

**CABINET  
DECISION RECORDING LOG**

**DECISION DETERMINED ON: Wednesday, 17 July 2024**

**DECISION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON: 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

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

**OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:**

County Councillors Richard John

**OFFICERS PRESENT**

Jonathan Davies, Peter Davies, Will McLean, Jane Rodgers, Frances O'Brien, Ian Saunders, Adam Fall and James Williams

Item Number	Title	Purpose, Consultation & Author	Declaration of Interests	Decision
4	FINANCIAL UPDATE	As set out in the report		<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet recognises:</p> <p>2.1 A net revenue budget surplus at outturn of £1,701,000 (0.8% of budget) that results in less needing to be drawn from reserves to support the budget than budgeted.</p> <p>2.2 That the surplus achieved at outturn represents a significant improvement of just over £2m from the position forecast at month 9. The improvement is primarily as a result of an improvement in service budget positions driven by the budget recovery action enacted by services during the year including staff vacancy restrictions, coupled with improvement in the costs of capital financing as areas of the capital programme have experienced delays.</p> <p>2.3 There remain significant areas of cost pressure within Adult social care, Children's additional learning needs, Waste, and Homelessness/Housing. These services recorded a cumulative over spend of £5m for the year, and whilst a significant aspect of these cost pressures were accommodated in the 2024/25 budget, this continues to present an ongoing area of financial risk for the Council in the new financial year.</p> <p>2.4 Total capital expenditure for the year was £65,176,000, with no capital schemes reporting material over or under spends that require additional financing from the Council's own resources. Capital slippage requests totalled £28,606,000.</p> <p>2.5 The significant reduction in Schools balances during the year of £5,161,000 as outlined in <b>Appendix 1</b> and <b>Appendix 3</b>, that takes cumulative school balances into deficit by £905,000. Thirteen schools ended the year with a deficit balance, with several schools continuing to</p>

				<p>carry structural budget deficits that will need to be addressed by way of budget recovery action.</p> <p>2.6 The early indicative cost pressures of £873,000 highlighted by services against the 2024/25 revenue budget that require prompt mitigating action by services in order to deliver at least a balanced outturn position by year end.</p>
<b>5</b>	Corporate Parenting Charter	As set out in the report		<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That Cabinet approve the adoption of the Corporate Parenting Charter.</p>
<b>Additional Information:</b>				
<b>6</b>	Development of a Residential Children's Home	As set out in the report		<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That Cabinet approve the Business Case for Children's Services to enter into a renewed leasehold agreement with Pobl on a property in Caldicot for a minimum of 10 years (as per conditions of grant) for the purposes of providing an in-house residential children's home.</p>
<b>Additional Information:</b>				
<b>7</b>	Replacement Social Care Case Management System	As set out in the report		<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Cabinet agrees to work at a regional level to purchase an 'off-the-shelf' Social Care Case Management System under the national programme (option 2).</li> <li>2. That Cabinet thereby agrees for the Chief Officer for Social Care together with Chief Officer Resources / Deputy Chief Executive to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work collaboratively with the other Gwent Local Authorities and Digital Health Care Wales (DHCW) to enter into a procurement process for a SCCMS for the region.</li> <li>- Work collaboratively at a national, regional and local level to develop a programme plan to ensure the successful implementation of the new system whilst minimising risk and making best use of available resources.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. To notes that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At present, the one-off and annual revenue costs associated with procuring a replacement system are currently estimations.</li> <li>- A national Business Case is being submitted to Welsh Government which will set out the rationale and resource requirements for replacing SCCMS in Wales.</li> <li>- There is an urgency to press ahead with replacing the SCCMS, despite the current unknowns.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. That in the event that external funding does not meet all of the one-off implementation costs, Cabinet approved the underwriting of a maximum of £291,000 from the Council's reserves, split over 2024/25 and 2025/26.</li> <li>5. That in the event that external funding from Welsh Government does not meet all of the one-off and on-going revenue costs, a further decision report will be brought to Cabinet prior to the point of contracting, in line with the procurement timetable.</li> </ol>
<b>Additional information:</b>				
<b>8</b>	Digital and Data Strategy	As set out in the report		<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Cabinet endorse the vision, themes and aims of the Digital and</li> </ol>

				<p>Data Strategy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. That Cabinet approve the delivery plan and to note business cases for further and future investment will be prepared for consideration as required and to the extent that they cannot be managed within the Council's existing budgetary framework, capacity, and resources.</li><li>3. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer – People, Performance and Partnerships, in consultation with the Leader as the lead Cabinet member with portfolio responsibility, to oversee the implementation and monitoring of the strategy.</li></ol>