

**EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD**

**CABINET**

**28 FEBRUARY 2022**

**Cabinet Members:**

Councillors: E.V.Latham, (Chairperson) L.Jones, A.R.Lockyer,  
C.Clement-Williams, D.Jones, M.Harvey, P.A.Rees and  
P.D.Richards

**Officers in Attendance:**

K.Jones, A.Jarrett, A.Thomas, N.Pearce, H.Jones, C.Griffiths, C.Furlow-  
Harris, N.Blackmore, C.L.Davies and J. Woodman-Ralph.

**Invitees:**

Councillor S. Rahaman (Scrutiny Chairperson)

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1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON**

Agreed that Councillor E.V.Latham be appointed Chairperson for the meeting.

2. **WELCOME AND ROLL CALL**

Councillor E.V.Latham welcomed all to the meeting and a roll call was completed.

3. **CHAIRPERSONS ANNOUNCEMENT/S**

No announcements were made.

#### 4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Member made a declaration of interest at the start of the meeting.

Councillor M.Harvey Re: Agenda Items 5,6,7 and 9 as he works for South Wales Police but felt his interest was not prejudicial.

#### 5. **DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2022 - 2027**

##### **Decisions:**

Having given due regard to the Integrated Impact Assessment:

1. The Corporate Plan for the period 2022-2027 be approved;
2. That the Chief Executive be given delegated authority in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader to make any further changes that are necessary prior to final publication and which to not materially change the content of the Plan.
3. That the Corporate Plan be commended to Council for adoption.

##### **Reason for Decisions:**

To ensure the Council meets legal duties set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 as they relate to Council's corporate planning activities.

##### **Implementation of Decisions:**

The decisions will be for immediate implementation after consideration at Council which takes place on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

##### **Consultation:**

The draft Plan and Strategic Change Programme has been informed by the Let's Talk campaign which was undertaken between July and September 2021 and January and February 2022 and other consultation and engagement events as detailed in the circulated report.

## 6. **REVENUE BUDGET 2022/2023**

Members thanked the Chief Finance Officer and the Finance Team for all the work they had undertaken in preparing and finalising the reports being considered today.

### **Decisions:**

Having due regard to the integrated impact assessment:

1. The Council's Revenue Budget and service plan investments for 2022/2023 as detailed in Appendix 1 and 2 of the circulated report be approved.
2. That £2.8 million from the insurance reserve be used to deliver a number of one-off investments to support Covid recovery including the recruitment of staff to deliver work around the best start in life.
3. That delegated authority be granted to the appropriate Corporate Director following consultation with the Council Leader, relevant Cabinet Member and Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Committee too:
  - Set Fees and Charges (Executive) for the financial year 2022/2023.
  - Set Fees and Charges (Executive) which are applicable in any subsequent financial year and which, in the opinion of the relevant Corporate Director, need to be set in advance of the financial year for operational reasons.
4. That delegated authority be granted to the appropriate Corporate Director following consultation with the Council Leader, Deputy Leader and Chair of the relevant Non-executive committee to:
  - Set Fees and Charges for (non-executive) functions for the year 2022/2023.
  - Set Fees and Charges (non-executive) which are applicable in any subsequent financial year and which, in the opinion of the Corporate Director, need to be set in advance of that financial year for operational reasons.
5. That in relation to any variation between the Welsh Government final settlement and provisional settlement. Delegated authority be

granted to the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Chief Executive, Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, to make any amendment necessary through the use of general reserves, as a consequence of the final settlement due on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022.

6. That the proposal of no increase in Council Tax in 2022/2023 with tax levels being frozen at 2021/2022 values. The 2022/2023 band D equivalent for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council will remain at £1,660.02 be commended to Council for approval.

### **Reason for Decisions:**

To ensure the Council fulfils its statutory requirements to determine the budget for 2022/2023. To provide a mechanism for dealing with any variation between the provisional and final Welsh Government settlement and to agree arrangements for setting Fees and Charges.

### **Implementation of Decisions:**

The decision will be implemented after consideration and approval by Council which takes place on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

### **Consultation:**

Consultation took place from the 5<sup>th</sup> January to the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 as detailed in the circulated report.

## **7. CAPITAL STRATEGY AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 TO 2024/25**

### **Decisions:**

1. That the Capital Strategy as detailed in Appendix 1 to the circulated report be approved.
2. That the Capital Programme for 2022/2023 to 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix 2 to the circulated report be approved.
3. That the delegation arrangements as set out in paragraph 12 of the circulated report be approved.

4. That the Capital Strategy and Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2024/25 be commended to Council for final approval.

**Reason for Decisions:**

To ensure the Authority's Capital Programme is approved in line with the Council's constitution.

**Implementation of Decisions:**

The decision will be implemented after consideration and approval by Council which will take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

**8. MONTHLY BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2021/22 - AS AT END OF DECEMBER 2021**

**Decisions:**

1. That the contents of the report in relation to the current projected budget outturn position be noted.
2. That the virements as detailed below be approved:

<b>Dir.</b>	<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Transfer To £</b>	<b>Transfer From £</b>
SSH	Community care-social work	416,140	
SSH	Community resource team		473,080
SSH	Community mental health team	56,940	
<b>Total</b>		<b>473,080</b>	<b>473,080</b>

3. That the reserve movements as detailed below be approved:

<b><u>Dir.</u></b>	<b><u>Value to / (from) £</u></b>	<b><u>Reserve</u></b>	<b><u>Service Area</u></b>	<b><u>Reason</u></b>
ELLL	(38,000)	Margam Discovery centre	Margam Discovery Centre	Agreed reduction due to COVID of money paid into renewal fund by Field study council
ELLL	38,000	Home to school transport	Home to school transport	To account for one less school day in 2021/22 due to Easter. Additional day will fall into next financial year
ELLL	66,000	Corporate contingency	Community safety	Original reserve contribution not required in year due to savings

<u>Dir.</u>	<u>Value to / (from) £</u>	<u>Reserve</u>	<u>Service Area</u>	<u>Reason</u>
ELLL	393,000	Additional Learning Needs Reserve *New	Behaviour support strategy	Additional grant money received and will be used to offset existing expenditure
ELLL	328,000	Additional Learning Needs Reserve *New	Out of county placements	Delay in placement of children due to COVID
FCS	23,000	Corporate equalisation	Legal Services	To fund City deal expenditure in 2022/23
FCS	28,000	Building capacity and capability	Scrutiny	Cancellation of original reserve-no longer required
FCS	13,000	Building capacity and capability	Corporate Strategy	Cancellation of original reserve-no longer required
FCS	315,000	ICT renewals	ICT	Cancellation of original reserve-no longer required
SSH	840,000	Transformation	Residential Care-External provision	To fund covid recovery work in 2022/23
SSH	720,000	Transformation	Domiciliary Care	To fund the cost of digital switch in assistive technology
ENV	260,000	Corporate contingency	Economic Development	Additional grants to business no longer required in 2021/22
ENV	(100,000)	Corporate contingency	European Unit	£150k of original reserve £250k required in future years for levelling up bids
ENV	250,000	Dare reserve	Asset management	Original contribution request not needed until 22/23
ENV	50,000	Environmental equalisation	Pollution control	Money required in 2022/23 to fund temporary food analyst post
ENV	50,000	City Deal	City Deal	Delays in expenditure due to pandemic
ENV	(200,000)	Corporate Waste	Waste disposal	Aftercare costs at Giants grave
ENV	38,000	Asset recovery	General Environmental Health	Funding for one off post not required
ENV	17,000	Equalisation	Coastal protection	To fund scheme at Jersey Quay in 2022/23
ENV	162,000	Equalisation	Planning Development control	Scheme at Jersey Quay to be carried out in 2022/23
ENV	130,000	Transport	Transport Support	Vehicle purchases delayed until 2022/23
ENV	60,000	Transport	Community services transport unit	Additional grant funding received
ENV	85,000	Metal box	Estates	Ongoing work to be funded by a WG capital

<u>Dir.</u>	<u>Value to / (from) £</u>	<u>Reserve</u>	<u>Service Area</u>	<u>Reason</u>
				grant
ENV	140,000	Metal box	Non Operational land	Ongoing work to be funded by a WG capital grant
ENV	388,000	Metal box	Metal Box	Ongoing work to be funded by a WG capital grant
ENV	63,000	Metal box	Asset Management	Ongoing work to be funded by a WG capital grant
ENV	100,000	Baglan Bay Innovation Centre	Baglan Bay Innovation Centre	Underspend due to hardship claims continuing for 21/22
ENV	25,000	Local Development Plan	Policy	Funds not required in 2021/22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4.244m</b>			

### **Reason for Decisions:**

To update the Council's budget for virements and reserve movements, in accordance with the Council's constitution.

### **Implementation of Decisions:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period which ends at 9am, Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022. No call ins were received.

## **9. CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2021/22**

### **Decisions:**

1. That the updated 2021/2022 budget totalling £78,834m including the budget changes as set out in Appendix 2 of the circulated report be commended to Council for approval.
2. That the position in relation to expenditure as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 be noted.

### **Reason for Decisions:**

To comply with the Councils constitution in relation to budget virement, re-profiling between financial years and to update the Council's Budget projections for 2021/2022.

**Implementation of Decisions:**

The decision will be implemented after consideration at Council which will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

10. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY**

**Decision:**

That the following strategies and policies be commended to Council for approval:

- Treasury Management Strategy
- Annual Investment Strategy
- Minimum Revenue Provision Policy
- Prudential Indicators

**Reason for Decision:**

To ensure the Authority's Treasury Management Strategy, Annual Investment Strategy, Capital Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy are approved as required by the Local Government Act 2003 and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (2017).

**Implementation of Decision:**

The decision will be implemented after determination at Council which will take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

11. **URGENT ITEMS**

Because of the need to deal with the matter contained in Minute No. 12 below, the Chairperson agreed this could be raised at today's meeting as an urgent item pursuant to Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

**Reason:**

Due to time element.

12. **PROPOSAL TO CREATE A TARGETED HARDSHIP RELIEF SCHEME**

**Decisions:**

1. That £2m from the current 2021/2022 budget underspend be put into a hardship relief reserve.
2. That the Chief Finance Officer develops a scheme to provide targeted support to residents of the County Borough who are hardest hit by the cost of living crisis.

**Reason for Decisions:**

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

**Implementation of Decisions:**

The decision will be implemented immediately and was supported by the Chairperson of the scrutiny committee held prior to the start of this meeting.

**CHAIRPERSON**