

**CABINET
DECISION RECORDING LOG**

DECISION DETERMINED ON: Wednesday, 9 June 2021

DECISION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON: Friday 18th June 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 L.Dymock, R.John, P. Jones, S. Jones, P. Murphy, P.Pavia, J.Pratt

OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors S. Howarth, J. Watkins

OFFICERS PRESENT

Emma Davies, Jonathan Davies, Julie Boothroyd, Peter Davies, Cath Fallon, Matthew Gatehouse, Roger Hoggins, Matthew Lewis, Paul Matthews, Will McLean, Frances O'Brien, Nicola Perry, Matt Phillips, Ian Saunders and Tracey Thomas

Item Number	Title	Purpose, Consultation & Author	Declaration of Interests	Decision
3a	CORONAVIRUS STRATEGY: PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS	As set out in the report		<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet assure themselves of the progress made against the purpose and strategic aims that have been in place in the Winter Strategy and use this to inform future activity.</p> <p>That Cabinet formally endorse the purpose and strategic aims, set out in the latest strategy which is attached as appendix 2 to cover the summer and early autumn of 2021.</p> <p>That Cabinet commits to the development of a more fundamental medium term planning document to be considered in late autumn of this year</p>
Additional Information:				
3b	A COUNTY OF SANCTUARY	As set out in the report		<p>RESOLVED: That the authority formally confirms a commitment in principle to playing its part in the national scheme to offer accommodation to those seeking asylum while their claims are processed, becoming a county of sanctuary for those fleeing persecution.</p>
Additional Information:				
3c	2020/21 REVENUE & CAPITAL OUTTURN STATEMENT	As set out in the report		<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet recognises a balanced net revenue budget position at outturn after accounting for transfers to earmarked reserves that represents a significant improvement of £5.15m from the overall deficit reported at month 9, primarily as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receipt of £5.29m of Welsh Government Covid-19 hardship funding since month 9 to compensate the Council to support its enhanced costs

of service delivery and loss of income as a direct result of Covid-19 impact;

- Receipt of significant unbudgeted Welsh Government grants that were communicated to and received by the Authority late in the financial year and that have offset core budget funding;
- Underspends across many service areas as a result of the pandemic and where services have been reduced or stopped, travel requirements have reduced, office and buildings have remained closed and substantial staff vacancies have remained unfilled.

That Members acknowledge the extent that the Welsh Government Covid-19 Hardship Fund has covered all Covid-19 related additional costs directly incurred during the financial year of £11.25m together with compensation for loss of income of £8.38m.

That Members note the 85% delivery of the service specific budgeted mandated savings as detailed in Appendix 2 and as agreed by full Council previously and the implicit remedial action/savings included in the financial outturn to compensate for circa 15% savings (£734k) reported as delayed or unachievable by service managers.

That Members endorse the strategy applied to replenish earmarked reserves as noted within the report to support future financial challenges and ensure financial resilience during a period of significant uncertainty as we continue to recover from the pandemic and as the delivery of our services change in light of a severely altered socio-economic landscape, and as wider policy commitments, both locally and nationally begin to take shape.

In taking the approach set out above, Cabinet recognises the extraordinary nature of the 2020/21 financial year and accepts that there remains significant recurring service pressures and risks in 2021/22 and over the medium term.

Cabinet notes the unprecedented improvement in Schools reserve balances of £3.85m as contained in Appendix 1 that has resulted in 15 of the 17 schools entering the year in deficit returning to a surplus balance. This reflects the significant levels of grant support from Welsh Government that was notified late in the financial year primarily relating to Schools Revenue Maintenance Grant and Recruit, Recover and Raise Standards.

That Cabinet endorses the requirement for schools carrying significant surplus balances that are above levels guided by Welsh Government to provide investment plans setting out how they intend to spend their significant surplus balances, whilst also appreciating that the inherent structural budget deficits that have led to 17 schools being in deficit at the start of the year remain and require resolution irrespective of additional funding received.

That Members consider the capital outturn spend of £19.0m, introducing an underspend of £3.18m primarily due to underspending of the capitalisation directive budget and specific grant related schemes and that this subsequently releases £1.08m of capital receipts back to reserve for future capital investment.

That Members note the slippage requests of £49.92m as listed in Appendix 5 along with the related presumptions made around financing consequences as detailed in Appendix 1, and accept that officers will make a further assessment of the justification for scheme slippage and make recommendations back to

				Cabinet for final approval as part of the month 2 financial monitoring for 2021/22.
Additional Information:				
3d	UK GOVERNMENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: LEVELLING UP FUND AND COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND	As set out in the report		RESOLVED: To endorse the strategic direction of travel as set out within the report and to note the bid criteria and deadlines which define the shape of the projects that are eligible for submission.
Additional Information:				
3e	SHIRE HALL / MONMOUTH MUSEUM	As set out in the report		RESOLVED: To note the progress in undertaking a feasibility study to establish a new cultural offer at Shire Hall incorporating the Monmouth Museum and the review of museum collection storage. To approve the establishment of an initial phase within Shire Hall and to confirm that Monmouth Museum will not reopen in Market Hall. To reopen key areas of Shire Hall for public use, subject to Covid regulations and any restrictions required to allow the completion of the phase 1 provision incorporating temporary museum displays. Cabinet recommends to Council a £250,000 contribution from capital receipts to facilitate the initial phase of works, and that in turn will also provide a match funding contribution to the Levelling Up Fund bid for Monmouth that would if successful enable the longer term vision to be achieved. Future reports be presented to Cabinet as the long term proposals for Shire Hall, Monmouth and for museum collection storage are further developed
Additional Information:				
3f	DIGITAL AND DATA	As set out in the report		RESOLVED: To approve the direction of travel set out within this paper which will enable the council to build on successes to date and move at greater pace to achieve services transformation in line with the strategic direction set within the Corporate Plan. The costs to implement the proposals will be funded through £300k budget provision incorporated in the 2021/23 budget and Medium Term Financial with the remainder being met from existing service budgets.
Additional Information:				
3g	WELSH CHURCH FUND WORKING GROUP	As set out in the report		RESOLVED: That grants be awarded as per the schedule of applications.
Additional Information:				

