

MINUTES

CABINET MEETING: 29 FEBRUARY 2024

Present

Councillor Huw Thomas (Leader)
Councillors Peter Bradbury / Julie Sangani (job share)
Councillor Jen Burke
Councillor Dan De'Ath
Councillor Russell Goodway
Councillors Norma Mackie / Ash Lister (job share)
Councillor Sarah Merry
Councillor Lynda Thorne
Councillor Chris Weaver
Councillor Caro Wild

Observers:

Councillor John Lancaster
Councillor Rodney Berman

Also:

Officers:

Paul Orders, Chief Executive
Sarah McGill, Corporate Director
Chris Lee, Section 151 Officer
Debbie Marles, Monitoring Officer
Claire Deguara, Cabinet Office

Apologies:

12 MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING OF 18 JANUARY 2024

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting of 18 January were approved as an accurate record.

13 CORPORATE PLAN 2024-27

Scrutiny letters and responses were circulated.

The Corporate Plan sets out how the administration will continue to make Cardiff a stronger, fairer, and greener city. The Plan outlines how the economy will be supported, with ambitious plans for regeneration in order to create and sustain well-paid jobs. It outlines how education in Cardiff will help young people reach their full potential by investing in schools buildings and support teachers. In addition, the Plan

outlines the continuation of the delivery of high-quality affordable housing across the city.

It was noted that the Performance Panel's six recommendations have either been accepted in full (5) or partially accepted (1), and the Plan has been strengthened as a result. Furthermore, each of the Council's five Scrutiny Committees considered the Corporate Plan, and copies of letters received from the Scrutiny Committee Chairs following those meetings were circulated alongside the proposed responses to any recommendations.

The report will progress to Council.

RESOLVED that:

1. the draft Corporate Plan 2024-27 (Appendix A), subject to any amendments authorised under recommendation 3, be approved for consideration by Council on 7 March 2024;
2. the response to any recommendations made by any of the Scrutiny Committees (Appendix C) in relation to the draft Corporate Plan 2024-27 be considered and agreed;
3. authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make any consequential amendments to the draft Corporate Plan 2024-27 required to reflect the response to Scrutiny Committee recommendations (agreed under recommendation 2), prior to consideration by Council on 7 March 2024;
4. Council be recommended to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make any minor amendments as necessary to the Corporate Plan 2024-27, following consideration by the Council on 7 March 2024 and prior to publication by 1 April 2024.

14 CARDIFF EDUCATION: COLLABORATION AND FEDERATION STRATEGY

Appendix 2 to this report has been redacted to remove personal information which is exempt from publication pursuant to paragraphs 12 and 13 of Schedule 12A, Part 4 of the Local Government Act 1972.

A letter from the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Committee was circulated.

Cabinet considered a report outlining the proposal to adopt a Collaboration and Federation Strategy. The report highlights the significant progress made in a number of schools in relation to the delivery of high-quality education and also outlines the significant challenges currently faced by schools.

It was highlighted that the challenges faced by schools means that school leaders in partnership with the Local Authority will need to think differently, to build leadership capacity, and reduce bureaucracy.

It was noted that collaboration and federation has been in place for some time, beginning in 2016. Since that time, a number of successful collaborations and federations have taken place.

The Cabinet Member highlighted that meetings have taken place with local and national union representatives, and Headteachers to share the benefits and challenges experienced with existing collaborations and federations.

Furthermore, it was highlighted that the strategy is not a mandate, but a school led process. The strategy aims to enable transparent conversations and enable schools to be supported through their considerations.

RESOLVED: that

- (i) the Cardiff Education: Collaboration and Federation Strategy be approved and adopted.
- (ii) responsibility for the development and implementation of operational plans to deliver the success measures set out in the strategy be delegated to the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

15 **BUDGET MONITORING MONTH 9**

The letter from the Scrutiny committee was circulated.

The projected 2023/24 financial monitoring position as at the end of December 2023 (Month 9) adjusted for any significant amendments since that date, against the budget approved by Council on 9 March 2023, was received.

The overall monitoring position, as at Month 9, reflected a total projected net annual Council overspend of £2.732 million in comparison to the £5.388 million overspend at Month 6. The report details the specific areas of overspends and underspends.

It was noted that work was ongoing across Directorates to achieve a balance position by the end of the financial year.

RESOLVED: that

- 1. the revenue financial outturn based on the projected position at Month 9 2023/24 be noted.
- 2. the capital spend and projected position at Month 9 2023/24 be noted.

16 **COUNCIL TAX PREMIUMS**

Cabinet considered a report on the use of discretionary power to charge higher amounts of Council Tax (Premiums) on long-term empty dwellings provided by the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

The report proposed that, in order to continue the Council's commitment to minimise the number of empty properties in the city, that the premium rate for long-term empty dwellings that have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than 24 months is increased from 100% to 200% and for more 36 months is increased from 100% to 300%. It is proposed that this change is effective from 1st April 2024.

This report will progress to Council.

RESOLVED: that Council be recommended to agree that, with effect from 1st April 2024, the premium charge of 100% on long-term empty dwellings is increased to 200% for dwellings that have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than 24 months, and to 300% for dwellings that have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than 36 months.

17 BUDGET REPORT 2024/25

Appendix 4 (b) is exempt from publication because it contains information of the kind described in paragraphs 14 and 21 of parts 4 and 5 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Letters from the Scrutiny Committees, together with the responses from Cabinet, were circulated.

Cabinet considered the Budget Report for 2024/2025. This was developed alongside the Corporate Plan, which underpins the delivery of the ambitions of Stronger, Fairer, Greener.

The report contains the Capital Strategy, Medium Term Financial Plan, Housing Revenue Account Medium Term Financial Plan, and the Treasury Management Strategy.

The final settlement from Welsh Government confirms an uplift of 4.3%, equating to £27m. It was highlighted that, in order to maintain services as currently delivered, an additional £57m would be required. This is largely due to rising costs and pressures being experienced across Education, Children's Services, and Adult Services. It was noted that these three areas will receive significant budget growth in the proposed budget.

It was further highlighted that, in order to close the budget gap, the report details the use of reserves (£3.5m) and savings to the back office – including driving efficiencies, the use of technology, and identifying alternative funding. It was also noted that, in order to close a gap of the scale identified within the report, some service changes proposals contained within the report will affect services that are currently delivered.

Public consultation has been undertaken on a range of proposals and as a result, some proposals have been modified in light of feedback received.

The report highlights an increase of 6% in Council Tax raising £10m, and it was noted that this is below the average and one the lowest in Wales.

The Capital Strategy and Capital Programme were highlighted, noting that a large proportion of Capital spend is attributed to the Housing Revenue Account for new housing developments, in addition the school building programme and arena funding strategy were also highlighted. It was noted that there has been an additional funding allocation to asset management for schools, disabled adaptation grants, and an additional contribution to the school building programme.

The report will go on to Council.

RESOLVED: that having taken account of the comments of the Section 151 Officer in respect of the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of the reserves as required under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, and having considered the responses to the Budget Consultation, Council be recommended to:

- 1.0 Approve the Revenue, Capital, and Housing Revenue Account budgets, including all associated proposals and assumptions as set out in this report and increasing the Council Tax by 6.0%, and that the Council resolve the following terms.
- 2.0 Note that at its meeting on 14 December 2023, Cabinet calculated the following amounts for the year 2024/25, in accordance with the regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
 - a) 151,372 being the amount calculated in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995, as amended, as its Council Tax base for the year.

Lisvane	3,068
Pentyrch	3,709
Radyr	4,090
St. Fagans	2,006
Old St. Mellons	2,512
Tongwynlais	830

being the amounts calculated in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which special items relate.

- 2.1 Agree that the following amounts be now calculated by the County Council of the City and County of Cardiff for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-
 - a) Aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (d) (including Community Council precepts totalling £568,735). £1,326,949,735
 - b) Aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for items set out in Section 32(3)(a) and (c).

£480,997,000

- c) Amount by which the aggregate at 2.1(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2.1(b) above, calculated in accordance with Section 32(4), as the budget requirement for the year. £845,952,735
- d) Aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its Council Fund in respect of Revenue Support Grant, its council tax reduction scheme, and redistributed Non-Domestic Rates. £623,157,566
- e) The amount at 2.1(c) above less the amount at 2.1(d) (net of the amount for discretionary relief of £400,000), all divided by the amount at 2.0(a) above, calculated in accordance with Section 33(1) as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year. £1,474.48
- f) Aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1). £568,735
- g) Amount at 2.1(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 2.1(f) above by the amount at 2.0(a) above, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of the area to which no special items relate. £1,470.72
- h) The amounts given by adding to the amount at 2.1(g) above the amounts of special items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned below, divided in each case by the amount at 2.0(b) above, calculated in accordance with Section 34(3) as the basic amounts of Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of the area to which special items relate.
- | | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Lisvane | 1,494.35 |
| Pentyrch | 1,523.32 |
| Radyr & Morganstown | 1,511.13 |
| St Fagans | 1,496.49 |
| St Mellons | 1,492.72 |
| Tongwynlais | 1,505.54 |
- i) The amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 2.1(g) and 2.1(h) above by the number which in the proportion set out in the Council Tax (Valuation Bands) (Wales) Order 2003 is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D calculated in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Area									
Lisvane	996.23	1,162.27	1,328.31	1,494.35	1,826.43	2,158.50	2,490.58	2,988.70	3,486.82
Pentyrch	1,015.55	1,184.80	1,354.07	1,523.32	1,861.84	2,200.35	2,538.87	3,046.64	3,554.41
Radyr	1,007.42	1,175.32	1,343.23	1,511.13	1,846.94	2,182.74	2,518.55	3,022.26	3,525.97
St. Fagans Old St.	997.66	1,163.93	1,330.22	1,496.49	1,829.05	2,161.59	2,494.15	2,992.98	3,491.81
Mellons	995.15	1,161.00	1,326.87	1,492.72	1,824.44	2,156.15	2,487.87	2,985.44	3,483.01
Tongwynlais	1,003.69	1,170.97	1,338.26	1,505.54	1,840.11	2,174.67	2,509.23	3,011.08	3,512.93
All other parts of the Council's Area	980.48	1,143.89	1,307.31	1,470.72	1,797.55	2,124.37	2,451.20	2,941.44	3,431.68

2.2 Note that for the year 2024/25, the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:

VALUATION BANDS

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
235.11	274.30	313.48	352.67	431.04	509.41	587.78	705.34	822.90

2.3 Having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2.1(i) and 2.2 above, the County Council of the City and County of Cardiff in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2024/25 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Part of Council's Area VALUATION BANDS

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Area									
Lisvane	1,231.34	1,436.57	1,641.79	1,847.02	2,257.47	2,667.91	3,078.36	3,694.04	4,309.72
Pentyrch	1,250.66	1,459.10	1,667.55	1,875.99	2,292.88	2,709.76	3,126.65	3,751.98	4,377.31
Radyr	1,242.53	1,449.62	1,656.71	1,863.80	2,277.98	2,692.15	3,106.33	3,727.60	4,348.87
St. Fagans Old St.	1,232.77	1,438.23	1,643.70	1,849.16	2,260.09	2,671.00	3,081.93	3,698.32	4,314.71
Mellons	1,230.26	1,435.30	1,640.35	1,845.39	2,255.48	2,665.56	3,075.65	3,690.78	4,305.91
Tongwynlais	1,238.80	1,445.27	1,651.74	1,858.21	2,271.15	2,684.08	3,097.01	3,716.42	4,335.83
All other parts of the Council's Area	1,215.59	1,418.19	1,620.79	1,823.39	2,228.59	2,633.78	3,038.98	3,646.78	4,254.58

2.4 Authorise the Corporate Director Resources to make payments under Section 38 of the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994 from the Council Fund by equal instalments on the last working day of each month from April 2024 to March 2025 in respect of the precept levied by the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales in the sum of £53,384,363.

2.5 Agree that the Common Seal be affixed to the said Council Tax.

2.6 Agree that the Common Seal be affixed to precepts for Port Health Expenses for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, namely:

	£
County Council of the City and County of Cardiff	155,460
Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council	17,620

2.7 Agree that notices of the making of the said Council Taxes, signed by the Chief Executive, be given by advertisement in the local press under Section 38(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

3.0 In accordance with the Local Government Act 2003, the Local Authority (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 and subsequent amendments and the CIPFA Prudential Code and Treasury Management Codes of Practice:

(a) Approve the Capital Strategy 2024/25.

(b) Approve the Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25 and authorise the Section 151 Officer to raise such funds as may be required to finance capital expenditure by temporary or long-term borrowing.

(c) Approve the Prudential Indicators for 2024/25 – 2028/29 including the affordable borrowing limit.

(d) Delegate to the Section 151 Officer the ability to effect movement between the limits for borrowing and long-term liabilities, within the limit for any year, and to bring forward or delay schemes in the Capital Programme.

(e) Approve the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2024/25.

4.0 To approve the Budgetary Framework outlined in this report.

5.0 To maintain the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme as set out in this report.

The Cabinet, having taken account of the comments of the Section 151 Officer in respect of the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of the reserves as required under Section 25 of the Local Government Act and having considered the responses to the Budget Consultation, is recommended to:

- 6.0 the changes to fees and charges as set out in Appendix 4 (a) and 4 (b) to this report be approved.
- 7.0 authority be delegated to the appropriate Director, in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member, the Section 151 Officer, and the Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation, & Performance, to amend or introduce new fees and charges during the year, subject (having regard to the proposed change) to an Equality Impact Assessment and public consultation being undertaken if necessary and the results thereof being duly considered before the delegated authority is exercised.
- 8.0 the financial challenges facing the Council as set out in the Medium-Term Financial Plan be recognised.
- 9.0 in the event that the final settlement differs from the Provisional Settlement (as set out in paragraph 35 of the report), there will be a proportionate adjustment to or from earmarked reserves, and that the Section 151 Officer be authorised to prepare an addendum to the 2024/25 Budget to reflect the requisite changes.

18 CARDIFF COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON THE WELSH GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER 'ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN WALES'

Cabinet received a report providing a response to the Welsh Government White paper entitled "Ending Homelessness in Wales".

It was noted that whilst many of the principles and ambitions contained within the White Paper were agreed with, given current pressures, the proposed changes would have a negative impact on homelessness in Cardiff.

It was highlighted that the response makes clear that no additional duties should be placed on Local Authorities without appropriate funding to support this and until the national shortage of affordable housing has been addressed.

RESOLVED: that

- 1) the Welsh Government White Paper and its proposals to change policy and law, to end homelessness in Wales be noted.
- 2) the Council's response to the Welsh Government consultation response to the 'Ending Homelessness in Wales' White Paper (Appendix A) be approved.