

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Adults Select Committee held
at The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Tuesday, 10th
July, 2018 at 10.00 am**

PRESENT: County Councillor D. Blakebrough (Chair)
County Councillor L. Brown (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: L. Dymock, M. Groucutt, P. Pavia, J. Pratt,
R. Harris, R. Edwards and S. Woodhouse

Also in attendance: County Councillor V. Smith

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mark Hand	Head of Planning, Housing and Place-Shaping
Ian Bakewell	Housing & Regeneration Manager
Sarah Turvey-Barber	Strategy & Sustainable Living Manager
Karen Durrant	Private Sector Housing Manager
Sarah Ridley	Housing Options Officer
Huw Owen	Specialist Environment Health Officer
Mark Howcroft	Assistant Head of Finance
Richard Jones	Performance Manager
Sian Schofield	Management Information Officer
Hazel Ilett	Scrutiny Manager
Richard Williams	Democratic Services Officer

APOLOGIES:

None.

1. To note the appointment of County Councillor D. Blakebrough as Chair

We noted the appointment of County Councillor D. Blakebrough as Chair.

2. Appointment of Vice-Chair

We appointed County Councillor L. Brown as Vice-Chair.

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of Interest made by Members.

4. Public Open Forum

There were no members of the public present.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Adults Select Committee dated 19th June 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

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6. Bed & Breakfast Policy

Context:

To scrutinise a draft policy for the use of Bed & Breakfast (B & B) for homeless purposes, which will provide a formalised framework within which to work. Establishing a policy was a recommendation of the Committee on 20th March 2018.

Key Issues:

- Under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, the Council has a duty to respond to homelessness. The focus of the Act is homeless prevention. However, where homelessness cannot be prevented the Council has other duties, including accommodation duties. In the event of homelessness, the Act requires the Council to:
 - provide interim accommodation for applicants in priority need (S.68). The definition of priority need includes families with children and 16/17 year olds.
 - help secure (this is not an absolute duty) accommodation and (S.73).
 - undertake a duty to secure accommodation for applicants in priority need (S.75).
- Nevertheless, accessing an adequate supply of accommodation is an on-going challenge for the Council. Not only is homeless accommodation itself in short supply together with social housing, but it is a small part of the wider Monmouthshire housing market, which also has an under-supply of affordable accommodation. The rural nature of the County further compounds the situation.
- There are a number of challenges providing homeless accommodation. This includes there being only one family hostel, which is in Monmouth, the private leasing scheme has contracted over recent years, private sector accommodation is difficult to access and Monmouthshire County Council accommodation is at capacity. Also, there is a need to have regard to the Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (Wales) Order 2015 and the Council needs to be mindful of safeguarding and community safety issues.
- On occasions, therefore, the use of B & B may be necessary. This, however, is always an absolute last resort and if no other suitable accommodation can be sourced.
- The report proposes that the Council adopts a policy for the use of B & B. The policy will provide a framework and standards within which the Council will work. It also provides a basis against which the provision of B & B will be monitored. The policy particularly seeks to support the Council's Safeguarding Policy.

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- Although it is proposed to establish a B & B policy, the on-going focus will continue to avoid the use of B & B and to seek to further strengthen homeless prevention and to identify additional forms of accommodation.

Options Appraisal:

- The following options are available:
 - **Option 1** – Continue with the status quo and have no B & B policy in place.
 - **Option 2** – Establish a B & B policy and take no further action.
 - **Option 3** - Establish a B & B policy whilst also seeking to continue to strengthen homeless prevention and introduce new accommodation options, particularly a supported lodgings scheme, that will help to mitigate against B & B use. Such schemes may not, however, provide provision for applicants assessed as unsuitable through risk assessment processes.

Member Scrutiny:

- In response to a Member's question regarding Option 3 of the options appraisal, it was noted that the Directorate has a duty to accommodate. The policy is aimed at providing the most suitable accommodation, taking into account any risks to other residents whether in house share or B&B. A Section 115 referral to the Police can be considered before placing in B&B or house share, which comes back outlining any criminal offences, allowing officers to make an informed decision on where is the most suitable place for that individual to be housed. The more risky client would most likely be placed in a B&B that is known to the Authority and will be suitable for the individual.
- The Select Committee will receive an annual report providing an update on the B&B Policy.
- Night Stop is a charity that uses individual households with empty bedrooms that are willing to take a young person into their home, as an alternative to them having to sleep rough. It provides two to three night's accommodation. The Directorate has investigated this as a way of improving the service for young people. However, at this stage the Directorate is not looking to progress this because the model is quite narrow and would have limitations, being only for young people, as well as having cost implications. The Directorate is investigating a supported lodgings model with one of the local providers and are in the process of developing something that will have a wider remit, which can be shared with the Select Committee in due course.
- With regard to the hostel discussions, the Directorate has liaised with Monmouthshire Housing Association (MHA). MHA had identified a property and negotiations were started. However, MHA had a family that required this

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accommodation. No further progression has been made, as no alternative property has been identified.

- The Directorate has negotiated with MHA regarding surplus accommodation which MHA is reviewing. No further progress has been made yet. Other housing associations have been contacted also, but no progress has been made. However, dialogue will continue in respect of this matter.
- All accommodation taken on by the Authority needs to be lettable. The Directorate does not have the funding and resources to undertake extensive work to make properties lettable. Properties are inspected and assessed by officers prior to being taken on. The property has to be ready to be let.
- County Councillors J. Pratt, L. Brown and S. Woodhouse requested that they spend a day in the office with Housing staff in order to gain an understanding and appreciation of the service being provided by officers and the challenges that they face on a daily basis and report back to the Select Committee.
- There is a need to assess whether the Authority has a duty to accommodate an individual. Therefore, officers ask for proof of their medication and what support they are receiving, e.g., support via the Mental Health Team, and any other details in order to decide upon the right course of action with regard to providing accommodation. B&B's are looked at to decide which one would be appropriate for a particular individual. If they are a high risk offender then the Police would be involved in the process. There may be occasions where B&B accommodation is unsuitable and it may fall to the Police to find suitable accommodation, such as half-way houses.
- With regard to young people who have experienced a breakdown with their families, the Authority's Young Person Accommodation Officer has been achieving very good results whilst working with these young people with a view to getting them into training, helping them to stay at home, looking at work opportunities, benefits and many other ways of providing support.
- Two accommodation schemes for young people are run by Solus.
- The high street is an opportunity to accommodate homeless people. The Department had undertaken some work in respect of this matter some years ago in which a survey of the high streets was undertaken. The results had identified what a complex situation this is, such as shared access with the premises downstairs, fire issues, shared services and the cost involved would be significant. Talks were held with Charter Housing Association a few years ago about undertaking some empty homes investigative work in the town centres, but nothing has come of this. It is known though bringing empty properties above shops back into use is likely to be challenging, due to issues such as shared access (through shops), shared services, remote landlords and fire safety requirements. It was advised though that it would be fantastic to bring such

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properties into use as it would deliver a number of benefits over and above meeting housing need.

- In terms of the town centres, work is about to commence regarding establishing a town centre working group via the Place Board as empty shops is an issue that has been identified that requires attention. In addition to this, there will also be a review of the Local Development Plan (LDP) which ties in with the issues identified in respect of empty shops in Monmouthshire's towns.
- Working with the church is an opportunity for further exploration with a view to helping reduce homelessness in Monmouthshire. The current focus is working with churches in Monmouth which is being developed. It is hoped that there will be a facility in Monmouth for January and February 2019. There is a draft written proposal being prepared with a view to implementing from January 2019. This is the church's proposal which will be supported and part funded by the Housing Department. If the Monmouth model is successful then this could be replicated elsewhere in the County.
- An additional bullet point to be added to the Policy that the Housing Department liaises with churches to establish areas of joint working regarding reducing homelessness within the County.
- When someone presents themselves as being homeless officers ask for details of their medical background. Officers also speak to medical professionals and with MIND if the individual has a mental health issue. Support is established when the individual is placed in accommodation.
- There are opportunities to work with other local authorities around the Regional Homeless Strategy. Initial discussions have been mainly process focussed. A statutory review has been undertaken of homeless services within Monmouthshire. This is coming to a close with the next stage headed towards joint actions via joint commissioning.
- A unit of shared accommodation is kept vacant is an experiment. It is in response to the Safeguarding inspection that was held. One of the measures taken in response to the inspection was to keep a unit of accommodation empty. However, the Authority is losing income on this unit whilst it is empty.

Committee's Conclusion:

- The report is well written and the Committee appreciates the pressures that staff are experiencing.
- Concern was expressed regarding the services available for young people, in respect of accommodation and how officers work with other organisations.

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- Closer working is required with health services.
- Add paragraph 2.4 to the recommendation of the report, namely, that the Select Committee receives an annual report regarding the Bed and Breakfast (B&B) usage and that the B&B Policy also be reviewed annually.
- An additional bullet point to be added to the Policy that the Housing Department liaises with churches to establish areas of joint working regarding reducing homelessness within the County.
- County Councillors J. Pratt, L. Brown and S. Woodhouse to spend a day in the office with Housing staff in order to gain an understanding and appreciation of the service being provided by officers and the challenges that they face on a daily basis and report back to the Select Committee.
- Continue to explore joint commissioning working opportunities.

We recommended to Cabinet:

- that the Council agrees and adopts the proposed B & B Policy.
- that paragraph 2.4 be added to the recommendation of the report, namely, that the Select Committee receives an annual report regarding the Bed and Breakfast (B&B) usage and that the B&B Policy also be reviewed annually.

7. Review of Housing Renewals Policy

Context:

To scrutinise the draft Housing Renewals Policy.

Key Issues:

- There is a need to review and refresh the Council's Housing Renewal Policy due to a variety of both financial and legislative changes. In addition, a number of new initiatives have been introduced by Welsh Government to support and encourage the improvement of existing private sector housing, such as loan funding. The Policy effectively formalises existing practice.
- In addition to service specific changes, there is a need to ensure the Policy is fully aligned with the Council's Safeguarding Policy and therefore, is fit for purpose.

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- The Council decided over a decade ago that it could not continue to offer discretionary repairs and improvement grants. The main funding, has been £600,000 of capital to fund disabled facilities (DFG's) and Safety at Home (SaH) grants. Over time, the purchasing power of that sum declined and demand, though variable, increased both in quantity and complexity. As adults live longer and wish to stay in their own homes for as long as possible and children with complex disabilities needed specialised facilities in their homes, the demand on the budget has increased. In 2016/17 the Council recognised this growth and raised the budget to £900,000. This has helped to improve the average turnaround for DFG's to 193 days.
- A further recent development is that the Welsh Government has provided a three year funding stream under its ENABLE programme which has added approximately £100,000 to the resources available for disabled adaptations. The fund supports a flexible and responsive approach to delivering adaptations, particularly through partnership arrangements.
- As well as the requirement to provide mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants and the discretionary, but highly valued, Safety at Home Grants, the Council has also been able to process Welsh Government funds intended to help home owners carry out home improvements and to encourage owners of empty properties to bring them back into use. The Committee considered a loans report on 19th June 2018. The interest free loans are intended to support these initiatives and essentially mean the Council can offer financial support for private sector housing in absence of being able to provide discretionary renovation grants. The expectation from Welsh Government is that these loans are promoted by the Council. Take up to date has been limited, therefore, seeking to increase awareness is a key priority.
- In addition to the financial support, the Housing Renewals Policy (HRP) also covers the housing standards enforcement work of the Council's Environmental Health Service. The service also inputs directly into the Home Improvement Loans (HILs) and Houses into Homes (H2H) schemes by ensuring that all Category 1 hazards to health are rectified as part of the scheme of work.

Options Appraisal

The following options are available:

- Option 1 – Continue with the existing housing renewal policy and make no changes. The current policy is, however out of date and not fit for purpose.
- Option 2 – Adopt the proposed policy in whole.
- Option 3 – Adopt the proposed policy in part.

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Member Scrutiny:

The Select Committee supported the report of the Review of Housing Renewals Policy.

Committee's Conclusion:

We recommended to Cabinet that the policy is adopted by the Council.

8. Preventing Homelessness Update Report

Context:

To scrutinise the progress being made with regards to homeless prevention and tackling homelessness. The report highlighted performance and a small improvement in homeless prevention, current risks and actions being taken to improve performance.

Key Issues:

Under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, the Council has a duty to both respond to homelessness and to prevent homelessness. The Act provides the power to discharge related duties into the private rented sector. Strengthening prevention activity and identifying new housing options are on-going priorities for the Council and includes engaging with private landlords to increase access to private accommodation as a key mechanism for the Council to discharge its homeless duties, minimise over reliance on social housing and the need to utilise bed & breakfast.

Preventing and tackling homelessness in Monmouthshire has and continues to be extremely challenging. The key reasons are the volume of homeless demand is high, compared with the availability of social housing, general demand for social housing is high, accessing the private rented sector is difficult and market rents are high. The rural nature of Monmouthshire further compounds the situation.

The Council, therefore, on an on-going basis continues to identify opportunities to strengthen homeless prevention and to improve services. The Council's performance is broadly consistent with last year, although homeless prevention levels improved to 61% in 2017/18 from 58% the previous year.

The following are key steps, with the support of Welsh Government funding, that have been taken to strengthen prevention and increasing housing options.

- Appointed a temporary accommodation assistant to increase the management capacity of temporary accommodation, which supports homeless prevention. The post also supports private landlords and the development of Monmouthshire Lettings (MLS) as a concept and brand, to increase access to private rented accommodation.

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- Further development of MLS including distinct branding and offering landlord incentives to encourage take up such as rent guarantees.
- Appointed a specialist Young Persons Accommodation Officer in January 2018 and subsequently acquired Supporting People funding from April 2018. In addition, Supporting People funding has also been secured to appoint a specialist Universal Credit Support Officer. The additional funding increases the alignment of the Supporting People programme with homeless prevention.
- Expanded the financial inclusion support through the transfer of two part-time Benefit Advisors from Social Care into the Housing Options Team.
- Reviewed the approach to prison leavers and established a spot purchase arrangement with Cornerstone. A previous sub-regional arrangement was ineffective.
- The private leasing scheme has transferred back to the Council, which will help to increase budget and management control.

The following are key risks going forward:

- On-going lack of social housing and the difficulty accessing private rented housing.
- Due to the level of leased accommodation and the withdrawal of the temporary accommodation management fee in April 2017, there is a projected financial pressure of approximately £148,000 by April 2019.
- Universal Credit Full Service commenced on 27th June 2018. A key feature is housing costs being paid directly to claimants. There is a risk some households may experience difficulties managing their rent, resulting in an increase in rent arrears and potential evictions.
- The Private Leasing Scheme, managed by Melin Homes until 7th June 2018 has declined in units significantly to 42 units. As a result, the net stock of temporary accommodation has contracted significantly.
- Accommodate applicants in emergency situations, which can result in B & B use.
- There is a need for emergency hostel accommodation in the south and access to disabled accommodation is limited.
- Accommodating households with complex needs due to the lack of suitable accommodation and the need to safeguard both the applicant and other households.

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- There is no certainty of Welsh Government funding being maintained in the future.

The Council has an action plan to help mitigate against the above risks.

The Council has a statutory duty to establish a Homeless Strategy during 2018. This is being developed on a regional basis. A Gwent Strategy is due to be completed by December 2018. The expectation is that opportunities to improve the general service will emerge from the pending regional strategy and regional working, although this is unlikely to emerge until 2019.

Member Scrutiny:

- Forms do not have to be filled in on line. There is a telephone number on the forms whereby homeless people can request support to complete such forms.
- With regard to the Home Search Website, the vast majority of homeless people have some form of identification which will be accepted.
- Officers are in the process of reviewing the Home Search Website. Officers will look into addressing the issue around providing alternative options for homeless people who do not have documentation providing details of identification.
- Officers are able to access records from Housing Register regarding people who 'sofa surf' with a view to obtaining details of the number of people doing this in Monmouthshire.
- Further work is required to develop the technology in terms of accommodation.
- The Housing Department has two full time equivalent posts within the team that provides financial inclusion support. One of these members of staff is dedicated to the homeless prevention for financial issues. There are also two part time members of staff that provide benefits support. The financial inclusion service has been a success in recent years and there is provision to build and improve this service.
- Telephone calls to the out of hour's service go through to a Housing Officer. If the general telephone numbers to the Council are used, then these calls get transferred to the Contact Centre and are directed to a Housing Officer. The Police, Social Services and hospitals also have these telephone numbers. Appropriate accommodation would then be provided based on the circumstances.
- Presentations are made to schools providing information on homelessness and what can be done if someone found themselves to be homeless. Schools also know who to refer to if they suspect there is an issue of homelessness in their school.

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- GP surgeries and hospitals also have the Housing Department's contact details.
- Leaflets have been distributed in the past but information changes regularly. Therefore, advice being provided is to refer to the website for the most up to date information. However, it was considered that the leaflets were essential for people who might not have easy access to the internet. Leaflet distribution to churches, cafes, public houses and businesses should also be considered.
- It is hoped that there will be a Gwent area of information so that all authorities are providing the same information. This will be more cost effective and cheaper to deliver.
- In response to a question regarding funding pressures on support services, e.g., substance misuse, it was noted that it is common for applicants to be in that situation, often with mental health issues also. That support availability in Monmouthshire is critical. If this was removed it would create a detrimental impact in people's ability to engage with the Department and will affect how people manage their own accommodation.
- The main way that the Housing Department accesses services for clients is via Supporting People and the Housing Support Provision. However, there is an issue in getting that support aligned with homelessness which is a challenge. There is still some work to be undertaken to bring these services into complete alignment.

Committee's Conclusion:

- There is a general upward trend with homelessness prevention having increased.
- Review the website and be aware that people might not have a form of identification which might preclude them from coming forward for support.
- Resources are good but there are issues relating to the lack of affordable and emergency housing. These issues are being looked at.
- The Select Committee supports the report.

We recommended that:

- Leaflets be provided in more general locations outlining contact details and information regarding the support available.
- A report be presented to a future Select Committee meeting regarding the private stock housing policy relating to information in

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respect of the loans and environmental health issues to obtain more of an insight into private sector housing.

9. Performance report 2017/18 - Well-being Objectives & National Performance Measures

Context:

To scrutinise the 2017/18 performance information under the remit of Adults Select Committee, this includes:

- Reporting back on how well the Authority did against the well-being objectives which the previous Council set for 2017/18.
- 2017/18 performance information on how the Authority performed against a range of nationally set measures used by all councils in Wales.

Key Issues:

- In March 2017 full Council set Monmouthshire County Council's well-being objectives for 2017/18. These objectives were set just prior to local government elections in May 2017, in order to meet the legislative requirement of approving and publishing Wellbeing Objectives by 31st March 2017. Given the timing of the publication, the latest available evidence from the Monmouthshire well-being assessment, as well as policy and legislation was used to set the Objectives.
- The approval of the Corporate Plan 'A Monmouthshire that works for everyone' which sets five priority goals the Council will be working towards by 2022 supersedes the Council's well-being objectives set in March 2017. Despite these objectives being superseded by the Corporate Plan it is important, and we have a duty, to report back on the progress made in 2017/18 against the well-being objective set in March 2017. This includes progress against areas of work related to the objective, an understanding of key performance information and future activity the Council has agreed as part of the Corporate Plan. As well as being presented to select committees the objectives will be included alongside a fuller evaluation of the Council's performance in 2017/18 that will be reported to Council in September 2018 and published by October 2018.
- Performance data and information is essential to the performance framework to track and evaluate the progress being made. One important nationally set framework used to measure local authority performance is 'Public Accountability Measures' set by Data Cymru. Benchmarking data compared to other Councils in Wales will be published in August 2018.
- Performance information for Adults Social Services from 2017/18 comprises of performance indicators from the new measurement framework introduced in

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2016/17 as part of the Social Services and Well-being Act. The performance measures are a combination of quantitative data and qualitative data which includes asking people about their experience of social services and whether this has contributed to improving their well-being. This is provided for the information of the committee and has already been scrutinised by the committee as part of the Improving Outcomes, Improving Lives Corporate Director of Social Services Annual Report which was reported to a Joint Adults & Children and Young People Select Committee meeting in June 2018.

- Future performance reporting will be based around monitoring and evaluating progress against the actions set in the Corporate Plan.

Member Scrutiny:

- A succinct summary sheet at the beginning of future performance reports was required identifying where the authority is doing well, where it is not doing well and identifying areas that require further scrutiny.
- For future performance reports percentage figures need also to have the cohort figure alongside it to provide context.
- Appendix 3 provides technical information. As the document is open to view by the public, it might not be easily understood in its current form. It was noted that this information was provided to the Select Committee for scrutiny so all data is provided. However, this information will be summarised and communicated to the public in due course in a way that is engaging and easily understandable.
- The Public Service Board has developed wellbeing objectives and is looking at actions it wants to take to deliver those steps. There will be a performance framework that will bring together a range of performance information to judge effectiveness.
- Transfer of care - there has been an increase in the number of delays this year, particularly in community hospitals where people have complex needs. The majority of the delays are waiting for care at home packages. This year there have been some issues whereby, some of the providers have left gaps in the markets. Given the aging population and more complex needs of the population there is potential for this to increase.
- Appendix 4, 22: Average age of adults entering residential care homes – It would be helpful if figures identified have in brackets what the mean.
- The average age in Wales is 82.83. This is marked in red as being in the bottom quartile. The bottom quartile relates to 2016/17 performance where we were lower than the Welsh average. This had included some younger adults who had been placed in temporary rehabilitation placements. However, these should not have been included in the report. This has now been rectified for this year.

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- Targets against performance measures were not set as these were new indicators for 2016/17. At the time for setting targets for 2017/18, officers had not received any benchmarking data from Welsh Government at that point. For the year ahead, more realistic targets can be set for indicators where targets are relevant.
- The benchmarking information is not published until later in the year, around October. Data will then be refreshed and compared to 2017/18 data across Wales.

Committee's Conclusion:

- A succinct summary sheet to be added at the beginning of future performance reports.
- For future performance reports, percentage figures need also to have the cohort figure alongside it to provide context.
- Ensure future reports do not contain abbreviations and acronyms.

10. Revenue and Capital Monitoring 2017/18 Outturn Statement

Context:

To scrutinise the revenue and capital outturn position of the Authority at the end of reporting period 3 which represents the financial outturn position for the 2017/18 financial year.

Recommendations Proposed To Cabinet:

1. That Members consider a net revenue outturn underspend of £653,000, an improvement of £694,000 on period 2 (month 7) outturn predictions.
2. Members consider a capital outturn spend of £46.8 million against a revised budget of £47.2 million, after proposed slippage of £11.8 million, resulting in a net underspend of £395,000.
3. Considers the use of reserves proposed in paragraph 3.7.1 of the report.
4. Supports the apportionment of general underspend in supplementing reserve levels as described in paragraph 3.7.3 of the report, below, i.e.:

Priority Investment Fund	£155,000
Capital Receipts Generation Reserve	£50,000
Balance Invest to Redesign Reserve	£448,000

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Total £653,000

5. Members note that the low level of earmarked reserves will notably reduce the flexibility the Council has in meeting the challenges of scarce resources, going forward.
6. Members note the extent of movements in individual school balances placing emphasis on schools to review the extent that recovery plans can be delivered over shortened timescales, and appreciate a net use of balances of only £94,000 instead of the original budgeted intention of schools to draw on balances by £877,000.

Member Scrutiny:

- In response to a Member's question regarding the cost to the Authority due to the recent harsh winter, the Assistant Head of Finance stated that this would have been part of a bid to Welsh Government in relation to a proportionate funding return. Details would be sought and passed on to the Select Committee.
- Our approach to adult social care is about care in the community and care at home. It is welcome that our age of people going into residential care units is likely to be less than the Welsh average. However, this has implications getting to people's homes during the winter and can be more onerous due to inclement weather conditions.
- Monmouthshire's costs for the additional gritting of roads at the end of March 2018 was over £400,000. £33,000 was returned from Welsh Government. The decision to allocate this funding was based on its RSG and capital funding programme. Historically, Monmouthshire is the worst funded per capita via this method. Any changes to the funding formula has to be by agreement of the 22 local authorities in Wales. The formula was established by the 22 local authorities.
- The Assistant Head of Finance informed the Select Committee that the Welsh Government was intent to derive discretionary tax raising powers in the next 12 months. One of the issues being considered was the income tax consequence helping to afford social care. A 1% increase to income tax levels would likely have a £200,000,000 effect in Wales which still would not be sufficient to satisfy all of the budget pressures.
- Budget Planning for the Directorate has never failed to produce a surplus with good medium term financial planning being undertaken.
- Capital slippage is not a manufactured figure. However, slippage figures are used to affect treasury costs.

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- In response to a Select Committee Member's question regarding the use of red and black to identify figures in budgetary reports that are in credit / deficit, it was noted the Authority is following the common convention in accounting terms.
- It was noted that the new Corporate Director for Social Care Safeguarding & Health would be in attendance at future Select Committee meetings to answer questions in respect of performance issues and financial matters that affect the Directorate.
- A Members' seminar to be held in the autumn of 2018 to help Members gain a better understanding of the Authority's budget process.
- The Assistant Head of Finance encouraged Members to meet with him to discuss particular financial issue in more detail.
- The Assistant Head of Finance stated that he would liaise with the Welsh Local Government Association regarding inviting a representative to attend a Joint meeting of Economy and Development and Adults Select Committees to discuss the Local Government Funding Formula.

Committee's Conclusion:

- The Select Committee needs to invite the appropriate officers to future meetings when discussing budgetary and performance issues.
- Issues were raised regarding emergency funding / winter funding. The Assistant Head of Finance will seek the details of this funding and forward this information on to the Select Committee.
- The Assistant Head of Finance to liaise with the Welsh Local Government Association regarding inviting a representative to attend a Joint meeting of Economy and Development and Adults Select Committees to discuss the Local Government Funding Formula.

We supported the report and recommendations proposed and that they be presented to Cabinet.

11. List of actions arising from the previous meeting

We received the list of actions that arose from the Adults Select Committee meeting on 19th June 2018. In doing so, the following points were noted:

- County Councillors J. Pratt and L. Brown were working with the Corporate Director for Social Care Safeguarding & Health regarding the data security

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system regarding access to records of people aged over 18 in adult care and the Members will report back to the Select Committee regarding this matter. This item will be added to the Select Committee Work Programme.

- A special meeting of the Adults Select Committee has been arranged to be held on 19th July 2018 to meet with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.
- Supporting People Programme Grant - Service Update – The changes have been passed to the relevant officer to take forward.
- Supporting People Programme Grant - Service Update – This report will be presented to the Children and Young People Select Committee in September 2018.
- Private Sector Housing Loan Schemes - Change of Terms – The conclusions of the Select Committee have been passed on the relevant officer.
- Crick Road Business Case – A report will be presented to the Select Committee in due course.
- The Select Committee to remain focussed on domiciliary care (Turning the World Upside Down). Care Closer to Home will also be discussed with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board at the Special Meeting of the Select Committee on the 19th July 2018.

12. **Adults Select Committee Forward Work Programme**

We received the Adults Committee Forward Work Programme. In doing so, the following points were noted:

- A Special Meeting of the Select Committee with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board will be held on 19th July 2018 at 3.00pm with a pre-meeting being held at 2.15pm. This meeting and the pre-meeting will be open to all Members to attend.
- The Public Open Forum agenda item will be included on the agenda for the special meeting.
- Items for discussion are:
 - The plans for Chepstow Hospital.
 - Older Adult Mental Health Services.
 - Carer Closer to Home.

13. **Council and Cabinet Business Forward Work Programme**

We received the Council and Cabinet Business Forward Work Programme.

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14. Next Meeting

Special Meeting – Adults Select Committee dated 19th July 2018 at 10.00am.

Ordinary Meeting - Adults Select Committee dated 11th September 2018 at 10.00am.

The meeting ended at 12.56 pm.