

**CABINET  
DECISION RECORDING LOG**

**DECISION DETERMINED ON: Wednesday, 13 December 2023**

**DECISION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023**

*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, Rachel Garrick, Paul Griffiths, Martyn Groucutt, Catrin Maby, Angela Sandles, Ian Chandler and Ben Callard

**OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:**

County Councillors Richard John and Jane Lucas

**OFFICERS PRESENT**

Jonathan Davies, Peter Davies, Paul Matthews, Will McLean, Jane Rodgers, Matthew Gatehouse, Ian Saunders, Amy Gullick, James Williams, Hannah Carter, Charlotte Drury, Matthew Jones, Richard Jones and Nikki Wellington

Item Number	Title	Purpose, Consultation & Author	Declaration of Interests	Decision
3	DELIVERING EXCELLENCE IN CHILDREN'S SERVICES: FOSTER CARER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION - FOSTER FRIENDLY POLICY	As set out in the report		RESOLVED: That Cabinet consider proposals for implementing a Foster Friendly policy and agree next steps.
<b>Additional Information:</b>				
4	2023/24 REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING - MONTH 6	As set out in the report		RESOLVED: That Cabinet note the overall revenue budget deficit forecast at month 6 of £284k, a deterioration of £160k since the previous forecast.  That Cabinet note the forecast 87% delivery of the £12.3m budgeted service savings for the year, resulting in a £1.6m deficit that is needing to be managed as part of the overall revenue budget. The overall level of budgeted savings includes the additional in-year budget recovery action of £2.1m as recommended by Cabinet as part of the Month 5 report.  That Cabinet note the ongoing budgetary risks that remain inbuilt into the month 6 forecast, namely; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The volatility of demand for high-cost services, particularly in Adults &amp; Childrens Social Care and Homelessness;</li> <li>➤ The risk of further non-delivery of the £12.3m of budgeted savings targets;</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The severely limited reserve cover available to the Council;</li> <li>➤ The continued pressure on both UK and Welsh Government budgets, and wider challenging economic environment;</li> <li>➤ The potential shortfall in funding of the increased responsibilities transferred to Councils, particularly within Universal Free School Meals and Homelessness that have the potential to further impact forecasts if a suitable funding resolution is not achieved.</li> </ul> <p>That Cabinet note that the negotiation of national pay agreements for Local Government employees has concluded, and that the outcome is in line with previous budget forecasts.</p> <p>That Cabinet note the forecast draw on schools delegated balances as outlined in <b>Appendix 1</b> of this report of £3.76m, with school balances forecast to reduce to £494k by the end of the financial year and with fifteen schools now forecast to be in a deficit balance.</p> <p>That Cabinet note a forecast Capital budget underspend of £2.19m, alongside an indication of slippage in capital schemes of £9.2m. The £2.19m underspend is in relation to the Asset Investment Fund budget that is funded by borrowing and does not therefore represent a usable surplus budget.</p> <p>That Cabinet approve the capital budget revisions as outlined in <b>Appendix 3</b> as a result of additional unbudgeted grant allocations notified since the beginning of the year, and a required draw on Section 106 major maintenance sums to fund required works.</p>
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<b>Additional Information:</b>				
5	WHOLE AUTHORITY STRATEGIC RISK ASSESSMENT	As set out in the report		<b>RESOLVED:</b> That Cabinet members review the strategic risk assessment, provided in appendix 1, and assess whether the assessment provided is a realistic and evidenced appraisal of the strategic risks facing the authority over the next three years

<b>Additional Information:</b>				
6	SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY 2025/26 INCLUDING REVIEW OF SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREAS	As set out in the report		<b>RESOLVED:</b> That Members acknowledge the attached consultation document (appendix 1) and agree that a review of primary school catchment areas should be undertaken on a rolling programme to ensure their suitability moving forward.  To agree to enter into a consultation that proposes amendments to the primary school catchment area for the areas of Tredunnock, Llanhennock and Llandegveth (appendix 2), which proposes that the affected areas have a catchment school that is within the county.

				That Cabinet agreed not to proceed with the consultation as stated in recommendation 2.3 contained within the report.
<b>Additional Information:</b>				
7	KING HENRY VIII 3 - 19 SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA	As set out in the report		RESOLVED: That Cabinet approve the proposed changes for King Henry 3 – 19 school wit effect from 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025.
<b>Additional Information:</b>				