

**CABINET
DECISION RECORDING LOG**

DECISION DETERMINED ON: Wednesday, 1 December 2021

DECISION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON: Friday 10th December 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.Pavia, L.Dymock, R.John, P. Jones, S. Jones, P. Murphy and J.Pratt

OFFICERS PRESENT

Peter Davies, Paul Matthews, Will McLean, Jane Rodgers, John Pearson, Nicola Perry, Frances O'Brien, Matthew Gatehouse, Ian Bakewell, Emma Davies, Jonathan Davies, Cath Fallon, Mark Hand, Hannah Jones and Paul Keeble

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 are assured of the progress made against the purpose and strategic aims that have been in place in the Re-Emergence strategy and use this to inform future activity.</p> <p>That Cabinet approve the latest interim strategy and accompanying actions which is attached as appendix 2.</p>
Additional Information:				
3b	REVENUE & CAPITAL MONITORING 2021/22 FORECAST OUTTURN STATEMENT - MONTH 6	As set out in the report		<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet recognises the improvement in the forecast deficit at month 6 of £1.94m with the Council's core service delivery, a £1.438m reduction in the forecast from month 2 when taking into account the expected non-teaching pay award.</p> <p>That Cabinet request that the Senior Leadership team manage the forecast deficit on core service delivery of £1.94m, both through continuing budget recovery action and the expectation of further specific grant funding from Welsh Government before the year-end, recognising the long history that the Council has of working within budget.</p> <p>That Cabinet recognises the importance consequence of a balanced budget position being achieved for 2021/22, in that it safeguards the need to draw on limited one-off reserve headroom retained to assist with meeting the financial challenges over the medium term and where uncertainty remains on the extent of Welsh Government funding.</p> <p>That Cabinet recognises an overall net revenue forecast deficit at month 6 of £5.91m, which takes account of a further forecast deficit of £3.97m that is directly associated with the extraordinary financial pressures attached to Covid-19.</p>

That Cabinet can be reasonably assured based on commitments from Welsh Government, that all Covid-19 associated cost pressures and income losses that are eligible to be met by the Welsh Government Covid-19 Hardship fund will be funded to the end of March 2022.

That Cabinet note that there remains significant Covid-19 related cost pressures and income losses forecast after the end of March 2022 which presently have no funding commitment from Welsh Government. The Council will need to carefully assess the risk of these pressures during the ongoing budget strategy for 2022/23 and the mitigating measures available in the event that no further funding comes forward.

That whilst the Council is grateful for the funding commitments made to date by Welsh Government through the Covid-19 Hardship fund to the end of March 2022, Cabinet will continue to make strong representations to Welsh Government for further clarity on funding for the ongoing pressures post March 2022. This is both in the form of continuing to respond to the direct impact of the pandemic but just as importantly, the wider and longer lasting indirect impact of the pandemic on Council services, particularly where this is now becoming evident in the areas of Homelessness, Children's services, Adult social care and Children's additional learning needs.

That Cabinet recognise the ongoing risk of the awaited outcome of pay negotiations for non-teaching staff and that in the event that any pay award is agreed above the current forecast of 1.75%, that this will present a further budgetary pressure. Welsh Government have been clear that no compensating funding is anticipated and given that the Minister confirmed via the final settlement that this already took into account any subsequent pay awards.

That Members note that the overall revenue outturn position continues to be subsidised by £2.2m of capital receipts which are being used to fund identified eligible expenditure under the flexible use of capital receipts directive. Reliance on this mitigation is not a sustainable measure in the longer term and its core purpose is to generate ongoing revenue savings and/or transform service delivery in a way that reduces costs or demand for services in future years for the Authority.

That Members note the forecast 93% delivery of the budgeted mandated savings as detailed in appendix 3 and as agreed by full Council previously and the implicit remedial action/savings included in the financial outturn to compensate for circa 7% savings (£324k) reported as delayed or unachievable by service managers.

That Cabinet notes the extent of forecast movements in Schools reserve usage contained in table 4 and appendix 1 which is informed and driven by the school investment plans that were supported by the significant and unprecedented late grant support provided by Welsh Government to schools at the end of 2020/21.

That Cabinet considers the forecast capital outturn spend of £27.6m as outlined in appendix 1 that would result in forecast slippage of £51.7m, noting the continuing delays in progressing some of the key capital projects due to the ongoing challenging operating conditions and impact both internally and externally in relation to Covid-19.

				That Cabinet approve the Capital budget revisions as listed in appendix 4 to this report resulting from the notification of external capital grant awards to the value of £3.0m and draw on Section 106 balances of £293k.
Additional Information:				
3c	BUDGET PROCESS AND TIMETABLE 2022/23	As set out in the report		RESOLVED: That the budget process and timetable as outlined in paragraph 3.21 is adopted and that includes member budget scrutiny and consultation conducted through all-member seminars, Member and Officer Working Groups, Community Engagement, Select, and Consultation meetings (for Business Rate purposes).
Additional Information:				
3d	EMPTY PROPERTY ACTION PLAN	As set out in the report		RESOLVED: To consider both the risks of empty properties and the opportunities associated with tackling empty properties, particularly in relation to town centre regeneration. To approve and adopt the Empty Property Action Plan. That regular six-monthly updates from the Officer Working Group to be presented to Adult Select Committee in order to monitor progress.
Additional Information:				
3e	THE PRINCIPLES OF A REGIONAL APPROACH TO EMPLOYABILITY	As set out in the report		RESOLVED: That Cabinet approves the principle of a locally delivered regionally coordinated approach to employability post-EU. That Cabinet approves the proposed Framework for Future Employability in the Cardiff Capital Region (Appendix 1) across the ten Local Authorities. The framework is the preferred option which is subject to flexibility, change and local circumstances.
Additional Information:				
3f	METHODOLOGY FOR PRIORITISING HIGHWAY RESURFACING AND MAINTENANCE PROJECTS	As set out in the report		RESOLVED: That Monmouthshire County Council adopts the methodology of prioritising the highway resurfacing and maintenance schemes as detailed within the Highway Prioritisation Handbook at Appendix 1. This evidenced-based prioritisation is in accordance with the Highway Management Plan and in line with the requirement of the national code of practice "Well Managed Highway Infrastructure". That Cabinet supports the development and extension of this asset management approach to other aspects of the Highways service including highway structures.
Additional Information:				
3g	WELSH CHURCH FUND WORKING GROUP	As set out in the report		RESOLVED: That grants are awarded as per the schedule of applications

Additional Information:
