



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

28th FEBRUARY 2022

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

PROPOSAL TO CREATE A TARGETED HARDSHIP RELIEF SCHEME

Background

The Cabinet has requested further advice as to how the remaining underspend for 2021/22 can be utilised to develop a range of measures to support those who are hardest hit by the cost of living crisis.

Proposal

Following publication of the latest revenue budget monitoring report which contains details of a further £2.3m underspend (after reserve transfers) the Cabinet has requested further advice in relation to how this underspend can be used to support those residents of the County Borough who are currently hardest hit by the cost of living crisis.

The proposal contained within this report is that £2m of this underspend be ring-fenced and transferred into a specific hardship relief reserve.

A hardship relief scheme will need to be developed to target those who are most in need and where we have opportunities to deliver those benefits over the next twelve months.

Once developed this scheme will be brought back to Cabinet for approval.

Integrated Impact Assessment

The development of a hardship relief scheme will assist the Council in meeting its obligations pursuant to the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. A detailed assessment will be undertaken as the hardship relief scheme is developed and when reported back to members.

Crime and Disorder Impact

No impact

Workforce Implications

No impact.

Legal Impact

No impact

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- Earmark £2m from the current 2021/22 budget underspend into a hardship relief reserve.
- Task the Chief Finance Officer to develop a scheme to provide targeted support to residents of the County Borough who are hardest hit by the cost of living crisis.

Reasons for Proposed Decisions

To provide a support scheme for residents of the County Borough who are suffering financial hardship.

Implementation of Decision

The decision is proposed for immediate implementation with the consent of the Chair of Scrutiny.

Officer Contact

For further information on this report item, please contact:

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