The 2021/22 revenue budget as attached in Appendix I1.</p> <p>b) The 2021/22 to 2024/25 capital programme as attached in Appendix J1.</p> <p>That Cabinet acknowledges that the final budget proposals proposed look to support the priorities of the council and specifically seek to recognise:</p> <p>a) In full, all pay and pension-related spending pressures in our schooling system;</p>

				<p>b) The increasing demand placed on children’s social care services, adult social care and our children with additional learning needs budgets;</p> <p>c) Significant service pressures within the passenger transport unit and within recycling and waste and that look to ensure that the Council supports and sustains key service delivery;</p> <p>d) Investment that ensures that homeless people are provided adequate support, advice and accommodation in their time of need;</p> <p>e) An ongoing commitment to recognise and value the contribution made by the workforce and ensuring that local government staff are paid no less than the wage set by the Living Wage Foundation. And that as a result of the Cabinet decision in January is also extended to apprenticeship roles within the Council.</p> <p>That a 3.89% increase in the Band “D” equivalent Council Tax is used as the planning assumption in the budget model and to apply for County purposes in 2021/22, reduced from the previous proposed increase of 4.95% and as a result of public consultation.</p> <p>That Cabinet approves the revised saving and pressure proposals, updated following public consultation, scrutiny and more up to date information being made available since the draft proposals were released on consultation on 20th January 2021.</p> <p>That Cabinet approves the changes and additional investment in the draft capital budget proposals and programme for 2021/22 and indicative capital budgets from 2022/23 to 2024/25.</p> <p>That Cabinet recommends Council to dispose of assets identified in the exempt background paper at best value.</p> <p>That Cabinet considers the Responsible Financial Officer’s report on the robustness of the budget process and the adequacy of reserves issued under the provisions of the Local Government Act, 2003, together with an assessment of the current and future financial risks facing the Council.</p> <p>That Cabinet adopts the Responsible Financial Officer’s report on Prudential Indicators.</p> <p>That Cabinet approves that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Further work is undertaken to develop a balanced Medium Term Financial Plan. b) Regular review is undertaken of the MTFP to ensure it remains up to date, and that includes an assessment of evidence based pressures and risks, underlying modelling assumptions and the ongoing affordability implications of the Corporate Plan.
Additional Information:				

