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Monday, 11 January 2021

Notice of Reports Received following Publication of Agenda.

Children and Young People Select Committee

Tuesday, 19th January, 2021 at 10.00 am,
Remote Meeting

Attached are reports that the committee will consider as part of the original agenda but were submitted to democratic services following publication of the agenda.

Item No	Item	Pages
4.	Budget Monitoring: Scrutiny of the budget monitoring capital and revenue position at Month 7, setting the context for scrutiny of budget proposals.	1 - 56
5.	Budget Scrutiny: Scrutiny of the budget proposals for 2021/22. Please use this link to access the papers for this item - available as part of the 20 th January 2021 Cabinet agenda. https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=4793&Ver=4	
6.	Verbal update on the position with schools and blended learning: Chief Officer, Children and Young People	
7.	Children and Young People Select Committee Forward Work Plan	57 - 58
8.	Cabinet and Council Work Planner	59 - 74
9.	To confirm the minutes of the previous meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special Meeting held on 25th November 2020• 8th December 2020	75 - 88

Paul Matthews
Chief Executive

SUBJECT:	REVENUE & CAPITAL MONITORING 2020/21 FORECAST OUTTURN STATEMENT – MONTH 7
MEETING:	Children and Young People Select Committee
DATE:	19th January 2021
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Select Members with information on the revenue and capital outturn position of the Authority, accommodating capital slippage and approved reserve usage.
- 1.2 The financial information appropriate to this Select Committee is outlined in **Appendix 3**, with the remainder of this report following the format presented to Cabinet on the 6th January 2021.
- 1.3 This report is also to be considered by Select Committees as part of their responsibility to:
 - assess whether effective budget monitoring is taking place;
 - monitor the extent to which budgets are spent in accordance with agreed budget and policy framework;
 - challenge the reasonableness of projected over or underspends, and;
 - monitor the achievement of predicted efficiency gains or progress in relation to savings proposals.
- 1.4 To provide an update on the financial impact of COVID-19 on the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET:

- 2.1 That Cabinet acknowledges a net revenue forecast deficit at month 7 of £6.43m, an improvement of £995k from month 5 and which comprises:
 - a) A forecast non-COVID-19 related deficit of £518k to be managed in year and that represents a reduction of £713k since month 5, of which £675k is as a direct result of the decision to capitalise eligible expenditure and fund from capital receipts under the flexible use of capital receipts directive.
 - b) A forecast deficit of £5.91m that is directly associated with the extraordinary financial pressures attached to COVID-19 and where it is assumed that Welsh Government will continue to fund all associated and eligible income losses and cost pressures. This is a marginal improvement of £282k from the position forecast at month 5.

- 2.2 That Cabinet recognises that since the budget forecasts have been produced for month 7 that Welsh Government has notified the Authority that a further sum of £1.78m will be made available to the Authority to cover income losses for quarter 2 of the financial year, and that will in turn reduce the £5.91m COVID related forecast deficit to £4.13m.
- 2.3 That Cabinet continue to make strong representations to Welsh Government to confirm full reimbursement of the £4.13m COVID related income losses and cost pressures as soon as possible and to eliminate financial risk going into the financial year-end.
- 2.4 That Cabinet notes that the £518k non-COVID related deficit will be managed through cost reduction and in taking immediate steps to curtail non-essential expenditure, recognising the risk that targeted and planned cost reductions will be challenging in the current operating environment and given that the Council will as always look to minimise impact on service delivery.
- 2.5 In taking the approach set out above, Cabinet recognises the extraordinary nature of the current year and accepts that significant services pressures will need to be incorporated into the ongoing budget setting process for financial year 2021/22 unless otherwise mitigated.
- 2.6 Cabinet notes the extent of forecast movements in Schools reserve usage contained in **appendix 1**.
- 2.7 Cabinet considers the forecast capital outturn spend of £25.3m alongside significant slippage of £37.4m, and the presumptions made around the financing consequences, as outlined in **appendix 1**.
- 2.8 Cabinet recognises that the forecast will have to be reconsidered in the event that Welsh Government falls short of expectation in fully compensating the Council for COVID related costs and income losses.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Since entering 2020 the Council has faced significant and unprecedented challenges, notably the flood response and recovery resulting from Storms Ciara and Dennis in February 2020 and the subsequent COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of the lockdown restrictions that were put into effect on 23rd March 2020.
- 3.2 Each of these draws significantly on the Council's resources, both in terms capacity and finances and continues to place an unprecedented strain on the Council. This is exhibited below in **Table 1** and **Table 2** demonstrating an overspend forecast at year end of £6.43m.
- 3.3 This forecast comprises forecast COVID-19 income losses of £4.41m and additional costs of £1.49m alongside non-COVID-19 pressures of £518k. Non-COVID-19 pressures have in part resulted from the implementation of budget savings proposals for 20/21 being delayed.

- 3.4 It is important to note that forecast overspend of £6.43m presents a worst case scenario in that it does not take into account any of the further Welsh Government funding anticipated to meet the additional costs of the COVID-19 emergency response or further reimbursement of income losses that have equally resulted.
- 3.5 Since the budget forecasts have been produced for month 7 Welsh Government has notified the Authority that a further sum of £1.78m will be made available to the Authority to cover income losses for quarter 2 of the financial year, and that will in turn reduce the £5.9m forecast deficit to £4.13m.
- 3.6 The Council is calling for Welsh Government to reimburse all further COVID-19 related costs and income losses. As the financial year has progressed the Council is more optimistic than was the case at the first monitoring period at month 2 and since Welsh Government announced significant further funding for local authorities in August to supplement funding that had already been provided to assist with meeting income losses and additional costs brought about by the pandemic.
- 3.7 The Council tactically generated headroom of £1.8m in its Council Fund balance as part of the outturn strategy for 2019/20. Whilst this remains to assist with any under recovery in funding from Welsh Government, the increased comfort around Welsh Government funding means that this provides the Council with the flexibility to reserve this sum to respond to the financial pressures over the medium term.
- 3.8 The immediate focus for the Council whilst it awaits confirmation of full compensating funding from Welsh Government is to manage the non-COVID-19 pressures of £518k. Following the Cabinet decision at month 5, the month 7 forecast now includes the capitalisation of an additional £675k of identified eligible expenditure to be funded from capital receipts under the flexible use of capital receipts directive.
- 3.9 The remaining forecast deficit of £518k is required to be managed through cost reduction and in taking immediate steps to curtail non-essential expenditure, recognising the risk that targeted and planned cost reductions will be challenging in the current operating environment and given that the Council will as always look to minimise impact on service delivery.

3.10 Overall Revenue Position

Table 1: Council Fund 2020/21 Outturn Forecast Summary Statement at Month 7

Service Area	Original Budget 2020/21	Budget Adjustments Months 1-7	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M7	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M5	Variance from M5 to M7
	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's
Social Care, Health & Safeguarding	50,685	(170)	50,515	52,222	1,707	1,448	259
Children & Young People	55,539	514	56,053	56,178	125	19	106

Service Area	Original Budget 2020/21	Budget Adjustments Months 1-7	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M7	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M5	Variance from M5 to M7
Enterprise	24,132	(1,511)	22,621	27,238	4,617	5,113	(496)
Chief Executives Unit	4,745	4	4,749	4,811	62	144	(82)
Resources	7,746	30	7,776	7,969	193	694	(501)
Corporate Costs & Levies	22,743	229	22,972	23,014	42	66	(24)
Net Cost of Services	165,590	(904)	164,686	171,432	6,746	7,484	(738)
Appropriations	4,857	1,163	6,020	5,857	(163)	(83)	(80)
Expenditure to be Financed	170,447	259	170,706	177,289	6,583	7,401	(818)
Financing	(170,447)	(259)	(170,706)	(170,863)	(157)	20	(177)
Net General Fund (Surplus) / Deficit	0	0	0	6,426	6,426	7,421	(995)

Table 2: Council Fund 2020/21 Outturn Forecast Detailed Statement at Month 7

Service Area	Original Budget 2020/21	Budget Adjustments Months 1-7	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M7	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M5	Variance from M5 to M7
	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's
Adult Services	7,877	(55)	7,822	8,002	180	156	24
Children Services	14,428	(63)	14,365	15,825	1,460	1,459	1
Community Care	24,434	30	24,464	24,460	(4)	(209)	205
Commissioning	1,483	(65)	1,418	1,315	(103)	(63)	(40)
Partnerships	436	0	436	436	0	0	(0)
Public Protection	1,481	(14)	1,467	1,645	178	109	69
Resources & Performance	546	(3)	543	539	(4)	(5)	1
Social Care, Health & Safeguarding	50,685	(170)	50,515	52,222	1,707	1,448	259
Individual Schools Budget	47,420	(356)	47,064	46,748	(316)	(264)	(52)
Resources	1,234	(9)	1,225	1,239	14	22	(8)
Standards	6,885	879	7,764	8,191	427	261	166
Children & Young People	55,539	514	56,053	56,178	125	19	106

Service Area	Original Budget 2020/21	Budget Adjustments Months 1-7	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M7	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M5	Variance from M5 to M7
Business Growth and Enterprise	2,468	(168)	2,300	2,250	(50)	29	(79)
Facilities & Fleet Management	5,665	(1,266)	4,399	5,621	1,222	1,097	125
Neighbourhood Services	10,483	(26)	10,457	11,240	783	1,153	(370)
Planning, Housing, Highways Development & Flooding	1,951	(133)	1,818	2,811	993	1,067	(74)
Countryside & Culture (MonLife)	1,348	(8)	1,340	1,422	82	40	42
Finance & Business Development (MonLife)	1,507	116	1,623	1,516	(107)	(150)	43
Leisure, Youth & Outdoor Adventure (MonLife)	710	(26)	684	2,378	1,694	1,877	(183)
Enterprise	24,132	(1,511)	22,621	27,238	4,617	5,113	(496)
Legal & Land Charges	839	(6)	833	873	40	92	(52)
Governance, Democracy & Support	3,906	10	3,916	3,938	22	52	(30)
Chief Executives Unit	4,745	4	4,749	4,811	62	144	(82)
Finance	2,597	(63)	2,534	2,707	173	189	(16)
Information, Communication Technology	2,803	135	2,938	2,507	(431)	(128)	(303)
People	1,725	50	1,775	1,707	(68)	6	(74)
Future Monmouthshire	(46)	(25)	(71)	11	82	112	(30)
Commercial & Corporate Landlord	667	(67)	600	1,037	437	515	(78)
Resources	7,746	30	7,776	7,969	193	694	(501)
Precepts & Levies	20,379	1	20,380	20,382	2	2	(0)
Coroner's	117	0	117	140	23	23	(0)
Archives	182	0	182	182	0	0	(0)
Corporate Management	293	0	293	101	(192)	(114)	(78)

Service Area	Original Budget 2020/21	Budget Adjustments Months 1-7	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M7	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M5	Variance from M5 to M7
Non Distributed Costs (NDC)	492	0	492	707	215	108	107
Strategic Initiatives	(167)	228	61	0	(61)	0	(61)
Insurance	1,447	0	1,447	1,502	55	46	9
Corporate Costs & Levies	22,743	229	22,972	23,014	42	66	(24)
Net Cost of Services	165,590	(904)	164,686	171,432	6,746	7,484	(738)
Fixed Asset Disposal Costs	20	45	65	71	6	25	(19)
Interest & Investment Income	(252)	0	(252)	(90)	162	181	(19)
Interest Payable & Similar Charges	4,020	27	4,047	3,817	(230)	(164)	(66)
Charges Required under Regulation	6,251	(108)	6,143	6,061	(82)	(113)	31
Other Investment Income	(1,153)	1,153	0	(14)	(14)	(12)	(2)
Borrowing Cost Recoupment	(3,425)	50	(3,375)	(3,380)	(5)	(0)	(5)
Contributions to Reserves	143	0	143	143	0	0	0
Contributions from reserves	(747)	(4)	(751)	(751)	0	0	0
Appropriations	4,857	1,163	6,020	5,857	(163)	(83)	(80)
Expenditure to be Financed	170,447	259	170,706	177,289	6,583	7,401	(818)
General Government Grants	(64,823)	0	(64,823)	(64,823)	0	0	0
Non Domestic Rates	(32,937)	0	(32,937)	(32,937)	0	0	0
Council tax	(79,572)	(259)	(79,831)	(80,216)	(385)	(305)	(80)
Council Tax Benefit Support	6,885	0	6,885	7,113	228	324	(96)
Financing	(170,447)	(259)	(170,706)	(170,863)	(157)	20	(177)
Net General Fund (Surplus) / Deficit	0	0	0	6,426	6,426	7,421	(995)

3.11 As the Council continues to transition from the response phase of the pandemic it is important that Cabinet is kept informed as impacts are being assessed.

3.12 Putting the Council's finances into context, pre COVID-19 pandemic, the Council had:

- Brought forward budget savings proposals for 2020/21 of £8.5m to manage budget pressures of £9.5m and alongside a disappointing Welsh Government settlement where the extent of pressures on services were not recognised;
- Benefitted from a significant one-off VAT receipt and flexible use of capital receipts to arrest a £3.76m net over spend against services in 2019/20; and
- Finalised its draft accounts for 19/20 with useable capital receipts of only £3.2m, a Council Fund balance of £8.5m and useable earmarked reserves of £6.4m (of which there is planned use that will reduce earmarked reserves to £5.5m at the end of 2020/21).

3.13 The Council was already facing financial challenges pre-COVID-19. The pandemic has accentuated the challenge:

- Services and existing capacity has been redirected and redeployed to ensure that the Council met its core purpose of protecting life. This has seen additional unbudgeted costs being incurred.
- Many income generating services have had to stop in order to comply with UK and Welsh Government guidance. The income loss and shortfall is significant and ongoing.
- There is delay in the implementation of some budget savings proposals for 2020/21 as a result of staff resources being diverted to respond to the pandemic.

3.14 This report provides a 'point in time' assessment and forecast for 2020/21. The revenue and capital annual forecast at month 7 is shown in **appendix 1**. The forecasts have been prepared on assumptions that remain uncertain. The forecasts have been supplemented by an analysis of pressures including those that are thought without suitable mitigation to impact on 2021/22. This is shown in **appendix 2** and will inform the budget setting process for 2021/22.

3.15 The table below provides a high level analysis of how the £6.43m reasonable worst case forecast outturn is broken down. This shows that whilst there are significant in-year pressures resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic there is also a set of significant in-year pressures that are unrelated or that result from a delay in budget savings proposals being implemented.

	Overall M7 Forecast	Variance to M5	M7 Due to Covid 19 Expenditure Increase	Variance to M5	M7 Due to Covid 19 Income Loss	Variance to M5	M7 Due to Non Covid 19	Variance to M5
Social Care, Health & Safeguarding	1,706	259	0	0	177	9	1,529	250

Children & Young People	125	106	(50)	(53)	70	0	100	159
Enterprise	4,617	(499)	964	(70)	3,602	11	51	(440)
Chief Executives Unit	61	(84)	29	(2)	50	(13)	(18)	(69)
Resources	192	(499)	320	34	512	(103)	(640)	(430)
Corporate Costs & Levies	44	(23)	0	0	0	0	44	(23)
Appropriations	(163)	(80)	0	0	0	0	(163)	(80)
Financing	(156)	(175)	229	229	0	(324)	(385)	(80)
Total	6,426	(995)	1,492	138	4,411	(420)	518	(713)

3.16 The principal in-year non Covid-19 pressures are:

- A significant pressure within Children's Services relating to a continued increase in the number of looked after children (LAC) cases carrying over from 2019/20 and after the budget was approved.
- The 2.75% pay award being much higher than the original 1% budget assumption built into the budget and where it had been expected that Welsh Government funding would be forthcoming.
- Pressures remaining within the Passenger Transport Unit (PTU) and that continue to be worked on as part of the PTU review and where implementation has been impacted by the pandemic.
- Pressures in waste & recycling as a result of delays in the rollout of waste reconfiguration and changes.
- Income pressures relating to Civil parking enforcement where savings targets cannot be met.
- A shortfall against additional commercial income targets as a consequence of the impact of COVID-19 and the current level of market and economic uncertainty which may not be funded by Welsh Government.
- As result of the late receipt of the final settlement from Welsh Government and the disappointment of there being no funding floor introduced, the remaining efficiency savings that were left to be identified during the financial year.

3.17 As the financial year has progressed significant forecast budget savings have been identified and added to the budget forecast to mitigate some of those pressures outlined above. **Appendix 2** provides an analysis of both the significant forecast pressures and savings, the assumptions upon which they are based as well as the risks and sensitivities that apply.

- 3.18 It is important to note that the majority of the savings identified during year to assist the in-year budget recovery are one-off savings and will not bring any further benefit to future year's budgets. Conversely, the majority of those pressures highlighted above are recurrent pressures and will need to be considered as part of the wider budget process for 2021/22 and beyond.
- 3.19 The key risk and uncertainty continues to be the amount of compensatory Welsh Government funding that the Council will receive. Announcements by both Welsh Government and UK Government have been made and have confirmed levels of commitment to support local authorities.
- 3.20 We are grateful to Welsh Government for the funding that has been provided to Welsh Councils to cover costs to date and that we anticipate could potentially meet the income shortfalls forecast for the remainder of the year.
- 3.21 However, we urge Welsh Government to confirm full reimbursement of the £4.13m COVID related income losses and cost pressures as soon as possible and to eliminate financial risk going into the financial year-end.
- 3.22 Beyond Welsh Government funding of in year pressures, assessment will also need to be undertaken of reserve balances and available capital receipts. Clearly this will require a review of the Council's existing reserve strategy and regard will not only need to be given to the current year situation but also to the medium and long term. Reserve balances are finite and act as only a limited buffer to fund one-off costs.

4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 4.1 This report provides an update on the current financial situation and the challenges facing the Council now and over the medium term. It has been prepared at a time of great uncertainty as the Council still transitions from the emergency response phase of the COVID-19 pandemic towards a period of recovery.
- 4.2 The outturn forecast that has been prepared for consideration is predicated on assumptions that have been independently assessed by budget holders and subsequently reviewed as part of the budget monitoring process. These assumptions don't look to represent a policy position that Cabinet is looking to take on when services are re-opening. Rather they represent a reasoned assessment of the impact on services in year based on known information, anticipated future changes and estimates.
- 4.3 **Appendix 2** provides an analysis of the significant forecast pressures and summarises the assumptions upon which they are based as well as the risks and sensitivities that apply. This has been produced to aid understanding of the forecast and assumptions upon which it has been based.
- 4.4 By far the greatest uncertainty that exists is the level of Welsh Government funding to be received to offset additional costs incurred in responding to the COVID-19 emergency response and the significant income losses that have resulted where services have ceased as a result of the lockdown restrictions in place. However, this risk has diminished

as a result of funding received to date and the significant amount of further funding still available to local authorities in Wales via Welsh Government's COVID Hardship Fund.

- 4.5 Options will be considered when determining the appropriate response to addressing the budget shortfalls contained in the report as we move throughout the year.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 5.1 This forecast outturn report represents an assessment of the forecast for the 2020/21 financial year based on seven months of data. More so than ever the combination of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the fact that it is only part way through the financial year, and combined with the uncertainties on the level of Welsh Government funding support, means that a level of risk uncertainty should be attributed to the forecast.
- 5.2 There is an increasing level of comfort that Welsh Government funding will meet additional costs and losses of income brought about by the response to and the impact of the pandemic. However, this continues to represent a risk that will only be mitigated by monthly and quarterly submissions to Welsh Government being agreed. And furthermore and beyond those impacts resulting from COVID-19 there exists a number of significant cost pressures that would need to be managed regardless.
- 5.3 The Council has recently maintained formal reporting to Cabinet at month 2 (period 1), month 5 (period 2) and outturn, with more frequent budget monitoring information being undertaken at a departmental level and reported to management and the Strategic Leadership Team. Only where circumstances necessitate it is more frequent formal reporting to Cabinet required.
- 5.4 As a result of the significant financial challenges facing the Council there will be a more frequent reporting of the in-year revenue and capital outturn forecast. Formal reporting will take place at months 2, 5, 7, 9 and outturn. There will be no formal reporting of the month 11 outturn forecast as the financial year-end will have already taken place by the time the report has been prepared.
- 5.5 The update of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and the development of the budget proposals for 2021/22 and the medium term will again be challenging. Welsh Government has now confirmed that local authorities provisional funding settlement will be announced on the 22nd December 2020 with the final settlement being announced on 2nd March 2021. As a result of the late notification of funding draft budget proposals for 2021/22 will now not be released for consultation purposes until Cabinet has considered them at its meeting on the 20th January 2021.
- 5.6 There is also further uncertainty given that the UK Government has only undertaken a one-year Comprehensive Spending Review which consequently does not enable Welsh Government to provide any additional certainty around indicative budget settlements for Welsh local authorities in future years.

6. REASONS:

- 6.1 To ensure that the gravity of the financial challenges facing the Council are understood and that reasonable actions are being taken to safeguard the ongoing financial sustainability of the Council.

6.2 To provide a timely update on the current financial circumstances and challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and that will in turn lead to the Council needing to plan and plot a revised course to ensure it remains financially sustainable into the future.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

7.1 The resource implications of the current in-year forecast outturn are contained in this report and the attached appendices. At its worst the forecast outturn exhibits an over spend of £6.43m. However, Welsh Government funding will mitigate part of this though it remains unclear as to how far that will extend though levels of confidence have increased.

7.2 The financial challenges facing the Council and resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic are significant in the current year and over the next 4 years of the MTFP. Not just for this Council but all councils across Wales and the UK. The Council is having to incur significant costs in its response effort and this will continue as it transitions towards recovery. Furthermore and resulting from the restrictions that UK Government and Welsh Government have had to put in place to contain the spread of the virus we are suffering significant shortfalls in our income levels. Some of these will return more quickly than others as services are able to be safely turned back on.

7.3 In terms of how the Council will respond to the challenges faced in the current year and over the medium term this will very much depend on the level of compensating funding received from Welsh Government and the flexibilities afforded to Welsh local authorities to spread the impact over more than one financial year. We are grateful to Welsh Government for the funding that has been provided to Welsh Councils to cover costs to date and that we anticipate could potentially meet the income shortfalls forecast for the remainder of the year.

7.4 The Council is working on the basis that it will be fully funded by Welsh Government. However, there is clearly a risk that this will not happen and beyond this there are £518k of non COVID-19 pressures to be managed. Options to mitigate these risks are limited with recourse to draw on the Council Fund, specific earmarked reserves and useable capital receipts. However each of these are at historically low levels and only just above prudent minimum levels.

7.5 The more immediate steps have been to curtail non-essential expenditure. Going forward more targeted and planned cost reductions will be challenging and the Council will as always look to minimise impact on service delivery. Though this cannot be guaranteed and is expected if Welsh Government funding falls short of expectations.

7.6 There are resultant consequences for the MTFP and the budget process for 2021/22 and these will be developed in parallel in the coming months and to feed into the normal budget cycle and process.

8. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

- 8.1 This report provides Members with information on the revenue and capital outturn position of the Authority and carries no decisions. There are therefore no equality of future generations' implications directly arising from this report.
- 8.2 Any such impacts will be fully considered subsequently when Council receives the budget recovery plan and revised budget proposals.

9. CONSULTEES:

Senior Leadership Team
Cabinet

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix 1 – Revenue and capital forecast Outturn report – month 7

Appendix 2 – Pressure analysis – assumptions, sensitivities and risks

Appendix 3 – Select Committee summary

11. AUTHOR: Peter Davies, Chief Officer for Resources

12. CONTACT DETAILS:

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Overall Revenue Position

Table 1: Council Fund 2020/21 Outturn Forecast Summary Statement at Month 7

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Table 2: Council Fund 2020/21 Outturn Forecast Detailed Statement at Month 7

Service Area	Original Budget 2020/21	Budget Adjustments Months 1-7	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M7	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M5	Variance from M5 to M7
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Adult Services	7,877	(55)	7,822	8,002	180	156	24
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Community Care	24,434	30	24,464	24,460	(4)	(209)	205
Commissioning	1,483	(65)	1,418	1,315	(103)	(63)	(40)
Partnerships	436	0	436	436	0	0	(0)
Public Protection	1,481	(14)	1,467	1,645	178	109	69
Resources & Performance	546	(3)	543	539	(4)	(5)	1
Social Care, Health & Safeguarding	50,685	(170)	50,515	52,222	1,707	1,448	259
Individual Schools Budget	47,420	(356)	47,064	46,748	(316)	(264)	(52)
Resources	1,234	(9)	1,225	1,239	14	22	(8)
Standards	6,885	879	7,764	8,191	427	261	166
Children & Young People	55,539	514	56,053	56,178	125	19	106
Business Growth and Enterprise	2,468	(168)	2,300	2,250	(50)	29	(79)
Facilities & Fleet Management	5,665	(1,266)	4,399	5,621	1,222	1,097	125
Neighbourhood Services	10,483	(26)	10,457	11,240	783	1,153	(370)
Planning, Housing, Highways Development & Flooding	1,951	(133)	1,818	2,811	993	1,067	(74)
Countryside & Culture (MonLife)	1,348	(8)	1,340	1,422	82	40	42
Finance & Business Development (MonLife)	1,507	116	1,623	1,516	(107)	(150)	43
Leisure, Youth & Outdoor Adventure (MonLife)	710	(26)	684	2,378	1,694	1,877	(183)

Service Area	Original Budget 2020/21	Budget Adjustments Months 1-7	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M7	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M5	Variance from M5 to M7
Enterprise	24,132	(1,511)	22,621	27,238	4,617	5,113	(496)
Legal & Land Charges	839	(6)	833	873	40	92	(52)
Governance, Democracy & Support	3,906	10	3,916	3,938	22	52	(30)
Chief Executives Unit	4,745	4	4,749	4,811	62	144	(82)
Finance	2,597	(63)	2,534	2,707	173	189	(16)
Information, Communication Technology	2,803	135	2,938	2,507	(431)	(128)	(303)
People	1,725	50	1,775	1,707	(68)	6	(74)
Future Monmouthshire	(46)	(25)	(71)	11	82	112	(30)
Commercial & Corporate Landlord	667	(67)	600	1,037	437	515	(78)
Resources	7,746	30	7,776	7,969	193	694	(501)
Precepts & Levies	20,379	1	20,380	20,382	2	2	(0)
Coroner's	117	0	117	140	23	23	(0)
Archives	182	0	182	182	0	0	(0)
Corporate Management	293	0	293	101	(192)	(114)	(78)
Non Distributed Costs (NDC)	492	0	492	707	215	108	107
Strategic Initiatives	(167)	228	61	0	(61)	0	(61)
Insurance	1,447	0	1,447	1,502	55	46	9
Corporate Costs & Levies	22,743	229	22,972	23,014	42	66	(24)
Net Cost of Services	165,590	(904)	164,686	171,432	6,746	7,484	(738)
Fixed Asset Disposal Costs	20	45	65	71	6	25	(19)
Interest & Investment Income	(252)	0	(252)	(90)	162	181	(19)
Interest Payable & Similar Charges	4,020	27	4,047	3,817	(230)	(164)	(66)
Charges Required under Regulation	6,251	(108)	6,143	6,061	(82)	(113)	31

Service Area	Original Budget 2020/21	Budget Adjustments Months 1-7	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M7	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M5	Variance from M5 to M7
Other Investment Income	(1,153)	1,153	0	(14)	(14)	(12)	(2)
Borrowing Cost Recoupment	(3,425)	50	(3,375)	(3,380)	(5)	(0)	(5)
Contributions to Reserves	143	0	143	143	0	0	0
Contributions from reserves	(747)	(4)	(751)	(751)	0	0	0
Appropriations	4,857	1,163	6,020	5,857	(163)	(83)	(80)
Expenditure to be Financed	170,447	259	170,706	177,289	6,583	7,401	(818)
General Government Grants	(64,823)	0	(64,823)	(64,823)	0	0	0
Non Domestic Rates	(32,937)	0	(32,937)	(32,937)	0	0	0
Council tax	(79,572)	(259)	(79,831)	(80,216)	(385)	(305)	(80)
Council Tax Benefit Support	6,885	0	6,885	7,113	228	324	(96)
Financing	(170,447)	(259)	(170,706)	(170,863)	(157)	20	(177)
Net General Fund (Surplus) / Deficit	0	0	0	6,426	6,426	7,421	(995)

DIRECTORATE – DIVISION VARIANCE COMMENTS

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & SAFEGUARDING	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	1,630	1,448	1,707		

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & SAFEGUARDING DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARY:

The month 7 directorate forecast outturn for 2020/21 shows an overspend of £1.707m, a marginal increase since M5 of £259k, after accounting for the Social Care Workforce and Sustainability Grant from Welsh Government of £984k. At M7, our Children Looked After numbers stand at 222 (remaining at the same overall number since month 5) and significant income has been lost in Registrars resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and cancelled appointments. The Welsh Government has yet to commit to their level of funding to cover the loss of pre booking wedding ceremonies. Of the overall over spend; £346k is because of the pressure from the additional 1.75% unfunded staff pay award and £242k from the 2% staff efficiency saving being deemed unachievable.

The **Adult Services** division is forecasting an overspend of £69k mainly due to the increase in care packages in Monmouth and spend in our own care at home service, partially offset by reduced activity resulting from COVID-19 with the closure of day centres and our in house respite facilities. This area of the directorate has benefitted in year from the Social Care Workforce and Sustainability Grant (SCWS) and Intermediate Care Funding (ICF), with the ICF having a planned termination date of 31st March 2022. The SCWS grant of circa £1m is expected to continue into 2021/22, however as it sits outside of core Welsh Government funding it is important to highlight as a budgetary risk moving forward given that the amount could vary, additional grant terms could be applied or it may cease.

Children's Services has a predicted overspend of £1.460m, which remains unchanged since the reported M5 forecast. This element of the directorate received a significant injection as part of the 2020/21 budget allocation; however, this was based on CLA numbers at that time being 197. Since the budget for 2020/21 was set, the service had a further influx of children to 219 at the end of 2019/20, and present count CLA stands at 222 and legal costs still remain at a predicted over spend of £238k.

Public Protection continues to strive to remain within its budget allocation, but the COVID 19 pandemic has hit this small service hard and is estimating an overspend of £178K. This is due to the indication that income loss in Registrars may not be fully funded by Welsh Government resulting from cancelled marriages and people not pre booking ceremonies because of COVID-19. Welsh Government have indicated that they will review the overall position towards the end of the financial year and assess if they consider Local Authorities losses to only be delayed or indeed lost.

ADULT SERVICES

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	24	156	180		

Due to the additional pay award, not achieving the 2% staff efficiency saving and additional spend in the care at home service.

CHILDREN SERVICES

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	1,575	1,459	1,460		

£1m overspend in providing care and placements for our 222 Looked After Children, £238k overspend in legal costs and the remaining overspend as a result of continued use of agency staffing which currently stands at 6 being employed plus the increased staff pay award.

COMMUNITY CARE

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(63)	(209)	(4)		

Mainly on budget but this is being held up by a circa £1m SCWS grant which ends this financial year.

COMMISSIONING

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'s	(118)	(63)	(103)		

Ongoing vacant Commissioning Officer post and realignment of Service Level Agreements and Contracts, but reduced by increased staff pay award.

PUBLIC PROTECTION

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'s	211	109	178		

Due to the indication that income loss in Registrars may not be fully funded by Welsh Government resulting from cancelled marriages and people not pre booking ceremonies because of COVID-19. Welsh Government have indicated that they will review the overall position towards the end of the financial year and assess if they consider Local Authorities losses to only be delayed or indeed lost.

RESOURCES & PERFORMANCE

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	1	(5)	(4)		

As a result of previous vacant posts within the Finance team, diluted slightly by the increased staff pay award.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	84	19	125		

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARY:

The Directorate's Month 7 position is an over spend of £125k, which is largely due to the overspend on ALN. However, this has been partially offset by the surplus balance following the closure of Mounton House, which has been transferred to the central CYP budgets to support the wider education budgets.

INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS BUDGET

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	(264)	(316)		

Increase in underspend of £52k is due to the Post 16 Teacher Pay Award being funded.

RESOURCES

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	37	22	14		

Additional IT Licence costs reported at month 5, are now due to materialise in 2021-22.

STANDARDS

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	47	261	426		

- Recoupment increased by (income received from other LA's) (£241,000)
- Independent placement costs overspent by £115,000
- Other LA placement costs overspent by £130,000
- Additional support for pupils attending our schools overspent by £495,000
- Underspend on early years (rising 3's) due to school closure (£150,000)
- Overspend on breakfast clubs £88,000

Within the overspend of £495,000 relating to the additional support for pupils attending our own schools, £200,000 relates to additional funding for the additional learning needs units in Overmonnow (£100k) and Monmouth Comprehensive (£100k). Both these units are able to accommodate more MCC pupils, resulting in less pupils needing to be educated either in independent or other LA schools. While this has resulted in an overspend, the fees paid for the other schools would have resulted in the overspend being higher.

Included in the independent placement costs is £108,000 relating to the three remaining pupils at Mounon House, the funding has been transferred from Mounon House to support this.

Breakfast clubs have seen a reduction in numbers since re-opening following the Summer Term lockdown, which has led to a reduction in income.

ENTERPRISE	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	5,950	5,113	4,617		

ENTERPRISE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARY:

The Enterprise and MonLife Directorate is forecasting an outturn position of £4.617m adverse at month 7. The impact of COVID-19 has been significant across all of the services with both a loss of income and additional costs incurred to operate critical front line services during the pandemic. In addition to the direct impacts of the pandemic service areas have identified pressures where budget savings have not been implemented or ongoing pressures continue to affect services.

Each service area sets out the detail behind these projections in the next sections of this report and the key financial issues and implications that have arisen since COVID-19 and lockdown commenced. The loss of income for MonLife, grounds maintenance, private hire in home to school transport, car parking and trade waste is significant. It is not anticipated that these income streams will be restored fully within this financial year and assumptions have been built into the forecast to account for when the services reopen and recommenced.

Due to the school closure's there has been a direct impact upon the income within schools catering, home to school transport and outdoor education and with ongoing social distancing, bubble and COVID-19 requirements this will have a long term impact on these services. There are also significant increased costs across the directorate, for example, there are additional resource requirements to operate services whilst complying with social distancing within building cleaning, highways, waste services and grounds maintenance as examples.

Across all Services, we are looking to ensure that all eligible additional costs and income losses will be claimed against any Welsh Government funding being made available.

BUSINESS GROWTH & ENTERPRISE

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	46	29	(50)		

Business Growth & Enterprise is forecasting a £50k underspend, this can be split down to the following:

Abergavenny Borough Theatre – Break-even, the theatre was expecting a £56k overspend but have benefitted from an Arts Council for Wales grant to help fund running costs during Covid-19 lockdown. This is the reason for the positive swing from Month 5.

- **Communications** - £4k underspend due to improved income.
- **Community & Partnership Development** - £21k underspend, this is mainly due to staff savings as we have been able to passport core costs to grant funding.
- **Enterprise Management** - £17k overspend due to unfunded pay award.
- **Strategic Projects** - £42k underspend mainly due to staff savings as we have moved costs relating to collaboration to capital as part of capitalisation directive.

FACILITIES & FLEET MANAGEMENT

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	1,339	1,097	1,222		

Facilities & Fleet Management is forecasting to overspend by £1,222k – the services within this area are being heavily impacted by the Covid-19 outbreak.

- **Catering** - £409k overspend. The service is anticipating a £596k shortfall in school meal income due to the effect of Covid-19. Schools were closed until mid-July and we are only forecasting meal uptake to be 40% of normal levels for the rest of the year now that pupils have returned. This has been part offset by a reduction in supplies and services due to the reduced meal numbers and staff furlough credits. In addition we are also experiencing pressure on our free school meal budget, the number of pupils entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) have risen from 1,390 to 1,640. There is no additional budget provision for this so if we have 100% uptake between now and year end our income from paid meals will reduce further. We are anticipating that all income losses will be funded by the WG income loss grant.

- **Building Cleaning** - £22k underspend. Forecasted income levels remain similar to last year so we are anticipating an under spend against budget. The level of cleaning within our buildings and schools has increased due to Covid-19 requirements and the extra cleaning hours are funded by the WG hardship fund, so the additional cost has not been included in the forecast. In addition, the service has received a schools cleaning grant which has helped cover the increased costs linked to the more expensive chemicals needed to kill COVID-19.

- **Passenger Transport** - £631k overspend, due in the main to:-

- Private Hire & Service 65 - £259k loss of private hire income, as we anticipate no private hires, school trips etc. for the rest of the year.

- School Transport Operations - £402k overspent, combination of historic staff pressure c/fwd from 2019-20 and estimated additional hours required to cover new Covid-19 transport arrangements and additional staffing required to cover recent contract hand backs.
- Commissioning - £29k underspend, due to :-
 - Staff vacancies.
 - A 25% reduction in contractor payments for Apr-Aug during Covid-19 lockdown.
 - Offset by, the cost of covering contract hand backs - due to the low number of available operators within the surrounding area we are finding that replacing contracts are coming at price premium, due to Covid-19 contracts have had to be split and additional vehicles put on to cover.
- **Fleet Maintenance** - £204k overspend, due to:-
 - The unit is incurring additional vehicle maintenance costs due to the authority's fleet increasing in number due in the main to Covid-19 requirements.
 - Increased depot maintenance.
 - A reduction in members of the Green Car scheme has hit savings (£6k).

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	1,456	1,153	783		

Neighbourhood services is forecasting to overspend by £783k – the services within this area have been heavily impacted by the Covid-19 outbreak.

- **Highways & Street Lighting** - Forecasting a £72k underspend. This is due to a saving in Street Lighting as electricity price increases were less than budgeted and due to Kwh savings from energy efficient lamp replacement, there is a one-off saving, as we will only see a part year financing loan repayment in 2020-21. Highways Operations and Swtra are currently forecasting to break-even.
- **Waste & Street Scene** - £854k overspend – This can be broken down into 2 main areas:-
 - Waste Services - £698k overspend due to:-
 - Staff Costs overspending by £231k due to the need to bring in more resource to cope with the impact of Covid-19. This forecast assumes social distancing measures will continue until financial year-end.
 - Vehicle Hire & running costs increasing by £61k – extra vehicles have been brought in to help with social distancing of workforce, as above we expect this to continue until year-end.
 - External Income reducing by £56k – The lockdown has meant that trade income and re-use shop income will not hit budget.
 - Non-Covid related pressures - £350k – due to abeyance of Usk CA site closure (£30k), pressure caused by no budget increase for contracts and fuel inflation and the delayed roll out of polyprop bags. In addition the volatility in the recycling market due to Brexit and Covid continue to impact negatively on treatment and disposal costs for recycling and waste materials. This has been part offset by savings in project staff vacancies. In addition we have moved £101k of revenue spend relating to service transformation to capital as part of the capitalisation directive, this is one of the reasons for the improvement from Month 5.
 - Grounds Maintenance – £157k overspend – the service has been greatly affected by the Covid-19 outbreak, grounds staff and vehicles were initially redeployed to help in the waste service so external income generation has been affected.

Both services have benefitted in quarter 1 from WG Covid-19 funding to cover lost income and additional spend and we are hopeful that this will continue for the remainder of the year. The forecast above assumes no further grant so if we do receive more the position will improve.

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	1,011	1,067	993		

Planning & Housing is forecasting to overspend by £993k.

- **Planning & Building Control** - £199k net overspend mainly due to shortfalls in planning income and building control fees because of Covid-19 lockdown.
- **Planning Policy** - £175k underspend, due to £128k of RLDP costs being moved to the capitalisation directive and an underspend of £47k of professional and specialist fees costs due to delays in the LDP.
- **Housing** is forecasting a £567k overspend, main areas include :-
 - A £527k overspend relating to housing our homeless in line with WG policy:-
 - B&B costs are expected to overspend by £223k.
 - We are estimating Emergency hostel increases of £260k due to additional security measures.
 - Increased private rental costs of £44k, as more accommodation is required as a result of homelessness issue.
 - It is anticipated that all of the above will be covered by the WG Covid-19 Hardship fund.
 - Reduced income in Renovation grants as Covid-19 lockdown has affected fees (£50k).
 - £5k overspend in software costs.
- **Car Parking, Highways Development & Flooding** - £402k overspend. Main areas:-
 - Car Parks overspending by £592k – Pay & Display and Parking Enforcement income has been affected by the Covid-19 lockdown and we are anticipating a £525k shortfall on our income budget, in addition, we have increased costs in rates, transport and supplies and services of £67k. We are anticipating that the income shortfall will be funded by WG grant.
 - Highways Development & Flooding underspending by £189k – this is mainly due to staff vacancies across the department where the decision has been made to freeze vacant posts to help with recovery of car park overspend.

(MONLIFE) Countryside & Culture

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	42	40	81		

Countryside & Culture is forecasting a £81k overspend. This is predominately down to lost income from event cancellations, postponement of workshops and shop closures in Museums and Learning due to the impact of closing sites due to Covid-19

(MONLIFE) Finance & Business Development

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(118)	(150)	(106)		

Finance & Business Development is forecasting to underspend by £106k. There has been lost income due to Covid-19 closures at Tintern Station and Caldicot Castle of £70k, but this has been offset by staff underspends across the services as posts have been purposely held vacant.

(MONLIFE) Leisure, Youth & Outdoor Adventure

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	2,173	1,877	1,694		

Leisure, Youth & Outdoor Adventure is forecasting a £1,694k overspend.

Leisure Centres are reporting a combined overspend of £1,573k. Even though our 4 centres re-opened earlier than expected, we have not been able to fully open all facilities and because of social distancing, have introduced restrictions on numbers. Significant numbers of people (3,000) are continuing to freeze their memberships but we have seen a large number of cancellations (2,000 to date) resulting in a big hit on income generation. Outdoor Adventure is forecasting a £177k overspend. Both sites have been closed since March and we do not expect them to re-open for residential accommodation visits until January with anticipated income at a fraction of original budget. The overspend has reduced from M5 as we have received qtr1 income loss grant from WG.

The Youth & Community Team is reporting a £55k underspend due to staff vacancies.

The department has benefitted in quarter 1 from WG Covid-19 funding to cover lost income and additional spend and we are hopeful that this will continue for the remainder of the year. The forecast above assumes no further grant so if we do receive more then the position will improve.

CHIEF EXECUTIVES UNIT	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	187	144	62		

LEGAL & LAND CHARGES

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	78	92	40		

Land Charges is forecasting to overspend by £50k due to a reduction in income as a result of the impact Covid-19 has had on the Housing market. This is a £13k improvement from month 5 as income activity has been higher than previously anticipated.

Legal is forecasting to underspend by £11k; this is mainly due to savings in employee costs as it has been decided not to fill the employment lawyers post, this saving has been offset by decreased fee income. This is a £39k improvement from month 5 mainly due to the decision not to fill the post in the structure.

GOVERNANCE, DEMOCRACY & SUPPORT

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	109	52	23		

Community Hubs are forecasting to overspend by £10k this is due to over spends in Usk PO, as this budget area is not being completely funded and therefore running at a loss, also there is insufficient budget provision for Gilvern Library. This is offset in part by savings across some of the other hubs due to a decrease in spend on supplies and services. The £7k adverse variance from Month 5 is due to the requirement to purchase more books, it was thought at month 5 that this would not be needed due to the Hubs being closed for a period of time.

The Contact Centre is reporting a £29k overspend, this is down to staff costs exceeding budget as restructure savings are put on hold whilst we deal with Covid-19 issues.

The Corporate Section is forecasting to overspend by £12k, this is due to an overspend relating to supplies and services and a copyright licencing fee.

The Democratic Services Section is forecasting to underspend by £48,000, this is due to underspends in supplies and services mainly due to Members working from home. The £34k improvement from month 5 is due to further reductions in supplies and services.

Policy and Partnerships is forecasting to overspend by £19k, this is mainly due to an increase in Welsh Language Translation costs.

RESOURCES	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	782	694	193		

RESOURCES DIRECTORS COMMENTARY:

Whilst the COVID-19 pandemic has adversely impacted front line services the directorate has equally suffered significantly but in different ways. The forecast over spend of £193k is in part offset by vacancy savings and notably where senior finance posts and property posts are not being filled. This is not a sustainable position and will not be a permanent feature.

There is a significant pressure of £429k that centres itself on forecast increases in housing benefit claims, and that includes B&B claims for homeless people, and which doesn't attract full subsidy from DWP. Funding is being sought from Welsh Government's COVID-19 Hardship Fund to meet this pressure.

The directorate is also suffering income shortfalls as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, with shortfalls in summons income, in Raglan training centre, Markets and with shortfalls in budgeted commercial income.

The positive variance identified since month 5 can largely be attributed to the capitalisation of eligible costs as part of the increase in capitalisation directive that was approved at month 5. £309k of Digital programme office costs, £66k of transformational costs and £36k of collaborative costs have been capitalised since month 5.

This remains an evolving and dynamic situation that is under constant review and every effort is being made to curtail non-essential spend in recognition of the directorate and whole authority forecast over spend.

FINANCE

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	137	189	173		

Finance - £262k underspend - as a result of senior Finance staff vacancies and maternity leave. This forecast currently assumes these posts will remain vacant for rest of year.

Audit - £36k underspend due to staff savings as we have funded collaboration costs through capital as part of capitalisation directive.

Revenues - £533k overspend. The outturn has been heavily impacted by Covid-19:

- Benefits is forecasting a £429k overspend. The Covid-19 pandemic continues to put this budget under considerable pressure. Welsh Government guidance requires councils to ensure that no one is sleeping rough. As a consequence the number of B&B claims for housing benefit continue to rise (although we are starting to see some levelling off) Not all this expenditure qualifies for housing benefit subsidy, which is resulting in a budget pressure which will likely continue beyond this financial year.

- Council Tax is forecasting a £125k overspend, £86k of this relates to an anticipated shortfall in summons income, following the closure of courts and the decision to temporarily halt recovery for unpaid council tax and business rates, as a result of COVID-19. The remaining balance relates to a

staffing overspend as budget has been moved as part of the Resources restructure, this has been offset by underspends within Finance as detailed above.

- Debtors is underspending by £18k due to a staff vacancy saving, due to the financial impact of Covid-19, a decision has been made not to fill this post.

Systems & Cashiers - £62k underspend – main reasons relate to software and system development savings and security carrier costs as activity is down due to Covid-19 shutdown.

INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION & TECHNOLOGY

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	40	(128)	(431)		

The ICT section is forecasting a £431k underspend. This is due to :-

- Savings within SRS, they are currently predicting a £52k underspend on our contribution for 2020-21 and are also holding MCC specific reserves totalling £70k - we have requested that these be passed back to us this year.
- A £309,000 saving within our digital programme office as we have passported staff costs that relate to digital transformation to capital as part of the capitalisation directive.

The improvement from month 5 relates to the movement of digital programme office staff costs to capital; this was not included at Month 5.

PEOPLE

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(2)	6	(68)		

The department is forecasting to break-even this year but there are variations amongst sections, the main being:-

- **People Services** - £8k overspend, this is due to a shortfall in training income due to Covid-19 of £37k part offset by staff savings within HR of £29k due to staff savings, as posts have only been filled part way through the year.
- **Organisational Development** - £62k underspend, this is mainly due to staff savings as we are transferring staff costs involved with service transformation to capital as part of the capitalisation directive.
- **Customer Relations** - £14k underspend due to a reduction in professional fees.

The improvement from Month 5 of £74k is mainly down to the decision to move staff costs within organisational development to capital.

FUTURE MONMOUTHSHIRE

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	112	112	82		

Future Monmouthshire is forecasting to overspend by £82k. £112k of Corporate Agency and travel savings have been built into the budget for 2020-21 – currently these are deemed unachievable or are being achieved within directorate budgets and are thus contained in their respective forecasts. This has been offset by staff savings, as we are covering secondment costs of a member of staff from WG. This was not factored in at month 5 and so is the reason for the improvement.

COMMERCIAL & CORPORATE LANDLORD

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	495	515	437		

Commercial & Corporate Landlord is forecasting a £437k overspend:-

• **Investment Properties** is forecasting a combined overspend of £393k, this can be split into 2 areas:-

- Investment Assets other - £200k overspend, our MTFP for 2020-21 included a £200k saving to reflect additional income from the purchase of more investment properties. Currently (and in part due to Covid-19) there are no further purchases in the pipeline this year so this saving is unachievable.
- Castlegate and Newport Leisure Park's (NLP) combined surplus for 2020-21 is estimated to be £417k, although we are more than covering costs this is short on our budgeted target of £609k and we are forecasting a £193k overspend for this year. This is mainly down to a rental income reduction at our NLP site of £265k as we have seen another unit closure and are anticipating a hit on rentals due to the impact Covid-19 is having on the Leisure & Retail sector. Castlegate is forecasting to underspend by £73k, we have benefitted from a one-off windfall of £117k as Alder King have paid over tenant loan repayments that they were holding on our behalf, this has been offset by a £40k anticipated overspend on consultant and maintenance costs.

• **Estates** - £133k over spend. This is mainly due to income not reaching budgeted levels due to 3 issues:

- 1) vacant office space in the Magor means that rental income is down,
- 2) the budget assumed income from the creation of a development company, this has not happened yet,
- 3) our service charge income is down as we are yet to come to an agreement with our tenant BAM.

All 3 total a shortfall of £244k. This is currently being offset by net staffing savings of £111k due to vacant posts only being filled part way through the year.

• **Solar Farm** - £66k underspend - even though we have seen ROC unit prices fall due to the drop-off in demand due to Covid-19 lockdown, the solar farm is still generating a surplus, this is a £17k improvement from month 5 mainly due to maintenance costs reducing.

• **County Farms** - £7k overspend, mainly due to rates increases.

• **Cemeteries** - £38k overspend mainly due to increased maintenance work on trees and boundary walls. We have seen less burials due to COVID-19 rules but we are confident that income will remain at 2019/20 levels.

• **Markets** - £160k overspend. This is mainly due to income loss as turnover has been affected by the Covid-19 shutdown and an increase in waste collection charges, but this is offset by staff savings of £20k due to the delayed appointment of the Deputy Markets manager.

• **Industrial units** - £13k overspend mainly due to the cost of EPC surveys and a reduction in rental income.

• **Property Services & Facilities Mgt** is forecasting a £212k underspend, made up as follows:-

- Property & Office Services are forecasting a combined underspend of £102k, this is mainly due to staff savings as some vacant posts will not be filled until later than originally anticipated or frozen until start of next year and a reduction in supplies & Services.

- Property Accommodation is forecasting to underspend by £100k. The main reason for this is due to savings in maintenance and utilities costs as offices have been closed or in limited operation due to Covid-19.
- Telephony is forecasting to underspend by £10k as contracted call charges are expected to come in below budget.

CORPORATE COSTS & LEVIES	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	1,480	66	42		
PRECEPTS & LEVIES					
Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	2	2	2		
Small overspend on National parks levy of £2k due to notification of levy late in the budget process.					
CORONERS SERVICES					
Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	23	23	23		
An increase in workload and staffing requirements along with DDA compliance works will lead to a forecast £23k overspend against budget.					
CORPORATE MANAGEMENT					
Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	(114)	(191)		
Primarily due to the forecast receipt receivable on the final dissolution of Capita Gwent Consultancy alongside rate refunds on Authority owned premises, which were not known about at month 5.					
NON DISTRIBUTED COSTS					
Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	108	108	215		
Additional pension strain costs relating to redundancies. Strain costs relate to staff who retire before their normal pension age and where the employer is required to top up the pension fund to cover the shortfall in contributions. The majority of these costs would not have been known about at budget setting stage due to the uncertainty over the timing, value and individual pension implications of redundancies. A further increase over and above the month 5 figure is now reported due to further notification of some significant early retirements.					
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES					
Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	1,300	0	(61)		
The budgets held for incremental pay pressure (£420k pressure) and cross directorate efficiency savings (£359k saving) are to remain centrally and not be distributed to service budgets.					
INSURANCE					
Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	47	46	56		

An overspend is currently forecast against the premium budget based on the results of the Insurance renewal and the increase in costs for the period Oct 2020 to April 2021 due to the worsening of claims experience. The flooding events led to a significant property claim at Monmouth LC and Covid-19 has led to significant travel claims relating to cancelled school trips. It should be noted that 2021/22 will see a full year impact of these events, which will need to be taken account of in budget setting.

APPROPRIATIONS	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(77)	(83)	(163)		
FIXED ASSET DISPOSAL COSTS					
Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	25	6		
Costs forecast over and above the current budget due to unforeseen surveys and studies relating to disposal sites. Clarification since month 5 of some costs that were classified as capital in nature and subsequently moved.					
INTEREST & INVESTMENT INCOME					
Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	163	181	162		
The forecast rate of return achievable following the Covid-19 pandemic has reduced significantly from budgeted levels as the UK Government refines its economic response. This has also impacted forecast returns on Property and combined funds. Since month 5 income returns on pooled funds have recovered to a level not predicted at month 5 and consequently have improved the forecast.					
INTEREST PAYABLE & SIMILAR CHARGES					
Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(126)	(164)	(230)		
In October 2019, the PWLB took the unprecedented step of increasing its borrowing margin across the board by 1% in reaction to increased levels of borrowing by Local Authorities to fund commercial investments. This has resulted in PWLB borrowing being uneconomic when compared to short term borrowing sourced from other public bodies and consequently the Authority's approach has been modified resulting in lower borrowing costs in the short term. PWLB has since reversed this decision but longer-term rates continue to remain unattractive in the near term until capital-spending plans are firmed up.					
CHARGES REQUIRED UNDER REGULATION					
Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(113)	(113)	(82)		
A high level of slippage in the capital programme has resulted in some assets not being operational by 31/03/2020 and consequently the MRP charge for those assets being deferred by at least one year. Since month 5, a more detailed piece of work has been undertaken on this large budget and the forecast has been refined.					
OTHER INVESTMENT INCOME					
Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(1)	(12)	(14)		

Unexpected recoupment following the final winding up of Heritable bank, which had previously defaulted.

FINANCING	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	336	20	(157)		
COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT SUPPORT					
Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	336	324	229		
<p>This budget continues to be under particular pressure, as a direct result of Covid-19. Since the beginning of the year, caseload has increased and now stands at around 6,050 cases (caseload at the end of March 2019 was 5,721). Cases are slowly beginning to level off. In addition, since the month 5 forecast was prepared the Welsh Government funding for quarter one has come through, which amounted to £76,000 for Monmouthshire. Welsh Government have recently announced that a second tranche of funding for CTRS will be released shortly. Again, we await confirmation of MCC's share of this funding.</p>					
COUNCIL TAX					
Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	(305)	(385)		
<p>This year's collection rate is still down by 2.2% compared to the same time last year. Recovery action has started and we now have a court date scheduled for January 2021 for formal recovery action to start again. On the plus side the council tax base continues to look healthy, with an additional 330 properties added to the base since it was prepared last October. As a result, forecast to collect an additional £385,000 income this year.</p>					

2. SCHOOLS

- 2.1. A Board of Governors who are responsible for managing the school's finances directly governs each of the Authority's Schools. However, the Authority also holds a key responsibility for monitoring the overall financial performance of schools. Below is a table showing the outturn forecast Schools' balances position based on month 5 projections for each Educational Cluster.
- 2.2. The monitoring earlier in the year at month 2 included a surplus balance of £206,518 for Mounton House. As the school has closed this has been transferred centrally. £107,000 has been used to support the placement costs for the 3 remaining MCC pupils and the remaining £100,000 has been used to offset the overspend in CYP. Included in the table below are the total balances excluding Mounton House for comparison.

Draft Council Fund Outturn 2020/21 – School Balances Summary outturn position at Month 7	(A) Opening Reserves (Surplus) / Deficit Position 2020/21 £000's	(B) Forecast Movement from / (to) School Balances @ Month 5 £'000	(C) Forecast Movement from / (to) School Balances @ Month 7 £'000	(A+C) Forecast Reserve Balances at 2020/21 Outturn £'000
Cluster				
Abergavenny	(118)	(316)	(299)	(417)

Caldicot	160	81	18	178
Chepstow	24	235	205	229
Monmouth	518	(98)	(129)	389
Special	(149)	180	193	44
Total	435	82	(13)	422
Total Excl Mounon House	607	(91)	(185)	422

2.3. Collective School Balances at the beginning of the financial year amounted to a £435,000 deficit. The Schools month 2 forecast draw on reserves was £374,000 which resulted in a forecast deficit balance of £809,000. At month 5, the forecast deficit balance had improved by £293,000 taking the forecast deficit to £517,000. At month 7, the forecast deficit balance has improved by a further £95,000 taking the forecast deficit to £422,000. It should be noted that King Henry VIII Comprehensive School have requested a Local Authority loan of £250,000 which has been approved by the Governing Body.

2.4. The movement of individual schools forecasting to be in deficit during the financial year is shown below:

Start of year	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7
Total: 17	Total: 14	Total: 12	Total: 13
Caldicot Comprehensive	Caldicot Comprehensive	Caldicot Comprehensive	Caldicot Comprehensive
Chepstow Comprehensive	Chepstow Comprehensive	Chepstow Comprehensive	Chepstow Comprehensive
King Henry VIII Comprehensive	King Henry VIII Comprehensive	**	
Monmouth Comprehensive	Monmouth Comprehensive	Monmouth Comprehensive	Monmouth Comprehensive
Llandogo Primary	Llandogo Primary	Llandogo Primary	Llandogo Primary
Llantilio Pertholey CIW Primary			
Magor CIW Primary			
Osbaston CiW Primary	Osbaston CiW Primary	Osbaston CiW Primary	Osbaston CiW Primary
Overmonnow Primary			Overmonnow Primary
Pupil Referral Service	Pupil Referral Service	Pupil Referral Service	Pupil Referral Service
Raglan CiW Primary	Raglan CiW Primary		
Rogiet Primary			
St Mary's RC Primary	St Mary's RC Primary	St Mary's RC Primary	St Mary's RC Primary
	The Dell Primary School	The Dell Primary School	The Dell Primary School
Thornwell Primary	Thornwell Primary	Thornwell Primary	Thornwell Primary
Undy Primary	Undy Primary	Undy Primary	Undy Primary
Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni	Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni	Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni	Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni
Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin	Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin	Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin	Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin

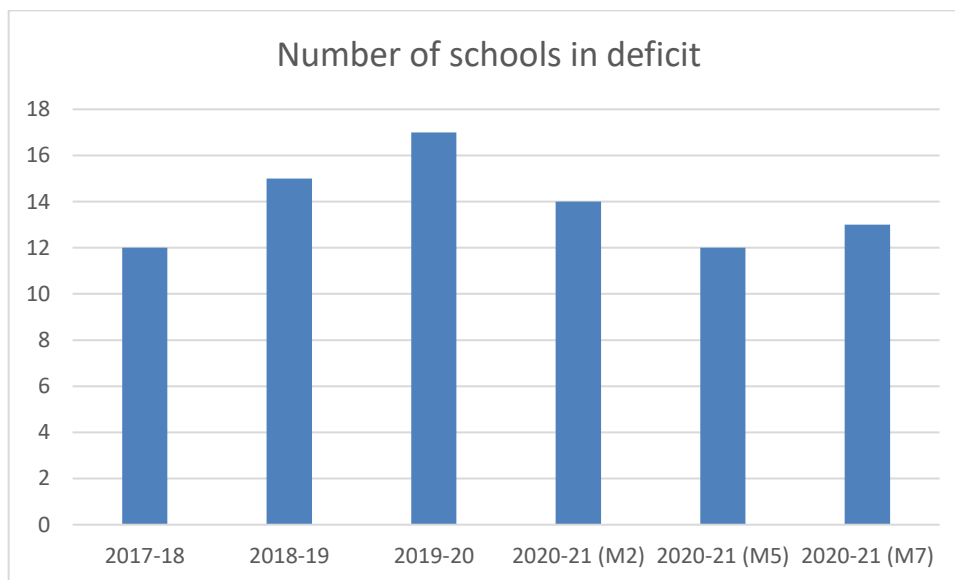
** King Henry VIII Comprehensive School forecast balance at month 5 onwards includes a Local Authority loan of £250,000 which is estimated to result in a surplus year end balance.

2.5. All schools in a deficit budget have, or are in the process of agreeing recovery plans. These recovery plans will be confirmed with both the Local Education Authority and each School's Governing Body. Once finalised the schools with significant deficits will be monitored by the Cabinet member for Children and Young People and Resources on a termly basis.

2.6. Total schools balances are exhibiting a fluctuating trend with some schools showing a continuing reduction in schools balances which is of concern and others a more balanced trend.

Financial Year-end	Net level of School Balances
2014-15	(1,140)
2015-16	(1,156)
2016-17	(269)
2017-18	(175)
2018-19	232
2019-20	435
2020-21 (Forecast)	422

2.7. However, set against this and as referenced above the number of schools in deficit is forecasting to reduce as the financial year progresses illustrated by the following table. This provides some overall comfort that recovery plans are taking effect.



2.8. There has been a significant reliance on reserve balances to supplement school spending plans in the last 4 years across individual schools with a certain amount of replenishment. As a rough guide, prior to 2010, Welsh Government advocated that school balance levels equated to no more than £50,000 for a primary school and £100,000 for a secondary school. Members may wish to seek a comfort that balances are not being used to subsidise and sustain core costs such as staffing.

3 CAPITAL OUTTURN

3.1 The summary forecast Capital position at Month 7 is as follows:

Forecast Capital Outturn Position 2020/21 at Month 7

Select Portfolio	Slippage B/F	Original Budget	Budget movements	Forecast Slippage	Revised Budget 2020/21	Forecast at M7	Variance M7	Variance at M5
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Expenditure								
Children & Young People	1,245	14,423	655	(12,483)	3,840	3,840	0	0
Economic & Development	17,496	3,068	30	(18,012)	2,582	2,582	0	0
Adult	300	5,678	0	(5,978)	0	0	0	0
Strong Communities	5,801	10,139	3,817	(897)	18,860	18,860	0	0
Total Expenditure	24,842	33,308	4,502	(37,370)	25,282	25,282	0	0
Financing								
Supported Borrowing	0	(2,417)	0	0	(2,417)	(2,417)	0	0
General Capital Grant	0	(2,423)	0	0	(2,423)	(2,423)	0	0
Grants and Contributions	(393)	(18,229)	(3,797)	15,628	(6,791)	(6,791)	0	0
S106 Contributions	(1,052)	0	0	78	(974)	(974)	0	0
Unsupported Borrowing	(22,546)	(5,275)	0	20,464	(7,357)	(7,357)	0	0
Reserve & Revenue Funding	(239)	(2)	0	0	(241)	(241)	0	0
Capital Receipts	(612)	(3,462)	(705)	1,200	(3,579)	(3,579)	0	0
Leasing	0	(1,500)	0	0	(1,500)	(1,500)	0	0
Total Financing	(24,842)	(33,308)	(4,502)	37,370	(25,282)	(25,282)	0	0

3.2 The capital expenditure forecast outturn at month 7 shows no variance due to a forecasted full spend against the revised budget net of forecast slippage.

3.3 The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant disruption to the progress of budgeted capital schemes with forecast slippage at month 7 totalling £37.4m (£25.2m at month 5). The impact is felt in both internally and externally managed projects, with disruption to external supply chains, increased contract risk and potential inflationary cost pressures sitting alongside internal resourcing pressures.

3.4 The forecast slippage is broken down as follows:

Scheme	Forecast Slippage M2 (000's)	Forecast Slippage M5 (000's)	Forecast Slippage M7 (000's)
Asset Investment fund		18,142	18,142
Tranche 'B' King Henry Future Schools			12,484
Crick Road Care Home	5,978	5,978	5,978
County Hall 'J' block		544	544
IT upgrade and refurbishment for the Council Chamber		200	200
Section 106 schemes		131	78
Property schemes		229	74

3.5 Useable Capital Receipts Available

3.6 In the table below, the effect of the changes to the forecast capital receipts at Month 7 on the useable capital receipts balances available to meet future capital commitments are illustrated. There is also a comparison to the balances forecast within the 2020/24 MTFP capital budget proposals.

	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000
Balance as at 1st April	3,207	5,120	8,253	8,698	7,944
Capital receipts used for financing	(1,488)	(2,059)	(859)	(859)	(859)
Capital receipts used to support capitalisation direction	(2,091)	0	0	0	0
Capital receipts Received or Forecast	5,492	5,192	1,304	104	104
Forecast Balance as at 31st March	5,120	8,253	8,698	7,944	7,189
Forecast Balance 2020/24 MTFP	9,904	10,245	10,791	10,136	10,136
Variance compared to 2020/24 MTFP	(4,784)	(1,992)	(2,093)	(2,192)	(2,947)

3.7 Forecasted capital receipts of £4.1m are delayed from 2020/21 to 2021/22 in regard to sales of land at Rockfield Farm, Undy, Chepstow Road, Raglan and Penarth Farm due to the delay in receiving offers because of the Covid-19 pandemic and site constraints concerning Penarth Farm.

3.8 Forecasted balances held at the end of each financial year are lower than forecasted in the 2020/24 MTFP. Ignoring timing differences in the realisation of capital receipts, this is largely attributable to the use of unbudgeted receipts under the capitalisation direction in 2019-20 and 2020-21 and if this trend of utilisation is maintained, this will be reflected in a greatly reduced balance being carried forward in subsequent years to fund future capital schemes.

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Social Care, Health & Safeguarding	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific			Total
		Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	
DIVISION	Net Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)				
Adult Services	181	0	0	0	181
Children Services	1,460	0	0	0	1,460
Community Care	(4)	0	0	0	(4)
Commissioning	(104)	0	0	0	(104)
Partnerships	0	0	0	0	0
Public Protection	0	0	177	0	177
Resources & Performance	(4)	0	0	0	(4)
	1,529	0	177	0	1,706

Social Care, Health & Safeguarding	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			HEADLINE PRESSURE ANALYSIS			20-21 Sensitivity			MTFP Risk 21-22	
		Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Core assumptions used to calculate forecast pressure*	Factors that are attributable / can alter forecast pressure figure / Sensitivity Value (£0,000) ~	Risk Factor (%)/ Future Impact Pressures on Service where no value offered /Other factors	Worst £000	Medium £000	Best £000	Pressure £000
Adult Services												
Not achieving income target and the 2% staff efficiency saving, coupled with the increased staff pay award	588					Pay award additional cost is £346K and cost centres that cannot meet the 2% staff efficiency saving as front line services totals £242K		588			588	
Capitalisation	(114)											
Reduced capacity to offer services (C19)	(293)											
Total Adult Services	181	0	0	0				588	0	0	588	
Children Services												
Placement costs for LAC and non LAC population	872					2020/21 M7 forecast					872	
Legal costs	238					2020/21 M7 forecast					238	
Agency staffing	350					2020/21 M7 forecast		350			350	
Total Children's Services	1,460	0	0	0				350	0	0	1,460	
Community Care												
Increase in care packages	260											
TWUD SCWS Grant	(440)											
DOLS Capitalised	(100)											
Other	26											

Increase in care packages (Radis Usk)	250				Reintegration of Radis USK contract						250	
Total Community Care	(4)	0	0	0				0	0	0	250	
Commissioning												
Vacancy	(72)											
Service level contracts not being able to be run	(32)											
Total Commissioning	(104)	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	
Partnerships												
Total Partnerships	0	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	
Public Protection												
Lost income for Registrars mainly due to cancelled/reduced weddings and ceremonies			177									
Total Public Protection	0	0	177	0				0	0	0	0	
Resources & Performance												
Other	(4)										0	
Total Resources & Performance	(4)	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	
Total Social Care, Health & Safeguarding	1,529	0	177	0				938	0	0	2,298	

Children & Young People	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific			Total
		Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	
DIVISION	Net Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)				
Individual Schools Budgets	(316)	0	0	0	(316)
Resources	10	0	0	5	15
Standards	406	(50)	70	0	426
	100	(50)	70	5	125

Children & Young People	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			HEADLINE PRESSURE ANALYSIS			20-21 Sensitivity			MTFP Risk 21-22		
		Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Core assumptions used to calculate forecast pressure*	Factors that are attributable / can alter forecast pressure figure / Sensitivity Value (£0,000) ~	Risk Factor (%)/ Future Impact Pressures on Service where no value offered /Other factors	Worst £000	Medium £000	Best £000	Pressure £000	Risk High/Med /Low	Notes
Individual Schools Budgets													
Post 16 funding	(56)												
Mounton House transfer	(260)												
Total Individual Schools Budgets	(316)	0	0	0				0	0	0	0		
Resources													
Finance	9	0	0	5	Salary costs relating to a mutual supply compensation scheme	0	No risk going forward	5				Low	
ICT	14				Total costs for the year to ensure all the essential upgrades are completed.			14				Low	
Other	(13)												
Total Resources	10	0	0	5				19	0	0	0		
Standards													
Loss of income for breakfast club for the summer term	18		70		This is the loss of income from breakfast clubs for the summer term and the initial two weeks at the start of September. The loss of income is £90,000 with a cost saving of £20,000. It is anticipated that this can be reclaimed from Welsh Government	£4,000 per week	50% - currently lower numbers attending breakfast club	156	104	70	0	Low	The risk for 21-22 is that no breakfast clubs operate during the 20-21 academic year

Early Years	(100)	(50)			Savings due to rising 3's not being admitted into schools in the summer term due to covid								
ALN	478										431		
Other	10												
Total Standards	406	(50)	70	0				156	104	70	431		
CYP	100	(50)	70	5				175	104	70	431		

ENTERPRISE	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID-19 Specific			
DIVISION	Net Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid-19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Business Growth & Enterprise	(50)	0	0	0	(50)
Facilities & Fleet	409	145	668	0	1,222
Neighbourhood Services	279	292	212	0	783
Planning & Housing	(402)	0	869	527	994
MonLife	(185)	0	1,853	0	1,668
	51	437	3,602	527	4,617

ENTERPRISE	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID-19 Specific PRESSURES			HEADLINE PRESSURE ANALYSIS			20-21 Sensitivity			MTFP Risk 21-22		
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid-19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Core assumptions used to calculate forecast pressure*	Factors that are attributable / can alter forecast pressure figure / Sensitivity Value (£0,000) ~	Risk Factor (%) / Future Impact Pressures on Service where no value offered /Other factors	Worst £000	Medium £000	Best £000	Pressure £000	Risk High/Med /Low	Notes
Business Growth & Enterprise													
Community & Pship Dev - staff costs covered by grant funding	(21)												
Communications - improved income	(4)												
Strategic Projects - staff saving - transferring staff collaboration costs to capital.	(42)												
Enterprise Mgt - Pay award budget shortfall	17												
Total Business Growth & Enterprise	(50)	0	0	0				0	0	0	0		
Facilities & Fleet													
Schools Catering - Loss of income/FSM increase	0	0	409	0							314	Med	Loss of income due to increase in FSM entitlement (£114k), Loss of general meal uptake (£200k)
Building Cleaning - Covid cleaning grant, assumes school cleaning funded by grant.	(22)	0	0	0									
PTU - Staffing Pressure	401	0	0	0							401	Med	Recurring pressure.
PTU - New Software Package - Moved to Capitalisation.	0	0	0	0									
PTU - Loss of Private Hire Income due to Covid			243								243	Med	Impacted by Covid, guidelines might impact ability to generate external income next year.
PTU - Service 65 income loss due to Covid			16										
PTU - Grass Routes	0		0										
PTU Commissioning - Contract savings offset by increased covid costs.	(108)	79											
Transport - Green car scheme loss, increased repair costs for additional vehicles taken on for covid.	138	66											
Total Facilities & Fleet	409	145	668	0				0	0	0	958		
Neighbourhood Services													
Highways & Streetlighting - Streetlighting energy saving.	(71)												

Chief Executive	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific			
DIVISION	Net Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Legal & Land Charges	(11)	0	50	0	39
Governance, Democracy & Support	(7)	0	0	29	22
	(18)	0	50	29	61

Chief Executive	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			HEADLINE PRESSURE ANALYSIS			20-21 Sensitivity			MTPF Risk 21-22		
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Core assumptions used to calculate forecast pressure*	Factors that are attributable / can alter forecast pressure figure / Sensitivity Value (£0,000)	Risk Factor (%) / Future Impact Pressures on Service where no value offered /Other factors	Worst £000	Medium £000	Best £000	Pressure £000	Risk High/Med/Low	Notes
Legal & Land Charges													
Reduction in Land Charges Income due to impact of Covid on Housing market.	0	0	50								50	Med	Dependant on how housing market reacts to impact of Covid.
Legal - Staff savings as not filling employment lawyer post.	(11)												
Total Legal & Land Charges	(11)	0	50	0				0	0	0	50		
Governance, Democracy & Support													
Community Education - Loss of income due to closures of sites due to Covid.	1	0	0	0									
Contact Centre - Overspend as restructuring has been put on hold during Covid.		0	0	29							29	Med	Current climate means restructure cannot be implemented so staff savings are not forthcoming.
Corporate - unbudgeted licensing cost, supplies & Serv	11												
Democratic Services - underspend in Supplies & Services.	(48)												
Policy & Pships - Welsh Translation Costs	19												
Community Hubs - Usk PO, increased book purchase.	10												
Total Governance, Democracy & Support	(7)	0	0	29				0	0	0	29		
TOTAL CEO's	(18)	0	50	29				0	0	0	79		

RESOURCES	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific			Total
	Net Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	
Commercial, Corporate & landlord Services	(38)	0	475	0	437
Finance	(148)	320	0	0	172
Future Monmouthshire	82	0	0	0	82
Information Communication Technology	(431)	0	0	0	(431)
People	(105)	0	37	0	(68)
	(640)	320	512	0	192

RESOURCES	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			HEADLINE PRESSURE ANALYSIS			20-21 Sensitivity			MTFP Risk 21-22		
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Core assumptions used to calculate forecast pressure*	Factors that are attributable / can alter forecast pressure figure / Sensitivity Value (£0,000) ~	Risk Factor (%) / Future Impact Pressures on Service where no value offered / Other factors	Worst £000	Medium £000	Best £000	Pressure £000	Risk High/Med /Low	Notes
Commercial, Corporate & landlord Services													
Estates - Income Pressure - Rental loss from Magor, development company not yet set up (budget assumed income stream).	55	0	79	0							179	High	Depending on Covid situation we might not be able to rent out the spare office accommodation at Magor, ongoing issue of development company.
Sustainability & Solar Farm	(97)		0										
Commercial Investments	(73)		266										
Investment Income Pressure	200	0	0	0							200	High	There is a high possibility that we will not enter into any additional investment purchases in 21-22.
MCC Markets - Income Loss	30		130										
Industrial Units	13												
Cemeteries	38										38	High	Cemetery income has been down for a number of years and analysis indicates that it will remain below budget going forward.
County Farms	8												
Property & Office Services	(112)												
Property Accommodation	(100)												
Total Commercial, Corporate & landlord Services	(38)	0	475	0				0	0	0	417		
Finance													
Benefits - B&B HB claims increasing due to Covid, not all can be claimed against Housing benefit subsidy so pressure on budget.	109	320	0	0							429	Med	Housing benefit may struggle next year if local economy struggles with impact of covid. The shortfall caused from housing the Homeless will continue unless additional funding is forthcoming.
Council Tax & NNDR - Shortfall in Summons income due to courts being closed and decision to halt recovery of Unpaid Council Tax & Business Rates. Salary overspend as budget moved as part of restructure that has not taken place yet.	121	0	0	0							50	Med	Summon income may still be impacted by Covid closures.
Audit - capitalisation of salary	(36)												
Debtors - Vacant post	(18)												
Finance & Imp - Senior staff vacancy saving	(262)												
Systems & Exchequer - Security carrier savings, system dev postponement savings.	(62)												

Total Finance	(148)	320	0	0			0	0	0	479	
Future Monmouthshire											
Future Monmouthshire - Unachievable 20-21 Savings relating to Authority Wide Agency (£80k) and Fuel reductions (£34k). Offset by staff secondment savings (£30k)	82	0	0	0						82	High Recurring pressure - crosscutting savings yet to be finalised.
Total Future Monmouthshire	82	0	0	0			0	0	0	82	
ICT											
ICT - SRS savings & reserve	(122)										
DPO - Capitalisation of salaries	(309)										
Total ICT	(431)	0	0	0			0	0	0		
People											
Corporate Training - Reduced Income	0	0	37	0						37	Med Recurring income pressure, turnover has also been hit further by Covid lockdown so can't see it recovering next year.
Customer Relations - Reduction in Professional fees	(14)										
Innovation - Staff costs to Capitalisation Directive	(62)										
People Services - Staff Savings in HR	(29)										
Total People	(105)	0	37	0			0	0	0	37	
TOTAL RESOURCES	(640)	320	512	0			0	0	0	1,015	

Corporate	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific			
DIVISION	Net Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Precepts & Levies	2	0	0	0	2
Coroner's	23	0	0	0	23
Corporate Management	(191)	0	0	0	(191)
Non Distributed Costs (NDC)					
Strategic Initiatives	215	0	0	0	215
Insurance	(61)	0	0	0	(61)
	56	0	0	0	56
	44	0	0	0	44

	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			HEADLINE PRESSURE ANALYSIS			20-21 Sensitivity			MTFP Risk 21-22	
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Core assumptions used to calculate forecast pressure*	Factors that are attributable / can alter forecast pressure figure / Sensitivity Value (£0,000) ~	Risk Factor (%) / Future Impact Pressures on Service where no value offered /Other factors	Worst £000	Medium £000	Best £000	Pressure £000	Risk High/Med /Low
Precepts & Levies												
National parks levy	2											
Total	2	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	
Coroner's												
Coroner Fee	23											
Total	23	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	
Corporate Management												
Capita Gwent	(109)											
Rate rebates	(101)											
Other	19											
Total	(191)	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	
Non Distributed Costs (NDC)												
Strain costs	215											
Total	215	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	
Strategic Initiatives												
Other	(61)											
Total	(61)	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	
Insurance												
Premium	56										131	High
Total	56	0	0	0				0	0	0	131	
Total	44	0	0	0				0	0	0	131	

Appropriations	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific			Total
	Net Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	
Fixed Asset Disposal Costs	6	0	0	0	6
Interest & Investment Income	162	0	0	0	162
Interest Payable & Similar Charges	(230)	0	0	0	(230)
Charges Required under Regulation	(82)	0	0	0	(82)
Other Investment Income	(14)	0	0	0	(14)
Borrowing Cost Recoupment	(5)	0	0	0	(5)
	(163)	0	0	0	(163)

	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			HEADLINE PRESSURE ANALYSIS			20-21 Sensitivity			MTFP Risk 21-22	
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Core assumptions used to calculate forecast pressure*	Factors that are attributable / can alter forecast pressure figure / Sensitivity Value (£0,000) ~	Risk Factor (%)/ Future Impact Pressures on Service where no value offered /Other factors	Worst £000	Medium £000	Best £000	Pressure £000	Risk High/Med /Low
Fixed Asset Disposal Costs												
Other	6											
Total	6	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	
Interest & Investment Income												
Interest Receivable	162											
Total	162	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	
Interest Payable & Similar Charges												
Interest payable	(230)											
Total	(230)	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	
Charges Required under Regulation												
MRP	(82)											
Total	(82)	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	
Other Investment Income												
Other	(14)											
Total	(14)	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	
Borrowing Cost Recoupment												
Other	(5)											
Total	(5)	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	
Total	(163)	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	

Financing	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific			
DIVISION	Net Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Council Tax	(385)	0	0	0	(385)
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	0	229	0	0	229
	(385)	229	0	0	(156)

	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			HEADLINE PRESSURE ANALYSIS			20-21 Sensitivity			MTFP Risk 21-22	
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Core assumptions used to calculate forecast pressure*	Factors that are attributable / can alter forecast pressure figure / Sensitivity Value (£0,000) ~	Risk Factor (%)/ Future Impact Pressures on Service where no value offered /Other factors	Worst £000	Medium £000	Best £000	Pressure £000	Risk High/Med /Low
Council Tax												
CT Income	(385)											
Total	(385)	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	
Council Tax Reduction Scheme												
CTRS		229										
Total	0	229	0	0				0	0	0	0	
Total	(385)	229	0	0				0	0	0	0	

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Overall Revenue Position

Table 1: Council Fund 2020/21 Outturn Forecast Summary Statement at Month 7

Service Area	Original Budget 2020/21	Budget Adjustments Months 1-7	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M7	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M5	Variance from M5 to M7
	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's
Social Care, Health & Safeguarding	50,685	(170)	50,515	52,222	1,707	1,448	259
Children & Young People	55,539	514	56,053	56,178	125	19	106
Enterprise	24,132	(1,511)	22,621	27,238	4,617	5,113	(496)
Chief Executives Unit	4,745	4	4,749	4,811	62	144	(82)
Resources	7,746	30	7,776	7,969	193	694	(501)
Corporate Costs & Levies	22,743	229	22,972	23,014	42	66	(24)
Net Cost of Services	165,590	(904)	164,686	171,432	6,746	7,484	(738)
Appropriations	4,857	1,163	6,020	5,857	(163)	(83)	(80)
Expenditure to be Financed	170,447	259	170,706	177,289	6,583	7,401	(818)
Financing	(170,447)	(259)	(170,706)	(170,863)	(157)	20	(177)
Net General Fund (Surplus) / Deficit	0	0	0	6,426	6,426	7,421	(995)

Table 2: Council Fund 2020/21 Outturn Forecast Detailed Statement at Month 7

Service Area	Original Budget 2020/21	Budget Adjustments Months 1-7	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M7	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M5	Variance from M5 to M7
	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's
Children Services	14,428	(63)	14,365	15,825	1,460	1,459	1
Social Care, Health & Safeguarding	14,428	(63)	14,365	15,825	1,460	1,459	1
Individual Schools Budget	47,420	(356)	47,064	46,748	(316)	(264)	(52)
Resources	1,234	(9)	1,225	1,239	14	22	(8)
Standards	6,885	879	7,764	8,191	427	261	166
Children & Young People	55,539	514	56,053	56,178	125	19	106
CYP Select (Surplus) / Deficit	69,967	451	70,418	72,003	1,585	1,478	107

DIRECTORATE – DIVISION VARIANCE COMMENTS

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & SAFEGUARDING	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	1,630	1,448	1,707		

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & SAFEGUARDING DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARY:

The month 7 directorate forecast outturn for 2020/21 shows an overspend of £1.707m, a marginal increase since M5 of £259k, after accounting for the Social Care Workforce and Sustainability Grant from Welsh Government of £984k. At M7, our Children Looked After numbers stand at 222 (remaining at the same overall number since month 5) and significant income has been lost in Registrars resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and cancelled appointments. The Welsh Government has yet to commit to their level of funding to cover the loss of pre booking wedding ceremonies. Of the overall over spend; £346k is because of the pressure from the additional 1.75% unfunded staff pay award and £242k from the 2% staff efficiency saving being deemed unachievable.

Children's Services has a predicted overspend of £1.460m, which remains unchanged since the reported M5 forecast. This element of the directorate received a significant injection as part of the 2020/21 budget allocation; however, this was based on CLA numbers at that time being 197. Since the budget for 2020/21 was set, the service had a further influx of children to 219 at the end of 2019/20, and present count CLA stands at 222 and legal costs still remain at a predicted over spend of £238k.

CHILDREN SERVICES					
Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	1,575	1,459	1,460		
<p>£1m overspend in providing care and placements for our 222 Looked After Children, £238k overspend in legal costs and the remaining overspend as a result of continued use of agency staffing which currently stands at 6 being employed plus the increased staff pay award.</p>					
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	84	19	125		
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARY:					
<p>The Directorate's Month 7 position is an over spend of £125k, which is largely due to the over spend on ALN. However, this has been partially offset by the surplus balance following the closure of Mounton House, which has been transferred to the central CYP budgets to support the wider education budgets.</p>					
INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS BUDGET					
Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	(264)	(316)		
<p>Increase in underspend of £52k is due to the Post 16 Teacher Pay Award being funded.</p>					
RESOURCES					
Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	37	22	14		
<p>Additional IT Licence costs reported at month 5, are now due to materialise in 2021-22.</p>					
STANDARDS					
Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	47	261	426		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recoupment increased by (income received from other LA's) (£241,000) • Independent placement costs overspent by £115,000 • Other LA placement costs overspent by £130,000 • Additional support for pupils attending our schools overspent by £495,000 • Underspend on early years (rising 3's) due to school closure (£150,000) • Overspend on breakfast clubs £88,000 <p>Within the overspend of £495,000 relating to the additional support for pupils attending our own schools, £200,000 relates to additional funding for the additional learning needs units in Overmonnow (£100k) and Monmouth Comprehensive (£100k). Both these units are able to accommodate more MCC pupils, resulting in less pupils needing to be educated either in independent or other LA schools. While this has resulted in an overspend, the fees paid for the other schools would have resulted in the overspend being higher.</p> <p>Included in the independent placement costs is £108,000 relating to the three remaining pupils at Mounton House, the funding has been transferred from Mounton House to support this.</p> <p>Breakfast clubs have seen a reduction in numbers since re-opening following the Summer Term lockdown, which has led to a reduction in income.</p>					

2. SCHOOLS

- 2.1. A Board of Governors who are responsible for managing the school's finances directly governs each of the Authority's Schools. However, the Authority also holds a key responsibility for monitoring the overall financial performance of schools. Below is a table showing the outturn forecast Schools' balances position based on month 5 projections for each Educational Cluster.
- 2.2. The monitoring earlier in the year at month 2 included a surplus balance of £206,518 for Mounton House. As the school has closed this has been transferred centrally. £107,000 has been used to support the placement costs for the 3 remaining MCC pupils and the remaining £100,000 has been used to offset the overspend in CYP. Included in the table below are the total balances excluding Mounton House for comparison.

Draft Council Fund Outturn 2020/21 – School Balances Summary outturn position at Month 7	(A) Opening Reserves (Surplus) / Deficit Position 2020/21 £000's	(B) Forecast Movement from / (to) School Balances @ Month 5 £'000	(C) Forecast Movement from / (to) School Balances @ Month 7 £'000	(A+C) Forecast Reserve Balances at 2020/21 Outturn £'000
Cluster				
Abergavenny	(118)	(316)	(299)	(417)
Caldicot	160	81	18	178
Chepstow	24	235	205	229
Monmouth	518	(98)	(129)	389
Special	(149)	180	193	44
Total	435	82	(13)	422
Total Excl Mounton House	607	(91)	(185)	422

- 2.3. Collective School Balances at the beginning of the financial year amounted to a £435,000 deficit. The Schools month 2 forecast draw on reserves was £374,000 which resulted in a forecast deficit balance of £809,000. At month 5, the forecast deficit balance had improved by £293,000 taking the forecast deficit to £517,000. At month 7, the forecast deficit balance has improved by a further £95,000 taking the forecast deficit to £422,000. It should be noted that King Henry VIII Comprehensive School have requested a Local Authority loan of £250,000 which has been approved by the Governing Body.

2.4. The movement of individual schools forecasting to be in deficit during the financial year is shown below:

Start of year	Month 2	Month 5	Month 7
Total: 17	Total: 14	Total: 12	Total: 13
Caldicot Comprehensive	Caldicot Comprehensive	Caldicot Comprehensive	Caldicot Comprehensive
Chepstow Comprehensive	Chepstow Comprehensive	Chepstow Comprehensive	Chepstow Comprehensive
King Henry VIII Comprehensive	King Henry VIII Comprehensive	**	
Monmouth Comprehensive	Monmouth Comprehensive	Monmouth Comprehensive	Monmouth Comprehensive
Llandogo Primary	Llandogo Primary	Llandogo Primary	Llandogo Primary
Llantilio Pertholey CIW Primary			
Magor CIW Primary			
Osbaston CiW Primary	Osbaston CiW Primary	Osbaston CiW Primary	Osbaston CiW Primary
Overmonnow Primary			Overmonnow Primary
Pupil Referral Service	Pupil Referral Service	Pupil Referral Service	Pupil Referral Service
Raglan CiW Primary	Raglan CiW Primary		
Rogiet Primary			
St Mary's RC Primary	St Mary's RC Primary	St Mary's RC Primary	St Mary's RC Primary
	The Dell Primary School	The Dell Primary School	The Dell Primary School
Thornwell Primary	Thornwell Primary	Thornwell Primary	Thornwell Primary
Undy Primary	Undy Primary	Undy Primary	Undy Primary
Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni	Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni	Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni	Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni
Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin	Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin	Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin	Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin

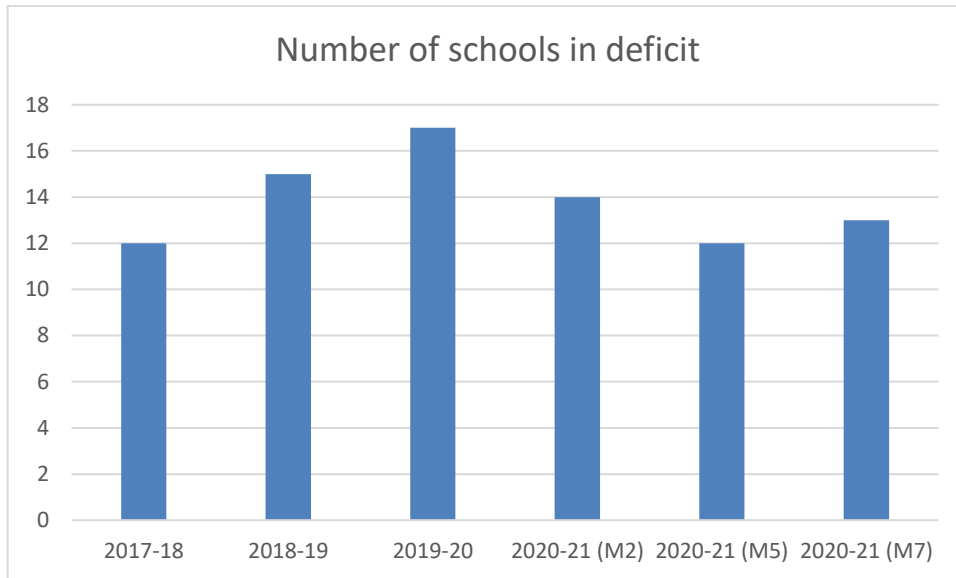
** King Henry VIII Comprehensive School forecast balance at month 5 onwards includes a Local Authority loan of £250,000, which is estimated to result in a surplus year-end balance.

2.5. All schools in a deficit budget have, or are in the process of agreeing recovery plans. These recovery plans will be confirmed with both the Local Education Authority and each School's Governing Body. Once finalised the schools with significant deficits will be monitored by the Cabinet member for Children and Young People and Resources on a termly basis.

2.6. Total schools balances are exhibiting a fluctuating trend with some schools showing a continuing reduction in schools balances which is of concern and others a more balanced trend.

Financial Year-end	Net level of School Balances
2014-15	(1,140)
2015-16	(1,156)
2016-17	(269)
2017-18	(175)
2018-19	232
2019-20	435
2020-21 (Forecast)	422

2.7. However, set against this and as referenced above the number of schools in deficit is forecasting to reduce as the financial year progresses illustrated by the following table. This provides some overall comfort that recovery plans are taking effect.



2.8. There has been a significant reliance on reserve balances to supplement school spending plans in the last 4 years across individual schools with a certain amount of replenishment. As a rough guide, prior to 2010, Welsh Government advocated that school balance levels equated to no more than £50,000 for a primary school and £100,000 for a secondary school. Members may wish to seek a comfort that balances are not being used to subsidise and sustain core costs such as staffing.

3 CAPITAL OUTTURN

3.1 The summary forecast Capital position at Month 7 is as follows:

Forecast Capital Outturn Position 2020/21 at Month 7

Select Portfolio	Slippage B/F	Original Budget	Budget movem ents	Forecast Slippage	Revised Budget 2020/21	Forecast at M7	Varian ce M7	Varian ce at M5
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Expenditure								
Children & Young People	1,245	14,423	655	(12,483)	3,840	3,840	0	0
Economic & Development	17,496	3,068	30	(18,012)	2,582	2,582	0	0
Adult	300	5,678	0	(5,978)	0	0	0	0
Strong Communities	5,801	10,139	3,817	(897)	18,860	18,860	0	0
Total Expenditure	24,842	33,308	4,502	(37,370)	25,282	25,282	0	0
Financing								
Supported Borrowing	0	(2,417)	0	0	(2,417)	(2,417)	0	0
General Capital Grant	0	(2,423)	0	0	(2,423)	(2,423)	0	0
Grants and Contributions	(393)	(18,229)	(3,797)	15,628	(6,791)	(6,791)	0	0
S106 Contributions	(1,052)	0	0	78	(974)	(974)	0	0
Unsupported Borrowing	(22,546)	(5,275)	0	20,464	(7,357)	(7,357)	0	0
Reserve & Revenue Funding	(239)	(2)	0	0	(241)	(241)	0	0
Capital Receipts	(612)	(3,462)	(705)	1,200	(3,579)	(3,579)	0	0
Leasing	0	(1,500)	0	0	(1,500)	(1,500)	0	0
Total Financing	(24,842)	(33,308)	(4,502)	37,370	(25,282)	(25,282)	0	0

3.2 The capital expenditure forecast outturn at month 7 shows no variance due to a forecasted full spend against the revised budget net of forecast slippage.

3.3 The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant disruption to the progress of budgeted capital schemes with forecast slippage at month 7 totalling £37.4m (£25.2m at month 5). The impact is felt in both internally and externally managed projects, with disruption to external supply chains, increased contract risk and potential inflationary cost pressures sitting alongside internal resourcing pressures.

3.4 The forecast slippage is broken down as follows:

Scheme	Forecast Slippage M2 (000's)	Forecast Slippage M5 (000's)	Forecast Slippage M7 (000's)
Asset Investment fund		18,142	18,142
Tranche 'B' King Henry Future Schools			12,484
Crick Road Care Home	5,978	5,978	5,978
County Hall 'J' block		544	544
IT upgrade and refurbishment for the Council Chamber		200	200
Section 106 schemes		131	78
Property schemes		229	74

3.5 Useable Capital Receipts Available

3.6 In the table below, the effect of the changes to the forecast capital receipts at Month 7 on the useable capital receipts balances available to meet future capital commitments are illustrated. There is also a comparison to the balances forecast within the 2020/24 MTFP capital budget proposals.

	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000
Balance as at 1st April	3,207	5,120	8,253	8,698	7,944
Capital receipts used for financing	(1,488)	(2,059)	(859)	(859)	(859)
Capital receipts used to support capitalisation direction	(2,091)	0	0	0	0
Capital receipts Received or Forecast	5,492	5,192	1,304	104	104
Forecast Balance as at 31st March	5,120	8,253	8,698	7,944	7,189
Forecast Balance 2020/24 MTFP	9,904	10,245	10,791	10,136	10,136
Variance compared to 2020/24 MTFP	(4,784)	(1,992)	(2,093)	(2,192)	(2,947)

3.7 Forecasted capital receipts of £4.1m are delayed from 2020/21 to 2021/22 in regard to sales of land at Rockfield Farm, Undy, Chepstow Road, Raglan and Penarth Farm due to the delay in receiving offers because of the Covid-19 pandemic and site constraints concerning Penarth Farm.

3.8 Forecasted balances held at the end of each financial year are lower than forecasted in the 2020/24 MTFP. Ignoring timing differences in the realisation of capital receipts, this is largely attributable to the use of unbudgeted receipts under the capitalisation direction in 2019-20 and 2020-21 and if this trend of utilisation is maintained, this will be reflected in a greatly reduced balance being carried forward in subsequent years to fund future capital schemes.

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2021

Children and Young People's Select Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
19 th January 2021	Budget Monitoring	Scrutiny of the budget monitoring capital and revenue position at Month 7, setting the context for scrutiny of budget proposals.	Peter Davies	Budget monitoring
	Budget Scrutiny	Scrutiny of the budget proposals for 2021/22.	Peter Davies	Budget Scrutiny
28 th January 2021 2pm	WORKSHOP		Sharon Randall Smith Will Mclean	Member Workshop
	Welsh Medium Education			
Special Meeting 11 th February 2021 2pm	EAS Business Plan 2021/2022	To consult the committee on the EAS Business Plan prior to Cabinet agreement in April.	Education Achievement Service (EAS)	Consultation
	Free School Meals Strategy	Pre-decision scrutiny of the council's strategy.	Sharon Randall Smith Will Mclean	Pre-decision Scrutiny
25 th March 2021				
20 th April 2021				

Future Agreed Work Programme Items:

Schools items:

- **Inclusion updates** – wellbeing/attitudes to learning/supporting the pupil voice
- **Post 16 education provision/Apprenticeships/Engagement and progression and support for those Not in Education or Employment**

Non-education issues:

- **Support for Foster Carers** ~ Edge of Care Team and BASE. Bringing in Foster Carers
- **Engage with the Youth Forum** ~ Discuss their priorities and key concerns
- **Young Carers Strategy Update**
- **Childcare sufficiency** – annual update

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2021

- **Well-being reporting (obesity, eating disorders etc)**
- **Family Support Services ~ Young People's Mental Health Support in Schools:** Chair to liaise with Chief Officer
- **Children with Complex Needs and play provision.**

Suggestions from the Chief Officer:

- **ADL Transformation ~ new legislation and practice early next year. Regional leads to provide and input. Readiness assessments**
- **Ongoing Transformation between health board and regional partnership boards. Intermediate Care funding and in particular, supporting wellbeing needs.**
- **Inclusion in schools (primary and secondary), Behaviour policy. CAMS support ~ early presentation.**
- **Risk areas, financial position and budgetary pressures, Schools Finance Forum work**
- **2 years' delivery plan for Children's Services ~ understanding good practice and the significant drivers on schools and social services**
- **Chief Officer Annual Reports and Corporate Parenting**

Cabinet, Council and Individual Cabinet Member Decisions (ICMD) Forward Plan

Monmouthshire County Council is required to publish a forward plan of all key decisions to be taken. Council and Cabinet items will only be considered for decision if they have been included on the planner no later than the month preceding the meeting, unless the item is considered urgent.

Committee / Decision Maker	Meeting date / Decision due	Subject	Purpose	Author	Date item added to the planner	Date item originally scheduled for decision
Council	01/10/23	LDP for Adoption		Mark Hand	23/01/20	
Council	01/02/23	LDP submission for examination		Mark Hand	23/01/20	
Council	01/07/22	LDP Deposit Plan endorsement for consultation	Endorsement of Deposit Plan	Mark Hand	23/01/20	
Cabinet	01/09/21	LDP Preferred Strategy endorsement post consultation		Mark Hand	20/05/20	
Cabinet	02/06/21	Budget Monitoring outturn report	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the forecast outturn position of the Authority at end of month reporting for 2020/21 financial year	Peter Davies/Jon Davies	02/04/20	
Cabinet	05/05/21	Active Travel Network Maps		Paul Sullivan	13/11/20	
Council	01/05/21	LDP Preferred Strategy endorsement for consultation		Mark Hand	21/09/20	
Cabinet	14/04/21	Welsh Church Fund Working Group meeting	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2020/21 - meeting 9 held on 4th March 2021	Dave Jarrett	02/04/20	

Council	11/03/21	Council Tax Resolution Report		Ruth Donovan	02/04/20	
Council	11/03/21	Treasury Strategy report		Jon Davies	15/12/20	
Council	11/03/21	Constitution Review		Matt Phillips	14/08/19	
Cabinet	03/03/21	Play Sufficiency Action Plan		Mike Moran	14/10/20	
Cabinet	03/03/21	•EAS Business Plan		Sharon Randall Smith	21/09/20	
Council	03/03/21	Final revenue and capital budget proposals		Peter Davies	21/09/20	
Cabinet	03/03/21	Longterm Homelessness Solutions	Deferred from 2/9/20	Mark Hand	07:00	
Cabinet	03/03/21	Social Justice Strategy Update		Cath Fallon	17/09/20	
ICMD	24/02/21	SPG S106 Supplementary Planning Guidance	To clarify how S106 contributions are calculated/ deferred FROM 13/01/21	Phil Thomas / Mark Hand	01/05/19	
Cabinet	03/02/21	Abergavenny CRC (Racecourse Farm)		Mike Moran	14/10/20	

Cabinet	03/02/21	Welsh Church Fund Working Group meeting	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2020/21 - meeting 8 held on 14th January 2021	Dave Jarrett	02/04/20	
Cabinet	03/02/21	Apprenticeship Pay Rates		Gareth James	08/01/21	
Cabinet	03/02/21	Land at Bencroft Lane, Knollbury		Mike Moran	26/08/20	
Cabinet	03/02/21	Outdoor Adventure Provision at Gilwern		Marie Bartlett	30/11/20	30/11/20
Cabinet	03/02/21	Review of Monmouthshire's Destination Management Plan 2017-2020	Purpose: to approve the revised Destination Development Plan	Matthew Lewis	22/09/20	
Cabinet	03/02/21	Proposed Disposal of MCC Cottages		Nicola Howells	15/12/20	
ICMD	27/01/21	Approval on Local Government (Wales) Act 1994 - The Local Authorities (Precepts) (Wales) Regulations 1995	Deferred from 13/1 to 27/1	Jon Davies		
Cabinet	20/01/21	•Draft revenue and capital budget proposals for consultation		Peter Davies	21/09/20	
Cabinet	20/01/21	Chippenham Mead Play Area, Monmouth		Mike Moran	15/12/20	
Cabinet	20/01/21	Play Area Assessments and Future Play Area Policy	to advise members of play area assessments carried out last year and suggest a rationalisation of provision	Matthew Lewis	22/09/20	

Cabinet	20/01/21	BUS EMERGENCY SCHEME (BES) – REQUEST TO ALL COUNCILS TO SIGN UP TO THE BES2 SCHEME		Roger Hoggins	24/12/20	
Council	14/01/21	Council Diary 2021/22		Nicola Perry		
Council	14/01/21	Council Tax Reduction Scheme		Ruth Donovan	07/04/20	
Council	14/01/21	Annual Safeguarding Report		Jane Rodgers	21/09/20	
ICMD	13/01/21	Minerals Regional Technical Statement Second Revision (RTS2)		Rachel Lewis	17/12/20	
ICMD	13/01/21	Museum Service Collection Review	To propose the deaccessioning of and disposal actions for the proposed items in line with Section 4 of the Museums Association Disposal Toolkit	Matthew Lewis/Rachael Rogers	22/09/20	
ICMD	13/01/21	Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards in the Private Rented Sector		Gareth Walters	15/12/21	
ICMD	13/01/21	Staffing Changes: Business Support	To seek approval for the voluntary redundancy of the Chief Executive's Personal Assistant, reducing the cost of administrative support arrangements for the senior management team and contribute to budget savings during the 2021-22 financial year./Paul Jordan	Matt Gatehouse	15/12/21	
Cabinet	06/01/21	Budget Monitoring Report - month 7 (period 2)	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the forecast outturn position of the Authority at end of month reporting for 2020/21 financial year.	Peter Davies/Jon Davies	02/04/20	
Cabinet	06/01/21	RIPA Policy		Matt Phillips	21/10/20	

Cabinet	06/01/21	Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2020		Mark Hand	23/06/20	
ICMD	23/12/20	Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2020-2025	To approve the review of the Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2020-2025 Deferred awaiting new date	Matthew Lewis	22/09/2020/	
Cabinet	16/12/20	Welsh Church Fund Working Group meeting	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2020/21 - meeting 7 held on 3rd December 2020	Dave Jarrett	02/04/20	
Cabinet	16/12/20	Proposal to pause work on a proposed Development Company		Deb Hill Howells	21/10/20	
Cabinet	16/12/20	Local Housing Market Assessment Update		Mark Hand	04/11/20	
Cabinet	16/12/20	Growth Options to Cabinet for endorsement for non-statutory consultation		Mark Hand	21/09/20	
Cabinet	16/12/20	Review of school places in Caldicot town		Matthew Jones	21/10/20	
ICMD	09/12/20	Shire Hall/Monmouth Museum	Paul Jordan	Matthew Lewis	deferred from 11/11	
IMCD	09/12/20	Consultation on Local Government (Wales) Act 1994 - The Local Authorities (Precepts) (Wales) Regulations 1995	To seek Member approval of the proposals for consultation purposes regarding payments to precepting authorities during the 2021/22 financial year as required by statute.	Jon Davies		
IMCD	09/12/20	Council Tax base and associated matters	To agree the Council Tax Base figure for submission to the Welsh Government, together with the collection rate to be applied for 2021/22 and to make other necessary related statutory decisions	Ruth Donovan	02/04/20	

Council	03/12/20	Corporate Joint Committee: Consultation Response'	To discuss and endorse a council response to consultation about draft regulations which will create four regional Corporate Joint Committees. These are a statutory mechanism for regional collaboration by local government.	Matt Gatehouse	16/10/20	
Council	03/12/20	Updated Asset Investment Policy		Peter Davies	21/09/20	
Council	03/12/20	Statutory Director of Social Services annual report		Julie Boothroyd	14/08/20	
Cabinet	02/12/20	InFuSe		Cath Fallon	10/11/20	
Cabinet	02/12/20	Clydach Ironworks Enhancement Scheme Revision/S106 Funding, Cae Meldon		Matthew Lewis	22/09/20	
ICMD	25/11/20	Homesearch Allocations Policy and Amendments	INCLUDED ON 11/11 AGENDA	Louise Corbett	22/10/20	
ICMD	11/11/20	WELSH LANGUAGE COMMISSIONER'S MONITORING WORK 2019-20		Matt Gatehouse		
ICMD	11/11/20	LDP Annual Monitoring Report/ and Annual Performance Report for Planning Service		Rachel Lewis/Phil Thomas	19/10/20	
ICMD	11/11/20	Housing Register Review		Mark Hand	23/06/20	
Cabinet	04/11/20	Outdoor Adventure Service		Marie Bartlett/Ian Saunders	13/10/20	

Cabinet	04/11/20	Public Service Ombudsman's annual letter	To provide Cabinet with a copy of the Public Service Ombudsman's annual letter to inform understanding of the council's performance in handling complaints	Matt Gatehouse	09/09/20	
Cabinet	04/11/20	Welsh Church Fund working group	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2020/21 - meeting 4 held on 22nd October 2020	Dave Jarrett	02/04/20	
Cabinet	04/11/20	Three Fields Site Magor – Lease Arrangements		Mike Moran	14/10/20	
Cabinet	04/11/20	Coronavirus Strategic Aims: Progress and Next Steps	To provide an overview of progress against the strategic aims set by Cabinet in July, and communicate an updated version of the plan on a page	Matt Gatehouse	26/08/20	
Cabinet	04/11/20	Section 106 Funding – The Hill, Abergavenny		Mike Moran	20/02/19	
Council	22/10/20	Corporate Plan Annual Report 2019/20		Richard Jones	25/08/20	
Council	22/10/20	MCC Audited Accounts (formal approval)	To notify Council of completed Audit process and resultant accounts - To go to Audit Committee	Peter Davies/Jon Davies	02/04/20	
Council	22/10/20	ISA 260 report - MCC Accounts - attachment above	Deferred from september	Peter Davies/Jon Davies	02/04/20	
Council	22/10/20	Future Data Hall and Data Hosting Arrangements		Peter Davies	16/09/20	
Council	22/10/20	LDP revised Delivery Agreement including LDP timetable and community involvement strategy		Craig O'Connor	03/07/20	

Cabinet	21/10/20	Revenue and Capital Monitoring 2020/21 Forecast Outturn Statement – Month 5		Peter Davies	16/09/20	
Cabinet	21/10/20	MTFP and Budget Process 2021/22 to 2024/25		Peter Davies	16/09/20	
Cabinet	21/10/20	Review of Garden Waste Service		Laura Carter	23/07/20	
ICMD	14/10/20	PUBLIC TOILET PROVISION - GRANTS TO LOCAL COUNCILS AND FUTURE PROVISION IN ABERGAVENNY	DEFERRED	Roger Hoggins	25/09/20	
ICMD	14/10/20	Closure of Capita Gwent Consultancy and distribution of Reserves		Roger Hoggins	25/09/20	
ICMD	14/10/20	Extension of PSPO	To seek approval to extend three Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) in respect of Bailey Park,	Andrew Mason	23/09/20	
Cabinet	07/10/20	Future Data Hall and Data Hosting Arrangements		Peter Davies	16/09/20	
Cabinet	07/10/20	Welsh Church Fund Working Group	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2020/21 - meeting 2 held on 28th July 2020 and meeting 3 held on 10th September 2020.	Dave Jarrett	02/04/20	
Cabinet	07/10/20	Future Provision of HWRCs including the closure of Usk recycling centre		Carl Touhig	14/09/20	
ICMD	23/09/20	SCM Collaboration with TCBC Heritage Services		Amy Longford	24/08/20	

ICMD	23/09/20	SCM Collaboration with TCBC Heritage Services		Amy Longford	24/08/20	
Council	10/09/20	Audit Committee Annual Report		Philip White	11/08/20	
Cabinet	29/07/20	Digital Infrastructure Action Plan		Cath Fallon	08/07/20	
Cabinet	29/07/20	'Revenue and Capital Monitoring 2020/21 Forecast Outturn Statement – Month 2		Jonathan S Davies	12/06/20	
Cabinet	29/07/20	Coronavirus Risk Management Update'		Peter Davies	10/07/20	
Cabinet	29/07/20	Welsh Church Fund Working Group meeting	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2020/21 - meeting 1 held on 30th June 2020	Dave Jarrett	02/04/20	
Cabinet	29/07/20	Outdoor Education - Service Update		Marie Bartlett	09/07/20	
Cabinet	29/07/20	Public Toilets				
Cabinet	29/07/20	5G Rural test bed		Cath Fallon/Frances O'Brien		
Council	16/07/20	Climate Emergency Update		Hazel Clatworthy	10/06/20	

Council	16/07/20	CEx Report		Matt Phillips	18/06/20	
Council	16/07/20	Cabinet decision re Gilwern		Matt Phillips	27/05/20	
ICMD	08/07/20	Archaeology Planning Advice	Adoption post-guidance	Mark Hand	19/09/19	Deferred
Cabinet	01/07/20	COVID-19 Evaluation of Recovery Phase and Establishing Aims for Response Stage			17/06/20	
Cabinet	01/07/20	Home to School Transport Policy	Deferred		20/05/20	
Cabinet	01/07/20	Household Waste Recycling Centres	Deferred		20/05/20	
Cabinet	17/06/20	Revenue and Capital Monitoring Outturn	To provide Members with information on the outturn position of the Authority for the financial year	Peter Davies/Jon Davies	02/02/20	
Council	04/06/20	Licensing Act Policy		Linda O'Gorman		
Council	04/06/20	Estyn Report		Will Mclean		
Council	04/06/20	Safeguarding Covid19 Position Statement		Julie Boothroyd		

Council	04/06/20	Chief Officer, CYP Annual Report'		Will Mclean	11/03/20	
Council	04/06/20	Refit Programme		Ian Hoccom	28/02/20	
Cabinet	27/05/20	Safeguarding		Julie Boothroyd		
Cabinet	27/05/20	Active Travel and Town Centres		Paul Sullivan		
Cabinet	06/05/20	Welsh Church Fund Working Group	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2020/21 - meeting 1 held on 2nd April 2020	Dave Jarrett	02/04/20	
ICMD	08/04/20	GUARANTEED INTERVIEWS FOR CARE LEAVERS		Gareth James	23/03/20	
ICMD	08/04/20	Momouthshire Registration Service Collaborative Working Agreement		Jennifer Walton	23/03/20	
Cabinet	01/04/20	Staffing re-alignment: Community Hubs and Contact Centre		Matt Gatehouse	11/03/20	
Cabinet	01/04/20	EAS Business Plan		Will Mclean	04/03/20	
Cabinet	01/04/20	Guaranteed Interview Scheme for Care Leavers		Gareth James	28/02/20	

ICMD	25/03/20	Non Domestic Rates: High Street and Retail Rate Relief 2020/21	for approval of the adoption of a High Street and Retail Rate Relief Scheme for 2020/21, in accordance with Welsh Government guidance.	Ruth Donovan	12/02/20	
ICMD	25/03/20	Contract Extension		Tracey Harry	14/02/20	
Council	05/03/20	Pay Policy		Sally Thomas	23/01/20	
Council	05/03/20	Annual Safeguarding Report		Julie Boothroyd	06/02/20	
Council	05/03/20	Strategic Equality Plan		Alan Burkitt	26/09/19	
Council	05/03/20	LDP Preferred Strategy	Endorsement to consult on Preferred Strategy	Mark Hand	23/01/20	
Council	05/03/20	Council Tax Resolution	To set budget and Council Tax	Ruth Donovan	18/04/19	
Council	05/03/20	Mid Term Review of the Corporate Plan		Matt Gatehouse		
Cabinet	04/03/20	Investment Committee		Peter Davies	13/02/20	
ICMD	26/02/20	CHARGING APPLICANTS FOR THE MONITORING OF SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS		Phil Thomas	06/02/20	

ICMD	26/02/20	Non Domestic Rates - Application for Hardship Relief		Ruth Donovan	14/01/20	
Cabinet	19/02/20	2020/21 Education and Welsh Church Trust Funds Investment and Fund Strategies	The purpose of this report is to present to Cabinet for approval the 2020/21 Investment and Fund Strategy for Trust Funds for which the Authority acts as sole or custodian trustee for adoption and to approve the 2019/20 grant allocation to Local Authority beneficiaries of the Welsh Church Fund.	Dave Jarrett	18/04/19	
Cabinet	19/02/20	Mid Term Review of the Corporate Plan		Matt Gatehouse		
Cabinet	19/02/20	Welsh Church Fund Working Group	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2019/20, meeting 7 held on 5th December 2019	Dave Jarrett	18/04/19	
Cabinet	19/02/20	Consideration of Final Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals		Peter Davies	03/10/19	
Cabinet	19/02/20	Proposal to change the school funding formula.		Nikki Wellington		
Cabinet	19/02/20	Strategic Review of Outdoor Education		Marie Bartlett	18/10/20	
Cabinet	19/02/20	Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) review/ Policy Statement - Results of statutory consultation and proposed Final Plan	To seek approval of the Review of the ROWIP and associated policies	Matthew Lewis	18/07/19	
Cabinet	17/02/20	*Final revenue and capital budget proposals		Peter Davies	21/09/20	

ICMD	29/01/20	Various roads, county wide Amendment No. 1 of consolidation order 2019 (part 2)		Paul Keeble	13/01/20	
Council	16/01/20	Council Tax Reduction Scheme		Ruth Donovan	18/04/19	
Council	16/01/20	Mid Term Review of the Corporate Plan		Peter Davies	26/09/19	
Council	16/01/20	Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy		Mark Hand	06/09/19	
Council	16/01/20	Constitution Review		Matt Phillips	14/08/19	
Council	16/01/20	Safeguarding - Annual Report to Council		Jane Rodgers	20/06/19	
Council	16/01/20	Proposed Development Company		Deb Hill-Howells	16/09/19	Deferred
Cabinet	08/01/20	Ethical Employment code of practice - Approval Paper Draft		Scott James	08/11/19	
Cabinet	08/01/20	Budget Monitoring report - month 7 (period 2)	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the forecast outturn position of the Authority at end of month reporting for 2019/20 financial year.	Mark Howcroft	18/04/19	
Cabinet	08/01/20	Redundancy implications within MonLife		Marie Bartlett	07/11/20	

Cabinet	08/01/20	Homelessness Report		Deb Hill-Howells	07/11/19	
Cabinet	08/01/20	Primary School Places Reiview in Caldicot		Matthew Jones	02/10/19	
Cabinet	06/01/20	Fixed Play Provision		Mike Moran	26/08/20	

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Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

Meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at Remote Meeting on Wednesday, 25th November, 2020 at 10.00 am

Councillors Present

County Councillor T.Thomas (Chairman)

County Councillors: L.Brown, M.Groucutt, M.Lane, M. Powell and J.Watkins

Officers in Attendance

Robert McGowan, Policy and Scrutiny Officer
Will McLean, Chief Officer for Children and Young People

Sharon Randall-Smith, Head of Achievement and Attainment

Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager

Ian Bakewell, Housing & Regeneration Manager

APOLOGIES: E. Thomas, Church in Wales

1. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Jo Watkins declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest as a parent of a child in Caldicot SRB. Maggie Harris declared an interest as a governor at Deri View.

2. Homeless Briefing Report and emerging proposals for future delivery of homelessness

Officer Ian Bakewell presented the report and presentation, and answered the members' questions.

Challenge:

Many of the applicants need specialist accommodation and specialist support, which is not currently available. What are we doing for people with severe needs?

Safeguarding is at the forefront of everything that we do. Many of the placements are linked to that. It is still a challenge, but we are reasonably confident about the levels of placements we do that reflect risk assessments and involvement of other agencies. The problem is that, for example, we might have put someone in B&B for safeguarding reasons who otherwise might have been in shared accommodation or Solas. The outcome might not be the ideal placement, but it has been informed by a risk assessment or a safeguarding consideration. We move people quite often, when issues arise. This is an absolute priority for us but working within the parameters that we have is extremely challenging.

Is Welsh Government giving any funding to back up its new, and encouraging, proactive stance on homelessness?

We have Phase 2 homeless funding for a number of short term projects until April. For example, we're funding a drug and alcohol worker through GDAS. After 1st April, Welsh Government says there's nothing available, so we have to wait and see. If there isn't any funding, there will be a big problem across Wales. I would expect that there will be something. We will know next month.

Are things lined up to provide an emergency stopgap with B&Bs?

Yes, the concern is if our B&Bs refuse to give accommodation. If there were a number of them, it would be extremely difficult, and as things stand I don't have an answer to that. We would probably look for assistance to do something like Gilwern again. There is some capacity in the system and we have reassurances from the majority to get us to Christmas, and some to April. We can use Welsh Government Hardship funding to help us on that. It doesn't necessarily give us any guarantees. I'm reasonably confident.

Is the Pobl work to provide temporary accommodation in progress?

Colleagues in the Partnerships team have done a lot of work with Pobl, in terms of remodelling. Unfortunately, in order to cement this arrangement they have had to decommission two services. The Pobl work is due to kick in on 1st April – they have been very flexible and supportive.

Are there fewer B&B bookings now because of Covid, and will that create a problem at a later stage?

Yes, we are in a bit of a luck situation. Prior to Covid, we were only using one B&B in the county. We have been able to benefit from the lack of tourism and take on more local B&Bs. There might be some risk with this, as mentioned above. I think there is a little bit of assurance because we have propped up a number of businesses during this time.

Does the youth need for mental health and substance misuse support need be highlighted to Welsh Government?

Looking at the positives of the situation, it has highlighted opportunities and needs. With Welsh Government's changing view, they are probably using it as an opportunity to tackle rough sleeping and youth homelessness – it looks like we are heading towards a situation where everybody can get assistance for homeless accommodation. It's creating an opportunity to think about the deficiencies and support needs that we have. Welsh Government knows the challenges that we and other local authorities have. All local authorities have been given a relationships manager, so our dialogue with Welsh Government is now more regular. It's going in the right direction.

Should social housing landlords do more to provide accommodation?

Yes, our social landlords are massive partners in this. So far, they are being supportive but they are only geared up for low need applicants. I'm hopeful that they will change and be more aligned with the reality of the situation. At the moment, they are looking at our Housing Support Grant programme. I'm not sure how that will unravel. From a regulatory perspective, I know that Welsh Government has this on its radar as well, and they ask us for feedback about how housing associations are supporting us. I'm reasonably confident about our housing association partners but there are lots more conversations for us to have.

What is the thinking around the Strategic Housing piece and this new regional board? Has that been on the backburner? What is the housing team's input into that?

Yes, this needs to be a whole systems approach and the situation has highlighted the need to build more affordable homes. We have had that conversation internally and at informal Cabinet yesterday. This is something that I am very interested in. The concern, going forward, is new homes coming online, from whatever source.

What discussions are we having in relation to the council's Poverty Plan and the PSB, and the Mental Health service?

Yes, Judith Langdon and I have made connections in regards to the Poverty plan. Homelessness is not a distinct priority of the plan, but I have suggested that homelessness and housing is a theme to run through all aspects of that plan. As you have said, if we get housing right then other benefits will follow. The next step in that regard is to talk to other housing organisations to identify whether there are more opportunities where we can link with other agencies to support this agenda. As an example, many of the young people that we work with have nothing behind them – no bank accounts or savings, and therefore no way to look forward to acquiring property of their own. I am keen to have this sort of conversation. The role of health: this situation has shown that a lot of support needs are above Housing. We currently accommodate a number of people where medical circumstances are appropriate. If we can facilitate with that, we will. I've had conversations with various different sections of the community mental health team. Health now has a Housing person who is our 'go-to'. The work that we are currently doing with GDAS is very interesting and there are more conversations to have with them.

To what extent has training support been given to your team when dealing with people with a lot of problems, particularly around addiction?

Relatively little. Staff have been through drug awareness training in the past, but this probably needs refreshing. We need to work towards a psychologically and trauma aware service, as noted by Councillor Groucott. This will involve training and thinking differently. Perhaps there are parts of the service that are traditional, and we have ambitions (regardless of Welsh Government guidance) to operate the Homeless service in a very different way. Staff needs to understand this area better, and have greater links with the services that provide that support. The GDAS worker that we have is a completely new relationship and is very positive, though in its infancy.

Given the lack of housing, we need properties with single flats for young people – a whole house might not be needed.

One bedroom accommodation is the emerging priority. It is our focus, and young people will benefit from that.

Chair's Summary:

The committee gives its thanks to the team. In terms of the development of children and young people, the provision of decent affordable housing is critical.

Recommendation 1 is supported. Councillor Groucott proposed a recommendation to appoint a specialist officer to support young people who need 24hr help, a specialist officer who is trained in mental health problems, and recommended a psychologically and trauma aware service with clear systems that provide professional external agency support. He also proposed that a Cabinet member with responsibility in this area attends CYP on a 6 monthly basis to give a specific update on support. The committee agreed these recommendations. Councillor Brown requested feedback about what the Officer thinks of these recommendations. Ian Bakewell replied that he is happy with the recommendations, though with the caveat that they will be resource dependent – all of the progress made by the service will be dependent on staffing. The report to Cabinet due in January will cover resources, which should address the issues highlighted by Councillor Groucott's recommendations.

Officers Will Mclean, Jacquelyn Elias, Morwenna Wagstaff and Lucie Doyle delivered the report and answered the members' questions.

Challenge:

What support will be given to teachers to ensure that this provision, and the teachers, are woven seamlessly into school?

Currently, we call them Special Needs Resource bases but 'Special Needs' is not going to remain the terminology – we are looking at a rebranding of our specialist provision. Schools that host our resource provision must work in partnership with the local authority. Our Special Needs Professional Network group is a really important strand in the development of the relationships/codependencies that we have. These schools provide specialist education for our most vulnerable children; therefore, we need to have quality assurance that that is the best education these children can have and that staff are appropriately supported through training and other initiatives. The culture and ethos of the schools are also extremely important. It is a critical relationship that is growing and is extremely positive. We have over 150 places already across the authority, and it's really important that there's a consistency in practice and in our vision of what we want from these resource bases. We are driving towards ALN Centres of Excellence; this will only be achieved by working in partnership.

Welsh medium teaching has grown in Monmouthshire. Do we now have Welsh-speaking language therapists?

The number of Welsh-speaking professionals in SE Wales is an ongoing issue. How we can address this is a subject of discussions in our consortia. For example, we currently don't have any Welsh-speaking educational psychologists but we know that there are some in Blaenau Gwent. We look at using an original resource to fill that gap while we look proactively for colleagues to learn Welsh, or to recruit those who already do. There's currently one Welsh speaking language therapist in Aneurin Bevan. We will continue to identify this as a priority through our WESP.

Is it intended that the additional provision proposed for Deri View will stay there once Deri View closes, moves to the secondary school site in Abergavenny, and is replaced on that site by the Welsh medium school?

It is our hope that we will be able to create an SNRB facility that will take children from ages 3 to 19, providing continuing support throughout. It would not see an English medium SNRB stay on the Deri View site. We are looking at a new provision that will enhance the capacity in Monmouthshire. Currently, in the north we are beginning to work on an understanding with our parents and schools that there should be a continuation of education from when children start in Overmonnow through to Monmouth Comprehensive. The same in the south of the county between Pembroke and Caldicot. It gives us a great opportunity in Abergavenny to do that on a single site.

The new legislation will see very clear responsibilities from birth to age 24. How can the transition from school into adult life be seen through smoothly?

Regarding early years provision, we are in a strong position with the ALN reform because we have had dedicated early years psychologists for a number of years now. Those processes around supporting pre-school children have been in place for some time. Support through a broader local authority early years ALN team is fairly strong. Post-16 is a new challenge for

Monmouthshire. Until now, the remit was for children with statements until they are 19. There has been a lot of work with this recently. This Friday, we are holding our first post-16 transition steering group where we are piloting the new transition protocol in Monmouth comprehensive this year that was previously trialled in Torfaen, in the hope that in September we will have a proper local understanding of need. We will have adapted the protocol to meet Monmouthshire's comprehensives' needs, and those links with the colleges and work placements so that we will be in a better position to support children with ALNs, and young people beyond the end of school. There is more of a focus on children who don't necessarily have current statements of SEN – it is about picking up all those other children who might have additional learning needs but are being met in the mainstream provision with additional support. *Cabinet indicated previously that they would look at a specialist school covering autism and special educational behaviour disorders. The report mentions 'invest to save' but we spend millions for independent schools or other local authorities to cover children who can't be educated in mainstream. This report doesn't address this concern?*

In the last stages of the Mounton House discussion Cabinet committed itself to ensuring 'provision' was made, which is not necessarily the same thing as a school. We had one very specific type of specialist school when Gwent was disaggregated into the 5 local authorities. When Gwent was in existence, there were more general specialist schools. As a small authority there will always be children whose needs are at such a level, and so demanding, that they have to go to a different setting to receive that level of care and support. What we are looking to do is to create capacity. If you were to visit one of our SNRBs, you would see children with a very high need being supported. They are not necessarily with their peer group all of the time; hopefully, by placing them in those settings, they can access some of that collegiate time. Please don't think that the support isn't there for those children.

In terms of the more complex, and ever-increasing, neurodevelopmental challenges, the strategy document notes a really interesting piece of work being commissioned by the 5 local authorities to track the growing demand of different types of ALN over time. It is growing and we will have to think very carefully about how and where we will provide for it. The renewal of the 3-through-19 school in Abergavenny might provide us with that opportunity; that would become our centre of excellence for that type of provision. We are in discussions with the other directors within the greater Gwent area, and within the health authority, about a site in the south of the county that could have the potential for a regional solution. I am confident that with the work of the leaders that we have, we can develop the provision over time to meet the needs. But there will always be some children who have to go out of county. This is true even for some counties that have special schools: e.g. Torfaen places a significant number of children in an independent school in Monmouthshire. So a single school is not the answer to the challenges. We have a great number of needs in our SNRBs, from children with significant ASDs, physical and mental difficulties; those needs are met very well. Where they can be included with the mainstream learners this is very beneficial, and encouraged. We have a strong model that builds capacities in our mainstream schools, and enhances the skills of mainstream staff. There is a huge amount to celebrate in the work that we are doing – there is more to do, as the strategy document lays out, but we are offering something unique in Monmouthshire, and the facilities and skills of staff are the equal of anything in special schools.

It's very difficult to find the number of pupils who are in each category. The number of statements to 2019 is shown as decreasing, but would the number not have increased due to the individual development plan, and not needing a medical assessment?

We present to DMT every month a detailed breakdown of our ALN and SEN needs so at any point in time we will have that data available should any councillor wish to see it.

Recently, a Caldicot resident wasn't offered a local place for their child, but had to go to Monmouth – do we actually have sufficient capacity for our primary needs, and do we plan to increase it?

There is an imbalance between primary and secondary capacity in terms of the size of the SNRBs. We need to wait and see what the Mastadon review of expected demand coming through the system is, then we can make a good decision about where we invest for future capacity. The opportunity to grow the capacity in Abergavenny, and support the north-west of the authority, is a big step forward. That will be online by 2024, and will displace some of the children who currently have to travel to Monmouth, and hopefully will have the benefit of equalising across the 3 settings. We will continue to ensure that the centres are big enough.

What is our strategy for dealing with children with emotional and social behavioural difficulties, and where are we planning to place them? What about trauma-informed behaviour?

We are on a mission to build the understanding, and therefore the capacity, within our mainstream schools, that behaviour is a communication and is a reflection of an emotional or additional learning need that is perhaps going unmet. We are part of the CAMHS transformation steering group – some of the projects coming out of that include work with community psychology and whole-school approaches to mental health and emotional wellbeing. A lot of the work is promoting understanding and promoting good practice about what the behaviours tell us. The evidence currently shows that relationships are the key to meeting those needs. Lots of that work can be done in mainstream settings.

Some of our children with the most complex level of need, around early relational trauma are supported through the SAPRA programme or having a statement, and have bespoke and flexible provision within Monmouthshire to meet those needs. We are trying very hard to develop capacity in this area. We have been a bit curtailed by the pandemic, so our focus switched a little to supporting children with the lockdown – but this also opened a lot of doors to engage with schools over this understanding of behaviour and emotional states. We have done a cross-directorate proposal, with some money from the Wellbeing grant, to identify a workstream guidance and professional training for staff in dealing with children exhibiting emotionally based school avoidance. We hope to roll that out in January, following consultation with headteachers. Schools need to enhance, and invest in, the relationships with these children, many of whom don't need a specialist provision.

Website information for parents has been a massive issue – how is this being improved?

Yes, website development was picked up by Estyn. It is in our Workstream A. Regionally, a group led by Snap is developing a whole suite of information for parents. This will go to DMT so that colleagues can see what has been developed in collaboration with parents; this will be the beginning of our revised website. All feedback will be extremely welcome.

Is it sensible that we're developing capacity to deal with children with challenging behaviour only after having shut down the specialist school at Mounton House?

The important thing to note is that there have always been children with emotional and social behavioural needs who have not got near the threshold for needing to attend Mounton House. So we are not necessarily talking about the same population as those children that went to Mounton House. We are taking the decision around the principal educational psychology and the wellbeing leads, seeking to ensure that our professionals are as well-equipped and well informed about the latest developments in how we support the much bigger population that have always resided in our schools, so that we can make their school experience better. Our number placed in Mounton House was decreasing, and we weren't able to support all of the children in Monmouthshire because it was a boys-only facility. This is about a much broader set of interventions.

Is it correct that we're only covering children/young people up to 19, rather than 24? If so, why?

In terms of school, our responsibility will be as it is now: up to 19. As part of the post-16 work referred to earlier, there will be other provision that we will look at for those moving into further education at age 19 but we don't know what that will look like at this stage. There will perhaps be pressure on colleges to provide placements for longer than Welsh Government originally thought would be possible. This is an evolving landscape. We will be responsible for the child/young adult's IP up to the age of 24, if that's still appropriate, but it won't be within our schools.

12.i in the strategy, mentions improving capacity but previously it said to reduce capacity. Why?

The change in legislation brings with it significant expectations, including of roles. We now have an early years ALN lead, Drs Doyle and Banks are leads for Wellbeing, and we recently recruited into our educational psychology team. Because of the approach that we are taking, we are now attracting very high quality professionals who want to come to Monmouthshire because of the ethos and approach that we have set out. We are upskilling and creating greater capacity because the Act demands that, but the most significant shift is the piece around relational aspects. It is about us empowering our SNRBs to provide the best that they can, but also that we have a key role in maintaining equity and excellence across those bases.

13, how will we judge if the strategy is successful – are we going to have baseline quantitative data?

Yes, Estyn identified this too. We've been looking at the best I.T. software to help our resource bases make appropriate assessments of our young people, and then be able to plot and report on their progress. Two of our resource bases were already using a tool called B Squared, and we have agreed that all of us will take this forward. RCT have done something similar recently; we have a meeting this Friday to learn more about how they used it.

Also under 13, are we missing a subtlety regarding meeting the needs of the children even if the parents/carers disagree?

There will inevitably be tensions between what professional colleagues identify as a child's needs and what type of setting can meet those needs, and what parents and carers sometimes want to see their children access. That tension works in both ways: sometimes, we have suggested that a child requires an independent specialist setting but the parents very much want their needs to be met in a mainstream school, and vice versa. But having that very clear commitment that parents recognise the levels of skill and capacity in our settings, and understand the route we're taking, is really important. The driving force of the ALN reform is

person-centred practice. At age 16, the child will be asked what they want, and this will drive provision from that point.

As part of the recommendations, can the draft report be updated with figures from the cover report, with an explanation of why they are going up or down?

Yes, we will make sure they are put into further drafts.

Chair's Summary:

We welcome the report and give our thanks to the team. In a broad-ranging discussion, we have covered provision and where the unit from Deri View will move to. The members have highlighted early identification. Maggie Harris has raised the point that some children have flourished from being at home and via blended learning. There seems to be general agreement for this report going forward, with the points that we have raised today. I feel strongly that children need to be supported up to the age of 24-25. As Welsh medium develops, there needs to be specialist support for those young people.

4. Children and Young People Select Committee Forward Work Programme

We will next look at Play provision and Welsh medium provision. Councillor Brown asked to consider other ALN strategies in Gwent as an item for future meetings.

5. To confirm the date and time of the next meeting

There is a potential change in membership to this committee, with David Hughes-Jones possibly stepping down, to be replaced by Frances Taylor.

The next meeting is 8th December, with Budget scrutiny on 19th January. The committee agrees to move meetings to Thursdays.

The meeting ended at **12.42 pm**

Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

Meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at Remote Meeting on Tuesday, 8th December, 2020 at 10.00 am

Councillors Present

County Councillor T.Thomas (Chairman)
County Councillor L.Brown (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: M.Groucutt, M.Lane and M. Powell

Officers in Attendance

Robert McGowan, Policy and Scrutiny Officer
Will McLean, Chief Officer for Children and Young People
Sharon Randall-Smith, Head of Achievement and Attainment
Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager
Mike Moran, Community Infrastructure Coordinator
Matthew Lewis (Countryside), Interim Performance, Evaluation and Programme Development Lead for MonLife
Ian Saunders, Chief Operating Officer, MonLife

APOLOGIES: County Councillors J.Watkins and F. Taylor, and F. Middleton.

1. Declarations of Interest

Chair Councillor Thomas declared a non-prejudicial interest as a governor of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni.

2. Public Open Forum

No members of the public were present.

3. Review of Play Provision: To consider the findings of an assessment of play areas in Monmouthshire and consider the way forward

Officers Mike Moran presented the report and answered the members' questions, with additional responses from Matthew Lewis.

Challenge:

Clearly, there is a lack of resources for keeping play equipment up to scratch. Learning and mixing among pre-school children will be lost with the end of traditional playgrounds, disadvantaging the children as they grow up. It will be a very sad day when alternative uses are implemented.

We don't think the situation is quite as bad as that. There has been some frustration over the years at the lack of a dedicated play budget but the officers see this as a positive way forward because it means we can attract funding to put into those play areas that will remain. Taking Monmouth as an example, we aren't talking about taking out play areas, but a rationalisation process so that we do have good quality neighbourhood play areas with equipment made from

sustainable hardwoods, with a much higher educational value than some of the current equipment.

At last year's Playmaker conference, we asked the year 5 children if they would prefer to play on a fixed space or a green area: the vast majority said they would prefer a green space. We are talking about reducing the number we have and investing in those that remain to make them much better. Many of the areas we inherited in 1996 and 1974 from the predecessor authorities were in a bad state even then. These tend to be on former local authority housing estates – we aren't proposing the removal of these play areas, but investing money to make them better places for children to play, and bringing in sensory planting and landscape features as research shows that these help to encourage autistic children to participate in play. We're trying to link nature with play.

In terms of finance, we are going to spend £110k on the new Chippenham play area, last year we spent £86k in Wyesham, and this year we have accessed another £70k to invest. So this is about having a plan so that when resources become available we can apply for them, and once we have reported on the outcome of the Monmouth pilot we are hopeful that Welsh Government will realise that we're trying to benefit the less well off in our 4 main towns.

Yes, it's very sad to discuss this in the context of a lack of funding. I worry about what we will do with green spaces – these might be requested by year 5 children but what about swings etc. for younger ones?

This is about looking at play through a different lens. It is not to diminish the value of fixed play areas. We have perhaps fallen into the trap in recent years of not creating playable environments in a wider sense. So we are looking at what the value can be of both fixed play and the wider environment, which is perhaps more varied and has opportunities for wild play. We are also approaching this through the lens of 'Play Value', which is a relatively recent concept: in the past, a play area was assessed on whether it had a slide and swing, but there is now a lot of science around the wider value those facilities give to children. There are wider challenges but the focus is more quality rather than quantity, and we're looking to try that in the real world and see where it takes us.

Would it not be better to look at play areas during the planning stage of the estates?

The point about new developments is very important. We do intervene at the planning stage. When the Wonastow estate was developed at Monmouth, using the 6-acre standard 4 play areas would have been needed – we said to the developer that this would be too many and asked if instead they could install 2 or 3 and use the remaining funding to improve existing areas. Although the site manager thought this was a very good idea, the company directors wanted to be able to say they had paid for the new areas. Getting involved at the planning stage to ensure new areas are built but also secure funding for existing areas would be the ideal scenario.

How will the open space areas be maintained? Will local communities and volunteers play a role?

One of the reasons for suggesting the pilot in Monmouth is that there is a group there called Action on Climate Emergency, and Friends groups for local play areas. We anticipate a strong input from the voluntary sector and those organisations.

Does consultation at a local level feature?

We wouldn't seek to do anything without full consultation, the first people we would speak to town councils. They have previously been very supportive. If we can put the argument to them in the right way, they might be willing to contribute to some of the proposals we put forward.

Could you ask for the 2 open space areas to also have a 20-year maintenance? It might be less radical for the developers than 40-year maintenance on 2 standard play areas?

We also ask a community to maintain the green open spaces on estates as well. It's only for 20 years. We would have to consult with legal as to whether we could specify a longer period. We would certainly be in favour of that. We've worked on retaining open spaces in the county, establishing more protected fields than probably any other authority in Wales – we're up to 24 now. Open spaces are becoming more precious now given the pressure from residential developments.

We understand that there might be reticence to close some play areas but we aren't talking about reducing a huge amount. If we reduce across the county 20 or 25 out of 110, and replace them with really good quality play areas that do offer a high level of play value, it wouldn't mean estates going without a play area, it would just mean that the remaining play areas are in good condition, and we have better facilities to maintain them into the future.

Chair's Summary:

As a town and county councillor, I feel reasonably optimistic about this report. Some areas will be closed, but others will be raised to a much higher standard. The overall wish of the committee is for good play provision across the authority, and that all children have fairly close provision. Some members are concerned about the cut in play provision due to austerity. Councillor Powell feels more optimistic, noting that green spaces are good for encouraging children to use their imaginations for play, while agreeing that developers should give their play budget to the council to make a better playground for all ages, rather than putting in a small playground themselves, which is only suitable for toddlers. Councillor Brown raised important issues about play at the planning stage, including the effect that small gardens have on the need for plentiful play provision.

We accept this report but will monitor the matter closely and look for very good play provision in the areas where it remains. We certainly hope there will not be a large cut in the number of areas.

4. Welsh Medium Education: To discuss the strategic plan for Welsh Education

Sharon Randall-Smith delivered the presentation and answered the members' questions with Will McLean.

Challenge:

5.1 of the report mentions a 35% capital contribution from Monmouthshire but isn't the contribution from Welsh Government 100% for Welsh medium schools?

We'll have to verify the Welsh medium position with Welsh Government. Certainly, the element that we submitted for Band B around Abergavenny included Welsh medium provision, which was funded at the 65-35% intervention rate. Since then, Welsh Government has provided grant funding at 100% aside from Band B, for us to provide additional capacity in the Monmouth area and to expand Ysgol Y Ffin in the south of the county. There is funding at 100% but not within the Band B stream.

There are resource implications – Is Welsh Government fully funding these proposals, particularly in light of the problems we have with our budget on a continuous basis?

This is a matter that has been raised in other local authorities: that it does bring potential revenue pressure that isn't funded separately from the capital funding – so they don't fund money for the capital alongside money for the revenue. Money to educate the children is fed to us through our aggregate external finance, and we raise money locally through council tax. It's a matter of us finding a strategic way through that balances where the children are educated and meeting that cost. The difficulty is that if our establishment is for English medium, but then we have a growing population demand for Welsh medium, we have to find the means by which we can fund the move from the English medium to the Welsh medium, without it having too big a head cost in terms of the Welsh medium in the early stages.

Does the 35% capital contribution relate to Abergavenny, and 100% is for Monmouth?

Yes, 100% is for Ysgol Y Ffin and the 65-35% is in regards to Abergavenny.

What provision will be available for ALN pupils who don't make progress – will they automatically go back into the English school?

Yes, it's an important question, especially regarding the availability of services available through the medium of Welsh. The strength of us working regionally: we have made rapid steps over the last 18 months in how we develop and share information. So everything for the new bill (supporting evidence, documentation) is all through the medium of Welsh. Training has been delivered in Welsh for ALN and we are very mindful, through recruitment, that we are looking for people who have the skills needed to help and support children with ALNs, but can do so in Welsh. For example, one of our SpLD team members is Welsh speaking, so can work through both mediums. We are not where we need to be, because of the recruitment issues we face, but we are working on it together as a region. We are trying to establish where we have expertise in certain areas that can be shared. Over time, we will have more Welsh speakers who are skilled and can provide that support.

What are the implications for Welsh-speaking children who choose to go to an English school at secondary level?

We have spoken to lots of parents about transferring from primary into secondary. It's difficult for parents in Caldicot to travel, for example. We now have two Welsh-medium secondary schools that we feed into. The rates of transfer are not as high as we would have hoped. Not everyone is taking the decision to transfer. We hope that as we now have provision in the north and south that is accessible, over time the rates will change, and more parents will be encouraged to take the decision to put their children into Welsh-medium education at the earliest point, and to continue it through to the end of secondary. We're looking to early years and childcare to bolster that as well.

If a child needs advice from a clinician about their learning difficulties, can that be guaranteed yet in Welsh?

The regional approach is strengthening the opportunities to deliver any support and assessment for ALNs in Welsh. The clinicians will also look at how they can do that, too, because there will be more pupils speaking Welsh and expecting to access services in Welsh. The regional work does so closely with the clinicians in order to develop the services, and all of the assessment materials have been completed through the medium of Welsh. So everything will be in place to

support schools. It will take a little more time with clinicians; it is on the agenda, and the regional coordinator will pursue it.

There are a few rare cases where children need hospitalisation because of their needs. During that time, they will receive education in hospital – can that continue to be provided in Welsh, if that's what they are used to?

One of the benefits from the pandemic has been supporting learners at a distance. There are teachers who will be able to support learners in hospital. It's far easier now for children to access learning through English or Welsh wherever they are – we plan to continue to develop that with our regional partners.

Will English remain compulsory?

The consultation is out at the moment: the question from Welsh Government is do we need to make English language compulsory for the foundation phase or can both languages be developed side by side, so that children have confidence in both and can switch between them more easily. The question is, if English doesn't become compulsory until age 7, will that have an impact on standards of English at a later stage – this is the point of the consultation. The consultation closed on 4th December; any information on it will be sent to members.

What will be the impact on border schools i.e. if there's a choice between a local secondary school and one in England?

Schools are concerned about Welsh language; however, being able to speak two languages throughout life is beneficial no matter what someone is doing, not least as it is then easier to learn a third or fourth language. As a local authority, something that we can support schools with is to promote those benefits. We've increased how we promote them (websites, promotional information developed and shared throughout the region, etc.). The information will be available at the point of new housing, as and when those developments are up and running. There are concerns but hopefully they can sort themselves out to a certain extent over time.

Regarding parental demand: what is the consultation on the need and requirement for schools?

The point of WESP for any local authority is that we are there to promote, develop and increase the Welsh language. One of the barriers to some families moving into Wales is if they have a child that is ready to go into reception but they also have a child in Year 2 or 4, they might want them to go into Welsh education but it will be late for that older child as a latecomer. Regionally, we need to find our solution to that.

The evidence in Monmouthshire is mixed. We have two schools very close to the border – Chepstow and Monmouth – and pressures around perception of Welsh education differ in both of those towns. We have had extensive discussions with members of the public in Chepstow over the years about certain aspects of the Welsh curriculum, but in Monmouth, there is a significant influx of learners from England. The dynamic on the border is not a universal one. We want our children to attend Monmouthshire schools whether they are Welsh or English medium.

Presumably, being able to teach in the medium of Welsh and cover a particular subject is quite a high requirement?

Many of our teachers have engaged in the sabbatical, which gives us the opportunity to be able to teach in Welsh, and in a Welsh school. However, we have a huge uptake in professional learning in Welsh as a second language in our schools, and when you visit our schools you can see that. It means that we are able to have confidence that Welsh language is developing. A

recruitment issue could potentially arise if we don't have enough Welsh speakers who enter the teaching profession, particularly at secondary level to deliver certain subjects that are in a shortage area anyway – we will look to support this strongly.

Chair's Summary:

This morning's discussion has highlighted some of the issues. There are quite strong targets to meet in an authority that is predominantly English speaking, sitting close to a border that undoubtedly has an influence. We have covered capital issues and important questions regarding Welsh-medium ALN provision – this is an important area, touching on clinicians within Aneurin Bevan Health Board. This is more difficult than in, say, Cardiff. The transfer from Key Stage 2 into 3 was also addressed: ultimately, this comes down to parental choice. It is heartening to have two thriving Welsh medium schools, with the prospect of a third coming at primary level. There are undoubtedly issues around staffing; teachers in Newport's Welsh schools probably commute in from Cardiff. It is encouraging that staff have engaged in the sabbatical, and that so many teaching colleagues have decided to improve or work on Welsh as a second language. WESP will press us to get up to 30% receiving Welsh medium education by 2031 and 40% by 2050.

5. Children and Young People Select Committee Forward Work Plan

The next meeting is 19th January, looking at Budget scrutiny. There will be a Welsh medium education workshop on 28th January. 11th February, EAS and Free School Meals will be covered. It is agreed that two agenda items per meeting works best.

6. Council and Cabinet Work Planner

7. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

8. To confirm the date and time of the next meeting

19th January 10.00am, with a pre-meeting at 09.30.

The meeting ended at **11.38 am**