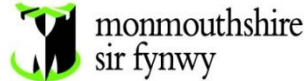


Public Document Pack



Neuadd y Sir
Y Rhadyr
Brynbuga
NP15 1GA

County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Tuesday, 20 June 2017

Dear Councillor

INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

Notice is hereby given that the following decisions made by a member of the cabinet will be made on Wednesday, 28 June 2017.

1. **SOCIAL HOUSING GRANT PROGRAMME** 1 - 12

Division/Wards Affected: All Wards

CABINET MEMBER: County Councillor R J B Greenland

AUTHOR: Shirley Wiggam, Senior Strategy & Policy Officer, Housing & Communities

CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: 01633 644474/07769 616662

E-mail: shirleywiggam@monmouthshire.gov.uk

2. **PROPOSED REDUCTION IN THE SIZE OF THE BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY** 13 - 28

Division/Wards Affected:

CABINET MEMBER: County Councillor S B Jones

AUTHOR: Matthew Lewis
Green Infrastructure & Countryside Manager

CONTACT DETAILS:

E-mail: matthewlewis@monmouthshire.gov.uk Telephone: 01633 644855

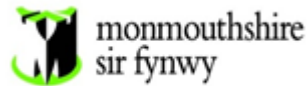
Yours sincerely,

Paul Matthews
Chief Executive

CABINET PORTFOLIOS

| County Councillor | Area of Responsibility | Partnership and External Working | Ward |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------|
| P.A. Fox (Leader) | Whole Authority Strategy & Direction CCR Joint Cabinet & Regional Development; Organisation review; Regional working; Government relations; Public Service Board; WLGA. | WLGA Council WLGA Coordinating Board Public Service Board | Portskewett |
| R.J.W. Greenland (Deputy Leader) | Enterprise Land use planning; Economic development; Tourism; Development control; Building control; Housing & homeless; Leisure; Youth; Adult education; Outdoor education; Community Hubs; Cultural services. | WLGA Council Capital Region Tourism | Devauden |
| R.P. Jordan | Governance Council & Executive decision support; Scrutiny; Regulatory Committee standards; Member support; Community governance; Elections; Democracy promotion & engagement; Law; Ethics & standards; Whole authority performance; Whole authority service planning & evaluation | | Cantref |
| R. John | Children & Young People School standards; School improvement; School governance; EAS overview; Early Years; Additional Learning Needs; Inclusion; Extended curriculum; Admissions; Catchment areas; Post 16 offer; Coleg Gwent liaison | Joint Education Group (EAS) WJEC | Mitchel Troy |
| P. Jones | Social Care, Safeguarding & Health Children; Adult; Fostering & Adoption; Youth offending service; Supporting people; Whole authority safeguarding; Disabilities; Mental health; Public health; Health liaison | | Raglan |
| P. Murphy | Resources Finance; Information technology (SRS); Human Resources; Training; Health & Safety; Emergency planning; Procurement; Audit; Land & buildings (inc. Estate, Cemeteries, Allotments, Farms); Property maintenance; Digital office; Commercial office. | Prosiect Gwrydd Wales Purchasing Consortium | Caerwent |
| S.B. Jones | County Operations Highways maintenance, Transport, Traffic & Network Management; Fleet management; Waste including recycling; Public conveniences; Car parks; Parks & open spaces; Cleansing; Countryside; Landscapes & | SEWTA Prosiect Gwrydd | Goytre Fawr |

| | | | |
|-------------|---|--|----------|
| | biodiversity; Flood Risk. | | |
| S. L. Jones | Social Justice & Community Development Community engagement; Rural development/isolation; Community safety; Social cohesion; Poverty; Equalities; Diversity; Welsh language; Public relations; Trading standards; Environmental Health; Licensing; Communications | | Llanover |



Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Outcomes we are working towards

Nobody Is Left Behind

- Older people are able to live their good life
- People have access to appropriate and affordable housing
- People have good access and mobility

People Are Confident, Capable and Involved

- People's lives are not affected by alcohol and drug misuse
- Families are supported
- People feel safe

Our County Thrives

- Business and enterprise
- People have access to practical and flexible learning
- People protect and enhance the environment

Our priorities

- Schools
- Protection of vulnerable people
- Supporting Business and Job Creation
- Maintaining locally accessible services

Our Values

- **Openness:** we aspire to be open and honest to develop trusting relationships.
- **Fairness:** we aspire to provide fair choice, opportunities and experiences and become an organisation built on mutual respect.
- **Flexibility:** we aspire to be flexible in our thinking and action to become an effective and efficient organisation.
- **Teamwork:** we aspire to work together to share our successes and failures by building on our strengths and supporting one another to achieve our goals.

Cymunedau Cynaliadwy a Chryf

Canlyniadau y gweithiwn i'w cyflawni

Neb yn cael ei adael ar ôl

- Gall pobl hŷn fyw bywyd da
- Pobl â mynediad i dai addas a fforddiadwy
- Pobl â mynediad a symudedd da

Pobl yn hyderus, galluog ac yn cymryd rhan

- Camddefnyddio alcohol a chyffuriau ddim yn effeithio ar fywydau pobl
- Teuluoedd yn cael eu cefnogi
- Pobl yn teimlo'n ddiogel

Ein sir yn ffynnu

- Busnes a menter
- Pobl â mynediad i ddysgu ymarferol a hyblyg
- Pobl yn diogelu ac yn cyfoethogi'r amgylchedd

Ein blaenoriaethau

- Ysgolion
- Diogelu pobl agored i niwed
- Cefnogi busnes a chreu swyddi
- Cynnal gwasanaethau sy'n hygyrch yn lleol

Ein gwerthoedd

- **Bod yn agored:** anelwn fod yn agored ac onest i ddatblygu perthnasoedd ymddiriedus
- **Tegwch:** anelwn ddarparu dewis teg, cyfleoedd a phrofiadau a dod yn sefydliad a adeiladwyd ar barch un at y llall.
- **Hyblygrwydd:** anelwn fod yn hyblyg yn ein syniadau a'n gweithredoedd i ddod yn sefydliad effeithlon ac effeithiol.
- **Gwaith tîm:** anelwn gydweithio i rannu ein llwyddiannau a'n methiannau drwy adeiladu ar ein cryfderau a chefnogi ein gilydd i gyflawni ein nodau.

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SUBJECT: SOCIAL HOUSING GRANT PROGRAMME
DIRECTORATE: Enterprise
MEETING: Adult Select
DATE:
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to update the Single Cabinet Member on the completion of the Social Housing Grant programme for 2016/2017 and seek approval for the new SHG Programme for 2017/2020 and Reserve Scheme List.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

To approve the contents of the programme.

3. KEY ISSUES:

Social Housing Grant Programme 2016/2017

3.1 The Social Housing Grant allocation for Monmouthshire for 2016/2017 was:

- o Main SHG Programme £1,144,759

Housing & Communities submitted a bid to the Welsh Government for additional end of year slippage and were successful in obtaining a further:

- o Additional Funding £2,062,469

The final figure drawn down from the Welsh Government was £3,207,228.

3.2 Melin Homes successfully completed a mortgage rescue using £98,000 of Monmouthshire's Recycled Social Housing Grant (RCG). This prevented a family from becoming homeless.

3.3 This is an excellent performance with Monmouthshire successfully spending 100% of its grant allocation plus £2,062,469 of additional funding. In 2016/17 new affordable homes completions totalled 87. A further 63 units from the Social Housing Grant Programme are currently under construction.

3.4 Affordable Housing completions were as follows:

| | |
|--|----|
| West End School, Caldicot | 17 |
| Westgate, Llanfoist (S106 Site) | 13 |
| Cae Meldon, Gilwern (S106 Site – BBNP) | 18 |
| Cae Mawr Grove (adapted bungalow) | 1 |
| Mynyddbach | 2 |
| Green Lane, Caldicot | 4 |
| Trellech School (60/40 Site) | 9 |
| Dixton Road Clinic, Monmouth (S106 site) | 4 |
| Rogiet School | 19 |

Social Housing grant Programme 2017 – 2020

3.5 The Welsh Government has made additional funding available to help reach their target of 20,000 new affordable homes over the term of this administration. The allocations for Monmouthshire are:

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|------------|
| 2017/2018 | Social Housing Grant | £3,342,894 |
| | Housing Finance Grant | £1,810,055 |
| | Total | £5,152,949 |
| 2018/2019 | Social Housing Grant | £4,369,317 |
| | Housing Finance Grant | £1,037,615 |
| | Total | £5,406,932 |
| 2019/2020 | Social Housing Grant | £1,250,044 |
| | Housing Finance Grant | £ 716,213 |
| | Total | £1,966,257 |

3.6 The Programme Delivery Plan for 2017 - 2020 is appended to this report. Working closely with RSL partners Monmouthshire County Council has been able to build up a healthy reserve schemes list and should be in a position to fully spend this allocation.

6. REASONS:

It is recognised in Monmouthshire that house prices have risen to a level beyond that which is affordable to many local people. The average house price is currently £276,000 (Wales comparison £177,200) and the lower quartile house price to income ratio is 9:1. The number of applicants on the Common Housing Register is currently 3048. Therefore, the provision of affordable housing is one of the Council's priorities, both in urban and rural areas (Source of data: Hometrack 23 May 2017).

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: None

8. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

Affordable housing makes an important contribution to the sustainability of our towns and villages by providing homes that local people on low incomes can afford to live in. It also a means of providing low cost homes for first time buyers.

9. SAFEGUARDING & CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

No implications have been identified.

10. CONSULTEES:

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

12. AUTHOR:

Shirley Wiggam, Senior Strategy & Policy Officer, Housing & Communities

13. CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: 01633 644474/07769 616662

E-mail: shirleywiggam@monmouthshire.gov.uk



| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Shirley Wiggam</p> <p>Phone no: 01633 644474 E-mail: shirleywiggam@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p> | <p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>Completion of 2016/2017 Social Housing Grant Programme (SHG) and request for approval of 2017/2020 programme.</p> |
| <p>Name of Service</p> <p>Housing and Communities</p> | <p>Date Future Generations Evaluation form completed</p> |

1. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal.





Page 3


| Well Being Goal | How does the proposal contribute to this goal? (positive and negative) | What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|---|---|---|
| <p>A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs.</p> | <p>Positive contribution: Efficient use of Social Housing Grant funding provides affordable housing for local people, helps deliver apprenticeship opportunities to learn building skills and helps create job opportunities in the construction sector. Delivery of affordable housing assists in achieving sustainability of communities.</p> <p>Negative contribution: None.</p> | <p>Better contribute to positive impacts: Ensure that SHG is spent delivering affordable housing where the need is greatest.</p> <p>Mitigate any negative impacts: None</p> |
| <p>A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and</p> | <p>Negative contribution: There will be some general environmental impact from affordable housing development through loss of green fields,</p> | <p>Mitigate any negative impacts: It will be ensured that biodiversity, landscape interests etc. are appropriately considered in assessing any planning</p> |

| Well Being Goal | How does the proposal contribute to this goal? (positive and negative) | What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|--|---|---|
| can adapt to change (e.g. climate change) | but this will be minimal as the numbers are very small. A small number of rural housing sites are located in areas where public transport is limited which means that households are likely to be reliant on the use of a car. | application and that good standards of design, landscaping etc. are achieved. |
| A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood | Positive contribution: Providing good quality housing can assist in promoting good health, independence and well-being. Delivering specialist housing to meet the needs of vulnerable groups such as physical disability and learning disability has a positive impact on people's health and wellbeing. Negative contribution: None | Better contribute to positive impacts: Ensure that the Local Housing Market Assessment, which assesses the affordable housing needs of Monmouthshire, is kept up to date and that policies reflect the needs of vulnerable groups. |
| A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected | Positive contribution: Affordable housing makes an important contribution to the sustainability and cohesiveness of our towns and villages by providing homes that local people on low incomes can afford to live in. Negative contribution: None | Better contribute to positive impacts: Ensure that delivery through the social housing grant programme continues to meet the needs of households on the Housing Register. |
| A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing | Continue to deliver affordable housing through the implementation of the Affordable Housing policies of the LDP, which has been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment to ensure that social, economic and environmental objectives are met, | N/A |

| Well Being Goal | How does the proposal contribute to this goal? (positive and negative) | What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|---|---|---|
| | thereby contributing to sustainable development and global well-being. | |
| <p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation</p> | <p>The Social Housing Grant programme has a neutral impact on culture, heritage and language, although in general terms affordable housing makes an important contribution to the sustainability and cohesiveness of our towns and villages by providing homes that local people on low incomes can afford to live in.</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>A more equal Wales People can fulfill their potential no matter what their background or circumstances</p> | <p>Positive Contribution: Increasing the supply of affordable housing should bring positive benefits to residents of Monmouthshire. Affordable housing makes an important contribution to the sustainability of our towns and villages by providing homes that local people on low incomes can afford to live in. The programme is also a means of providing low cost homes for first time buyers.</p> <p>Negative contribution: None</p> | <p>Ensure that delivery is monitored effectively.</p> |

2. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

| Sustainable Development Principle | How does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? | What has been done to better to meet this principle? |
|--|--|--|
|  <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p> | <p>The Social Housing Grant Programme is a 3 year rolling programme for the delivery of affordable housing. This allows delivery to meet short term need together with the ability to plan for the longer term. It is difficult to look beyond the 3 year period as the Council does not know what its Welsh Government grant allocation will be in the future.</p> | <p>A Local Housing Market Assessment has been undertaken to show likely housing need over the next five years. This will be updated every two years.</p> |
|  <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p> | <p>Housing and Communities Officers work closely with other departments of the Council such as Planning, Estates, Legal and Social Care to ensure timely delivery of all types and tenures of affordable housing. They also work closely with RSLs (delivery partners), the Rural Housing Enabler (RHE) and Community Councils.</p> | <p>Regular meetings with delivery partners are held to ensure that our working relationships stay strong thus enabling successful delivery of affordable housing.</p> |
|  <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p> | <p>When new sites in rural areas are planned consultation meetings are held locally to give people the opportunity to air their views and to contribute to the type, tenure and design of the affordable housing. These meetings also give people an opportunity to register for housing and give Council staff the opportunity to find out if there are concerns in the Community Council area, other than housing, that residents wish to raise.</p> | <p>Through the RHE a closer working relationship with Community Councils has been developed. This helps to ensure that communities are able to have their say on type, tenure and design of the affordable housing to be delivered in their areas.</p> |
|  <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>N/A</p> |

| Sustainable Development Principle | How does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? | What has been done to better to meet this principle? |
|--|--|--|
|  <p data-bbox="331 215 517 438">Positively impacting on people, economy and environment and trying to benefit all three</p> | <p data-bbox="544 215 1328 363">Delivery of affordable housing through the SHG Programme has a positive impact on people in need of affordable homes. There is also a positive impact on the economy by helping to sustain training and job opportunities.</p> | <p data-bbox="1350 215 2045 279">Ensuring that affordable housing is delivered and encouraging delivery partners to take on apprentices.</p> |

3. Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

| Protected Characteristics | Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic | Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic | What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Age | Increasing the supply of suitable and affordable housing for older people will bring positive benefits such as enabling them to stay in their own homes for longer. | None | N/A |
| Disability | Increasing the supply of specially built adapted housing for people with a physical disability have a positive impact of their well being and, in the case of disabled children, the wellbeing of the whole family. | None | N/A |
| Gender reassignment | Affordable housing provided for households in need irrespective of protected characteristics. | None | N/A |
| Marriage or civil partnership | Affordable housing provided for households in need irrespective of protected characteristics. | None | N/A |
| Race | Affordable housing provided for households in need irrespective of protected characteristics. | None | N/A |
| Religion or Belief | Affordable housing provided for households in need irrespective of protected characteristics. | None | N/A |
| Sex | Affordable housing provided for households in need irrespective of protected characteristics. | None | N/A |
| Sexual Orientation | Affordable housing provided for households in need irrespective of protected characteristics. | None | N/A |
| Welsh Language | Affordable housing provided for households in need irrespective of protected characteristics. | None | N/A |

4. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on important responsibilities of Corporate Parenting and safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect either of these responsibilities? For more information please see the guidance <http://hub/corporatedocs/Democratic%20Services/Safeguarding%20Guidance.docx> and for more on Monmouthshire's Corporate Parenting Strategy see <http://hub/corporatedocs/SitePages/Corporate%20Parenting%20Strategy.aspx>

| | Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting | Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting | What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|---------------------|--|--|---|
| Safeguarding | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Corporate Parenting | N/A | N/A | N/A |

5. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

| | |
|--------|--|
| Page 9 | Common Housing Register and Local Housing Market Assessment. |
|--------|--|

6. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

The positive impact of this proposal is that affordable housing makes an important contribution to the sustainability and cohesiveness of our towns and villages by providing homes that local people on low incomes can afford to live in.

Potentially there may be some negative sustainability impacts particularly in rural areas, where there will be increased car use and effects on landscape etc. but in terms of achieving a balance between social, economic and environmental sustainability objectives these impacts are considered to be justified because the primary aim of the SHG programme is to help deliver affordable housing to address housing need in Monmouthshire.

7. Actions. As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable. N/A

| What are you going to do | When are you going to do it? | Who is responsible | Progress |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Page 10

8. Monitoring: The impacts of this proposal will need to be monitored and reviewed. Please specify the date at which you will evaluate the impact, and where you will report the results of the review.

The impacts of this proposal will be evaluated on:

The SHG Programme is monitored continually and evaluated at the end of each financial year.

PROGRAMME DELIVERY PLAN: Main Programme 2017/18

Monmouthshire

| | |
|---|--|
| Cash Limited Allocation (CLA) | £ 627,811 + £2,715,083 = £3,342,894 |
| HFG2 Allocation (Capital Equivalent) | £1,810,055 |

Please read "Guidance on Completion of Programme Delivery Plan (PDP) Workbook" before inserting data.
 Insert schemes for 2017/18 which require SHG and HFG, are drawing down RCG

| Scheme Details | | | | | Units | | Planning | | Estimated Grant (SHG) £'000s and Tranches | | | | | | | | Total SHG & RCG £'000s | | Total HFG2 £'000s |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------|-------------|--------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|-----|------------|-----|--------------|-------|----------|---|------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| Welsh Govt Ref | RSL | Scheme Name | Funding Type | Theme | Total Units | No. Int Rent Units | Outlined Planning e.g. May 18, Yes or N/A | Detailed Planning e.g. May 18 or Yes | Q1 | T | Q2 | T | Q3 | T | Q4 | T | SHG | RCG | HFG2 |
| | Monmouthsh | Brookside, Caldicot | SHG Only | HS | 25 | 0 | | Yes | 478 | 2pp | | | | | | | 478 | 0 | 0 |
| New | Monmouthsh | 13 Severn View, Caldicot | SHG Only | HS | 1 | 0 | | N/A | | | 133 | 1&2 | | | | | 133 | 0 | 0 |
| New | Monmouthsh | 3 Roundbush Crescent, | SHG Only | HS | 1 | 0 | | N/A | 17 | 2pp | | | | | | | 17 | 0 | 0 |
| New | Monmouthsh | Forge Road, Tintern | Blended | HS | 3 | 0 | | Jun-17 | | | | | 175 | 1&2 | | | 175 | 0 | 117 |
| New | Melin | Chaucer Close, Caldicot | Blended | SH | 5 | 0 | | Jun-17 | | | | | 259 | 1&2 | | | 259 | 0 | 173 |
| New | Monmouthsh | Oakley Way, Caldicot | Blended | HS | 38 | 0 | | Aug-17 | | | | | 1,740 | 1&2 | | | 1,740 | 0 | 1,160 |
| New | Pobl Grwp (L | Pobl Site A | Blended | OPS | 20 | 0 | | Jul-17 | | | | | 541 | 1&2pp | | | 541 | 0 | 360 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | | | | 93 | 0 | | | 495 | | 133 | | 2,715 | | 0 | | 3,343 | 0 | 1,810 |

Do Not include RCG or HFG2 in Tranche payments

The SHG total must not exceed the CLA.
 The HFG2 total must not exceed the HFG2 Allocation.

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SUBJECT: PROPOSED REDUCTION IN THE SIZE OF THE BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

MEETING: Individual Cabinet Member Report

DATE: 28 June 2017

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All Wards in Brecon Beacons National Park

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To respond to Welsh Government's consultation on the proposal to reduce the size of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority from 24 members to 18 and reduce Monmouthshire's representation from 2 to 1 member.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To respond to the consultation to oppose the proposed reduction in Monmouthshire members as set out in Appendix 1.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Welsh Government is consulting on a proposal to reduce the size of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to 18 members, bringing it into line with the Snowdonia and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authorities.
- 3.2 The proposal arise from a request from the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs that the Welsh Government *"...reduce the membership of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority board from 24 to 18 while also retaining representation from all 7 current unitary authorities"*.
- 3.3 The National Park Authority feels that with 18 members the committee structure could be reviewed to achieve a leaner decision making structure that would make more effective use of member and officer time, as well as making further savings in member travel and subsistence. More details of the case for change can be found in the consultation paper.
- 3.4 The proposal is to reduce the membership of the Authority from 24 members to 18. This will mean reducing the number of Local Authority members from 16 to 12, including reducing the Monmouthshire representation from 2 members to 1, as set out in the table below, and reducing the number appointed by Welsh Ministers from 8 to 6 (so maintaining the existing 1/3rd Welsh Government appointees, 2/3rd Local Authority members ratio).

Proposed reduction of local authority members

| Name of Council | Current | Proposed | Change |
|---|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council | 1 | 1 | - |
| Carmarthenshire County Council | 2 | 1 | -1 |
| Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council | 1 | 1 | - |
| Monmouthshire County Council | 2 | 1 | -1 |
| Powys Council | 8 | 6 | -2 |
| Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council | 1 | 1 | - |
| Torfaen County Borough Council | 1 | 1 | - |
| Total | 16 | 12 | -4 |

- 3.5 Whilst the desire to streamline and achieve a leaner governance structure is understood and there is no objection in principle to such a measure, the proposed distribution of members would result in clearly unbalanced representation across the seven principal authorities. As proposed the authorities represented by 1 member on the new Board would vary from 21% of the National Park's population (Monmouthshire) to 0.1% (both Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen).
- 3.6 This would mean one member per approximately 6,800 population in Monmouthshire, compared to 1 per approximately 3,800 in Powys and much lower figures (as low as approximately 30) in the other principal authorities. This is clearly unbalanced and fails to adequately represent the Monmouthshire communities, which include Gilwern the second largest settlement in the National Park. If Monmouthshire retained 2 members the representation would be at a similar level across Powys and Monmouthshire.
- 3.7 It is therefore recommended that the proposed reduction in Monmouthshire be opposed as set out in more detail in Appendix 1.

4. REASONS:

- 4.1 To provide an appropriate response to Welsh Government by the deadline of 29 June 2017 and to ensure that the interests of Monmouthshire communities are adequately reflected in the governance of the Brecon Beacons National Park.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications from these proposals as the expenses of members in their capacity as members of the National Park Authority are met by that Authority.

6. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING)

- 6.1 A Future Generations Evaluation is attached. This includes Equalities and Sustainability Impact Assessments (attached as Appendix 2).

7. CONSULTEES:

7.1 Cabinet members, SLT and Head of Tourism, Leisure, Culture & Youth.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

8.1 Proposed response to consultation (Appendix 1)

8.2 Welsh Government Consultation Paper

<https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/proposed-reduction-membership-brecon-beacons-national-park-authority>

9. AUTHOR:

Matthew Lewis

Green Infrastructure & Countryside Manager

10. CONTACT DETAILS:

E-mail: matthewlewis@monmouthshire.gov.uk Telephone: 01633 644855

Appendix 1

Consultation Response Form

Monmouthshire County Council

What do you think?

Question 1: What are your views on the proposal to reduce the membership of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority from 24 to 18?

The County Council does not oppose the principle of a reduction in the membership of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority however it is firmly of the view that the consequences of the reduction to 18 members as proposed do not sufficiently represent the interests of the Monmouthshire communities in the National Park on the proposed Board and the Council is therefore unable to support them.

Question 2: What are your views on the proposed distribution of members of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority between the seven principal authorities and the Welsh Ministers as set out in Table 3?

The County Council opposes the proposed distribution of members as it would result in a clearly unbalanced representation across the seven principal authorities. Based on the publically available informationⁱ the distribution of area and population between the authorities is as follows:

| Authority | % Area | % Pop | Membership Proposed |
|--------------------|--------|-------|---------------------|
| Powys | 66.1 | 70 | 6 |
| Carmarthenshire | 16.7 | 5 | 1 |
| Monmouthshire | 11.1 | 21 | 1 |
| Rhondda Cynon Taff | 3.9 | 3 | 1 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 1.8 | 1 | 1 |
| Blaenau Gwent | 0.2 | 0.1 | 1 |
| Torfaen | 0.1 | 0.1 | 1 |

The County Council questions the case for change which states that “*broadly respecting the existing ratio in terms of the area of the principal council which falls within the Park*” as the figures above illustrate that will not be the case.

Moreover the Council is of the view that population is a much more appropriate measure reflecting the role of the appointees to represent the

interests of the population of the Park. We recognise that the Local Authority appointee's role is not only to represent the communities in the local authority area that appointed them but also to represent the interests of the population of the Park as a whole. However there still needs to be a basic equity of representation across the Park's communities and local representatives who fully understand and can engage with those local communities.

As proposed the authorities represented by 1 member on the new Board would vary from 21% of the National Park's population (Monmouthshire) to 0.1% (both Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen).

Based on the 2001 Census figure of 32,654 total population for the National Park that means the population per Board member would be as follows:

| Authority | Members Proposed | Approximate population per member |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Powys | 6 | 3810 |
| Carmarthenshire | 1 | 1633 |
| Monmouthshire | 1 | 6857 |
| Rhondda Cynon Taff | 1 | 980 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 1 | 327 |
| Blaenau Gwent | 1 | 33 |
| Torfaen | 1 | 33 |

This is clearly unbalanced and fails to adequately represent the Monmouthshire communities, which include Gilwern the second largest settlement in the National Park.

If Monmouthshire retained 2 members the representation would be at a similar level across Powys and Monmouthshire. The County Council is therefore of the view that the proposed Board should retain 2 Monmouthshire members. If the desire is still to reduce overall number to 18 Welsh Government could consider departing from the 1/3rd, 2/3rd approach and reduce the directly nominated members to 5 to reflect the special circumstances of the Brecon Beacons National Park with seven principal authorities – the comparison with the other national parks needs to be considered in context, Snowdonia only covers two local authorities and Pembrokeshire Coast one authority. It may also be appropriate to consider the representation of the two local authorities who cover much smaller areas and populations, potentially either combining or rotating their membership.

Question 3: We would like to know your views on the effects that reducing the membership of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority would have on the Welsh language, specifically on:

- i) opportunities for people to use Welsh and
- ii) on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

The Monmouthshire part of the National Park has a strong history with regards to the Welsh language, including the successful hosting of the National Eisteddfod in Abergavenny in 2016. The wards include some of the highest levels of Welsh language speakers in Monmouthshire (up to 11.7%).

Question 4: Please also explain how you believe the proposed actions could be formulated or changed so as to have:

- i) positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and
- ii) no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

The Council considers that appropriate representation for the Monmouthshire communities is essential to ensure opportunities for people to use the Welsh language are maintained.

Question 5: We have asked 2 specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here:

ⁱ <http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/basic-facts-about-the-brecon-beacons-national-park.pdf>



Future Generations Evaluation (includes Equalities and Sustainability Impact Assessments)

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Name of the Officer Matthew Lewis Green Infrastructure & Countryside Manager Phone no: 01633 644855 E-mail: matthewlewis@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p> | <p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal: Response to Welsh Government’s consultation on proposed reduction to the size of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.</p> |
| <p>Name of Service Green Infrastructure & Countryside</p> | <p>Date Future Generations Evaluation form completed 08/06/2017</p> |

NB. Key strategies and documents that may help you identify your contribution to the wellbeing goals and sustainable development principles include: Single Integrated Plan, Continuance Agreement, Improvement Plan, Local Development Plan, People Strategy, Asset Management Plan, Green Infrastructure SPG, Welsh Language Standards, etc.





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Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal.

| Well Being Goal | Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts. | What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|--|---|---|
| <p>A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p> | <p>The proposed change is in part justified on financial grounds to achieve a leaner governance structure</p> | <p>The recommended response does not oppose the potential overall reduction in size and suggest some alternative mechanisms to achieve this and the resulting savings /efficiencies</p> |
| <p>A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and</p> | <p>No direct impacts</p> | <p>n/a</p> |

| Well Being Goal | Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts. | What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|---|--|---|
| can adapt to change (e.g. climate change) | | |
| A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood | No direct impacts | n/a |
| A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected | The proposed reduction in representation of the Monmouthshire communities in the National Park could negatively impact on local communities. | It is recommended the Council opposes the reduction in recommendation |
| A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing | No direct impacts | n/a |
| A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation | No direct impacts | n/a |
| A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances | No direct impacts | n/a |

2. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

| Sustainable Development Principle | Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why. | Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|--|---|---|
|  <p>Long Term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p> | <p>The proposed response is intended to sustain the long term relationship with the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.</p> | |
|  <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p> | <p>The proposed response is intended to allow the Council to work together with the National Park Authority and the other principal authorities to ensure long term good governance and delivery.</p> | |
|  <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p> | <p>The proposed response is intended to ensure adequate representation of the Monmouthshire communities in the National Park.</p> | |
|  <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p> | | |

| Sustainable Development Principle | Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why. | Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|---|---|---|
|  <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p> | | |

3. **Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics?** Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below. For more detailed information on the protected characteristics, the Equality Act 2010 and the Welsh Language Standards that apply to Monmouthshire Council please follow this link: <http://hub/corporatedocs/Equalities/Forms/AllItems.aspx> or contact Alan Burkitt on 01633 644010 or alanburkitt@monmouthshire.gov.uk

| Protected Characteristics | Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic | Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic | What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Age | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Disability | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Gender reassignment | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Marriage or civil partnership | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Pregnancy or maternity | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Race | N/A | N/A | N/A |

| Protected Characteristics | Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic | Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic | What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|
| Religion or Belief | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Sex | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Sexual Orientation | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Welsh Language | N/A | N/A | N/A |

4. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on important responsibilities of Corporate Parenting and safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect either of these responsibilities? For more information please see the guidance <http://hub/corporatedocs/Democratic%20Services/Safeguarding%20Guidance.docx> and for more on Monmouthshire's Corporate Parenting Strategy see <http://hub/corporatedocs/SitePages/Corporate%20Parenting%20Strategy.aspx>

| | Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting | Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting | What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|---------------------|---|---|--|
| Safeguarding | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Corporate Parenting | N/A | N/A | N/A |

5. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

Welsh Government Consultation Paper, Census and Population Data

6. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

The proposed reduction is intended to achieve a leaner governance structure however the reduction in representation of the Monmouthshire communities in the National Park could negatively impact on local communities. The proposed response opposes the reduction in Monmouthshire members but does not oppose the potential overall reduction in size and suggest some alternative mechanisms to achieve this and the resulting savings /efficiencies.

7. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

| What are you going to do | When are you going to do it? | Who is responsible | Progress |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| | | | |

8. MONITORING: The impacts of this proposal will need to be monitored and reviewed. Please specify the date at which you will evaluate the impact, and where you will report the results of the review.

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
|--|--|

9. VERSION CONTROL: The Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stages of decision making, and then honed and refined throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and built in sustainable development wherever possible.

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| Version No. | Decision making stage | Date considered | Brief description of any amendments made following consideration |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--|
| 1 | ICMD | 28 June 2017 | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Appendix 1

Consultation Response Form

Monmouthshire County Council

What do you think?

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As proposed the authorities represented by 1 member on the new Board would vary from 21% of the National Park's population (Monmouthshire) to 0.1% (both Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen).

Based on the 2001 Census figure of 32,654 total population for the National Park that means the population per Board member would be as follows:

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The Council considers that appropriate representation for the Monmouthshire communities is essential to ensure opportunities for people to use the Welsh language are maintained.

Question 5: We have asked 2 specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

As a key stakeholder the County Council is eager to work with the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to highlight synergies between the authorities, these could equate to immediate cost savings without compromising the delivery of services or democratic governance.

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here:

ⁱ <http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/basic-facts-about-the-brecon-beacons-national-park.pdf>

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