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County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Wednesday, 16 October 2019

Notice of meeting

County Council

**Thursday, 24th October, 2019 at 2.00 pm,
Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA**

AGENDA

Prayers will be said prior to the Council meeting at 1.55pm. All members are welcome to join the Chairman for prayers should they wish to do.

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for absence	
2.	Declarations of interest	
3.	Public Questions	
4.	CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT AND RECEIPT OF PETITIONS	1 - 2
4.1.	Statement from Armed Forces Champion, County Councillor L. Jones - Briefing Paper attached	3 - 6
5.	REPORTS OF THE CHIEF OFFICER FOR ENTERPRISE:	
5.1.	Re-Appointment of the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum	7 - 22
6.	REPORTS OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE:	
6.1.	Remit of the PSB Select Committee	23 - 40
6.2.	Climate Emergency Strategy	41 - 76
7.	REPORTS OF THE CHIEF OFFICER FOR SOCIAL CARE, SAFEGUARDING AND HEALTH:	

7.1.	Modern Day Slavery and Exploitation Protocol	77 - 102
7.2.	Corporate Parenting Annual Report	103 - 148
8.	Notices of Motion:	
8.1.	Submitted by County Councillor D. Batrouni	
	That this Council is disappointed that the Tory administration decided to close Mounton House, especially without any future plan for the site as a whole or for the long term provision of educational services for children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties (SEBD). Moving forward, the Council will:	
	1. Place a restrictive covenant on the site of Mounton House that requires any future use or redevelopment to be allowed only for educational or local community purposes in order to ensure the site is not sold for housing by the current or any future administration;	
	2. Bring forward plans in this calendar year as to the long term plans for SEBD children in the county.	
9.	Members Questions:	
9.1.	From County Councillor S. Howarth to County Councillor P. Fox	
	Would the Leader of the Council please say whether he feels happy with the outcomes of the concerns from Monmouthshire residents with reference to the Heads of the Valley A465 Road scheme operated by the Welsh Government and contracted to build and design by Costains Group Plc.	
10.	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2019	149 - 160

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillors:

P. Clarke
D. Batrouni
J.Becker
D. Blakebrough
L.Brown
A.Davies
D. Dovey
L.Dymock
A. Easson
R. Edwards
D. Evans
M.Feakins
P.A. Fox
R.J.W. Greenland
M.Groucutt
L. Guppy
R. Harris
J. Higginson
G. Howard
S. Howarth
R.John
D. Jones
L.Jones
P. Jones
S. Jones
S.B. Jones
P. Jordan
M.Lane
P. Murphy
P.Pavia
M. Powell
J.Pratt
R.Roden
V. Smith
B. Strong
F. Taylor
T.Thomas
J.Treharne
J.Watkins
A. Watts
A. Webb
K. Williams
S. Woodhouse

Public Information

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Watch this meeting online

This meeting can be viewed online either live or following the meeting by visiting www.monmouthshire.gov.uk or by visiting our Youtube page by searching MonmouthshireCC.

Welsh Language

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English. We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.

Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Our purpose

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Objectives we are working towards

- Giving people the best possible start in life
- A thriving and connected county
- Maximise the Potential of the natural and built environment
- Lifelong well-being
- A future focused council

Our Values

Openness. We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

Fairness. We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.

Flexibility. We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

Teamwork. We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

Chairman's Report 14th September – 13th October

Saturday 14 th September 10 a.m.	Judging at Usk Show Usk Show, Llancayo Farm
Saturday 21 st September 10.30 a.m.	Civic Service to 'Re-Dedicate Magor War Memorial' Magor Square, Magor
Sunday 22 nd September 3 p.m.	Lord Mayor of Swansea Civic Service St Michael & All Angels Church, Manselton
Sunday 29 th September 10.30 a.m.	Presenting prizes at the 'Archery National Tour Final' Caldicot Castle
Thursday 3 rd October 11 a.m.	Citizenship Ceremony Registrars' Office, Usk
Friday 4 th October 9.30 a.m.	Official Opening of the 'ReUse Shop' One Planet Centre, Llanfoist HWRC
Friday 4 th October 6.30 for 7 p.m.	Monmouthshire Business Awards Celtic Manor, Newport
Tuesday 8 th October 2 p.m.	St David's Hospice Care – Annual General Meeting St David's Hospice Care, Blackett Avenue, Newport
Sunday 13 th October 2.30 p.m.	Neath Port Talbot Civic Service St John the Baptist Church, Glyncoirwg

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Title: ARMED FORCES BRIEFING PAPER

For: ALL MEMBERS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this briefing paper is to provide Members with information on the Council's approach and current support for The Armed Forces Community.

THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

The Armed Forces Covenant represents a promise by the nation that those who serve or have served, and their families, are treated fairly.

The covenant is a national responsibility involving government, businesses, local authorities, charities and the public. It focuses on helping members of the Armed Forces Community have the same access to government and commercial services and products as any other citizen. It covers such issues as healthcare; education; housing; benefits and tax; family life; transition and support after service.

The covenant aims to bring together the armed forces community and the civilian community on a local level, nurturing mutual understanding and raising awareness of issues faced by the armed forces.

It is a pledge that together we acknowledge and understand that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy and society they serve with their lives.

Monmouthshire County Council was one of the first local authorities in Wales to sign the Covenant in October 2012.

DEFENCE EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

The Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) encourages employers to support defence and inspire others to do the same. The scheme encompasses bronze, silver and gold awards for employer organisations that pledge, demonstrate or advocate support to defence and the armed forces community, and align their values with the Armed Forces Covenant.

By becoming a forces friendly employer you can benefit from the wide range of unique skills and experiences that reservists and veterans can bring to your organisation. Employing armed forces community members can help diversify the talent in your workforce.

Monmouthshire County Council secured Silver status in 2014 and will be making the application for Gold status in 2020.

ARMED FORCES COVENANT TRUST FUND

The Covenant Fund has £10M a year to fund projects that support the Armed Forces Community and has four broad funding themes now and in future years:



EMPLOYER
RECOGNITION SCHEME
CYNLLUN CYDNABOD
CYFLOGWYR

SILVER AWARD
GWOBR ARIAN

- Removing barriers to family life
- Extra support after service for those that need help
- Measures to integrate military and civilian communities and allow the Armed Forces Community to participate as citizens
- Non-core healthcare services for veterans

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN MONMOUTHSHIRE

Advice and support for the ex-service community (including veterans) to live, work and access services within Monmouthshire is available at <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/armed-forces/>

Support is also available for serving members (including reservists) of the armed forces and their families. A Gwent-wide directory of services has been produced in order to provide the Armed Forces Community with a resource which combines all relevant information in one place.

Monmouthshire has an active Armed Forces Forum which meets twice a year and is comprised of statutory services, third-sector organisations, charities and other relevant partners. For additional information surrounding support in Monmouthshire, or if you'd like to be involved in driving this agenda forward, the email address is ArmedForces@monmouthshire.gov.uk

ARMED FORCES COVENANT TRAINING PACKAGE

The WLGA, with funding from the Covenant Fund, commissioned Cardiff and Vale College to produce an Armed Forces Covenant training package. The package consists of a face-to-face training resource together with an eLearning resource. Both resources are aimed at local authority elected members and staff and seek to raise awareness and understanding of the Covenant.

The eLearning resource can be accessed here: <http://www.covenantwales.wales/e-learning/>

Lisa Rawlings, Armed Forces Regional Covenant Liaison Officer is funded via the Welsh Government to ensure Covenant guidelines and services are embedded within the Local Authorities. Lisa is also a key member of the Armed Forces Network and the Regional and Local Authority Armed Forces Fora. Additionally, her role enables third sector organisations to work closely with the Local Authority to support the Armed Forces Community. Lisa's email address is RAWLIL@CAERPHILLY.GOV.UK

SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN IN EDUCATION

Monmouthshire County Council and Newport City Council were successful in securing funding from the MOD to employ an Education Support Officer whose role would be to work with all schools to raise awareness of Service Children and the potential educational difficulties they may experience. The key aspects of this role are to:

- Plan, coordinate and deliver support to families in Newport and Monmouthshire affected by mobility and deployment or returning from Her Majesty's Service to their home local authority area
- Coordinate and enable the development of expertise to provide specialist wellbeing support within the school environment working with existing providers and facilitating their integration into other statutory services.
- To advise and guide schools on applying for additional funding to support Service Children

- To train staff and raise awareness of Service Children and share best practice of providing in-school support
- Where required provide additional support for Service Children in partnership with schools. , Emma can provide a 1:1 intervention session, with parental consent. If this has no impact, then a referral to outside agencies may be required in order to prevent disadvantage to help Service Children to settle in and achieve their potential at school
- Work with education professionals to develop and provide the best possible interventions with Service Children, their families and school

Further information on support for Service Children can be found here: <https://www.sscecymru.co.uk/>

Emma Ashmead is the Education Support Officer for Monmouthshire and Newport and her email address is: Emma.Ashmead@newport.gov.uk

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SUBJECT: RE-APPOINTMENT OF MONMOUTHSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

MEETING: County Council

DATE: 24 October 2019

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All Wards

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To secure the appointment of members to the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum (LAF) for its next 3 year period.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a) That the following retiring members of the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum be re-appointed: - Irene Brooke, Anthea Fairey, Shelia Hampshire, Phil Mundell, Mark Storey, David Smith and Anne Underwood;
- b) That Sylvia Fowles be appointed as a members of the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum in view of her previous attendance as an observer;
- c) That the following individuals be shortlisted for appointment as members of the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum: - Jenny Crockitt, Gordon Davies, David Farnsworth; Tracy Hook, Shan Lewis and Martin Sweeney
- d) That a selection panel of three appropriate Members be established and delegated authority to interview and appoint members from the shortlist and to appoint further members should the Forum asks the County Council to seek additional members to reflect any specific interests felt not to be appropriately represented;
- e) That the County Council nominate its representative to serve on the Local Access Forum;
- f) That the retiring members of the Forum be thanked for their valuable contribution.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The Monmouthshire Local Access Forum is a statutory body set up to provide advice to the local authority and other agencies including Natural Resources Wales on the improvement of public access to land in the area for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area. These bodies have a statutory duty to have regard to relevant advice given by the Local Access Forum. The forum is required to meet at least twice a year, although it usually meets more frequently. In the last year the forum has assisted in the review of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

- 3.2 The Council, as appointing authority, is required to establish and maintain membership of the forum, of between 12 and 22 members, in accordance with regulations. The regulations only allow members to continue until 3 years from the first meeting of each term, i.e. to 25 January 2020 (regardless of when an individual was appointed) and so all members are due for re-appointment.
- 3.3 Following the publication of statutory notices and other publicity applications have been received from 14 individuals. Brief details of these are appended as Appendix 1. The County Council is required to achieve a well-balanced membership reflecting all relevant interests, made up of individuals who meet the suggested criteria for appointment. The guidance allows for interviews to take place, where deemed necessary, to decide upon the persons to be invited to become members.
- 3.4 Having assessed all of the applications it is recommended that the following former Local Access Forum members be re-appointed: - Irene Brooke, Anthea Fairey, Shelia Hampshire, Phil Mundell, Mark Storey, David Smith and Anne Underwood;. It is further recommended that Sylvia Fowles who has attended the current LAF as an observer is also appointed; and that the following new applicants be shortlisted for appointment: - Jenny Crockitt, Gordon Davies, David Farnsworth; Tracy Hook, Shan Lewis and Martin Sweeney and, as on previous occasions, the final selection be delegated to a nominated panel comprising of three appropriate Members. The selection panel will be guided by the relevant regulations and guidance notes.
- 3.5 Regulation 6(1) states that the appointing authority must appoint one member (but no more than one) who is either a member or officer of the authority. The previous representative was County Councillor A. Webb. It is therefore recommended that the County Council appoint a representative to serve on the forum for the next period.
- 3.6 The current number of potential members meets the statutory minimum size. Once appointed and after its initial meeting the Forum may also wish to ask the County Council, as appointing authority, to advertise for further individuals to serve on the forum reflecting any specific interests felt not to be appropriately represented. So it is recommended that the selection panel also consider and determine any subsequent applications arising.

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

- 4.1 The County Council is required by Regulations and guidance to achieve a well-balanced membership reflecting all relevant interests, made up of individuals who meet the suggested criteria for appointment. In particular this includes that the membership of the forum achieves a reasonable balance between the interests of users of countryside access and of owners and occupiers of access land or land over which local rights of way exist and must have regard to the need to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, a fair balance between persons of different genders, races, ages, disabilities and other characteristics.

- 6.2 Once in place the forum will be given the opportunity to review its composition and the interests reflected and to identify to the appointing authority if specific interests are under-represented and seek assistance in finding further members to reflect this. (See Appendix 2)

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 5.1 The County Council is required to maintain a Local Access Forum under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and as Appointing Authority to appoint members in compliance with the Countryside Access (Local Access Forums) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 6.1 The appointment and administration of the forum is assessed against the statutory requirements and the published guidance.

7. REASONS:

- 7.1 To meet the requirements of the Countryside Access (Local Access Forums) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 Members of the Local Access Forum are able to claim reasonable expenses from the County Council in respect of meetings

9. CONSULTEES:

SLT

Head of Law and Monitoring Officer

Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and MonLife

Chief Operating Officer, MonLife

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix 1: Individual applications to serve on the Local Access Forum

Appendix 2: Equality and Future Generations Evaluation

Local Access Forum Guidance 1: CCW/WAG

11. AUTHOR & CONTACT DETAILS:

Matthew Lewis,

Green Infrastructure and Countryside Manager

Tel: 01633 344855 E-mail: matthewlewis@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Individual applications to serve on the Local Access Forum

Irene Brooke

I would like to apply to continue to be a member of the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum and I remain committed to the essential functions of the forum.

I have farmed with my husband in the Lower Wye valley AONB for over 40 years. It is a mixed farm with dairy and arable enterprises as well as a dairy processing business.

There is a concentrated network of public rights of way over the farm and it is surrounded by Natural Resources Wales land much of which has open access. There are also a number of promoted routes close by.

I feel I am able to offer a balanced insight into the issues surrounding land ownership, land management and public access in Monmouthshire.

I am a regular recreational walker, a dog walker and very occasional horse rider with a keen interest in the biodiversity of the Wye Valley.

My interests indicate a desire to maintain and improve public access and to protect the Monmouthshire countryside so that it can be enjoyed by all.

I have regularly attended the LAF meetings over the last six years and have contributed to discussions and consultations with regard to the Active travel bill, 4WD use of green lanes, the Welsh Government's consultation Taking Forward Wales and the renewal of Monmouthshire's ROWIP plan.

As a member of the NFU and the CLA I keep up to date with rights of way issues and would be able to liaise with these organisations with regard to LAF matters. I would also be happy to provide my local Community Council with any relevant information.

Jennifer Cockitt

Brought up in the countryside and having the opportunity to both live and work in the countryside since moving to Wales in 1992, I am only too well aware of the benefits for health and leisure which can be available through access to the countryside itself. This especially so in an area well known for its tourism and welcome for recreation and tourism. From my involvement with the BBNP Access Forum I have been interested in efforts to reconcile the varying demands on 'the countryside' encompassing those who live and work here and those with a wide range of sometimes conflicting interests and leisure activities. Trying to reconcile needs and also educate visitors, without preaching, to gain a better understanding of how 'the countryside' and its wildlife works in nature.

I am used to working in a forum or committee format, listening to and trying to understand and reconcile others' points of view having been Chairman for a regional committee of a national charity for 6 years and a committee member for some 20 years during which time I also liaised with the Welsh Assembly Government's relevant committees and discussion groups.

Gordon Davies

My first introduction to the Countryside of Monmouthshire was as a cub, with the highlight of the annual camp at Gypsy's Tump, Bulmore -all too long ago.

At college I discovered a wider range of outdoor pursuits. Then my career in education offered me the opportunity out of school to introduce young people to the great outdoors, However I recognised that I needed appropriate qualifications in the Mountain Leadership Certificate. Over the years many hundreds of young people have begun to share my passion and enthusiasm for both a local and special the environment offered by wild country.

The Duke of Edinburgh Scheme has always been close to my heart and the O.P element provided a challenge encouraging participants to respect and enjoy the environment.

In my final post as Head of Tredegar Comprehensive school I was in a position to ensure that all the Young people recognised and valued what was on their own doorstep. Hopefully the legacy which I left in education lives on across the country and particularly in Tredegar

For me personally , I always sought to use my own local countryside although for many years I have been drawn to wild country of North Wales and Scottish Highlands .The freedom of backpacking across high country has had been my particular love. Now my only regret is that at 76 and with deteriorating knees I can no longer knock off the remaining 50 or so Munro`s outstanding (mountains over 3,000 ft)

I can still manage a good walk (20 miles) and with narrower horizons have come to value more and more what Monmouthshire and the Brecon Beacons National Park has to offer. Indeed there is something for everybody from a short flat walk along the Canal to a demanding day walk around the Black Mountains.

As Head of a local comprehensive school I naturally served on many committees and groups , including as Chairman of Welsh Secondary Headmasters Association .After retirement I have served for 15 years as a trustee of a significant community centred charity operating in the Welsh Valleys.

With this overall background and commitment I feel well equipped to contribute to the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum and would ensure that I would want see and find out for myself and then make up my own mind about issues which are raised and discussed in the forum.

Whilst I am unable to drive for Medical reasons I do not see this as an obstacle to effectively discharging the responsibilities of the role .Furthermore since I am retired there are no good reasons for me being unable to attend the meetings arranged for the forum

It is my belief that it is the right of every person in the County to enjoy and benefit from the countryside of Monmouthshire and the National Park. At the same time recognising that for the local residents and farm owner or tenant it is their home and livelihood.

Anthea Fairey

I have been a member of the Monmouthshire LAF.

I am Chair of "Friends of Castle Meadows" in Abergavenny. This is an open access area of 22 hectares, which includes rights of way and cycle routes. We aim (with MCC) to make the Meadows an area accessible for all (including those who are disabled).

I'm a walker and a dog walker on routes throughout Monmouthshire.

I also work with Rainbows, Brownies and Scouts in the Abergavenny area.

David Farnsworth

My personal interest in and long standing commitment to local access is based on several factors:

- I live in the Wye Valley AONB area, regularly use the local rights of way, including through NRW forest land and check local footpaths for overgrowth and clear signage
- I have been involved in liaison with MCC and the local landowner/farmer over the successful diversion of footpaths
- I am not a member of any particular organisation (other than a Policy Council member of the Town & Country Planning Association at a national level) and I see the need to balance the interests of all users, including landowners and farmers

Syliva Fowles

I have lived on a smallholding Monmouthshire for 40 years.

My practical experience running the smallholding promotes awareness of the need for land management, and how that can be balanced with, and promote the needs of wildlife and conservation. I am a member of the Monmouthshire Meadows Group which enables members to conserve and restore flower rich grasslands.

I own horses and regularly enjoy riding and walking locally on bridleways and open access land with family, friends and alone.

Since retirement I have been involved at local and regional level with the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA), seeing how horses can provide therapy, fitness, skills development and opportunities for achievement for disabled children and adults.

As a member of the British Horse Society (BHS) I am a local BHS Access and Bridleways Officer for Llangwm, Kilgwrrwg and north Wentwood.

My particular interest is in promoting circular and multi user routes; to encourage spending time outdoors, closer to nature, in order to improve health and wellbeing for all.

I am a member of Monmouthshire Antiquarians and my Local History Group with a particular interest in the historic landscapes of Wales.

My interests include choral singing and recorder playing with Clwb Alawon Magwyr and the local U3A. I am a keen gardener, and a member of the Royal Horticultural Society.

I do speak some Welsh and have joined a Welsh language course with the aim of becoming more fluent.

I have been churchwarden for the parish of Llangwm, which included aspects of administration, organisation, responsibility for the property and obtaining maintenance grants.

My professional qualifications are in Architecture and Computing. Before retiring I was a computer systems manager and have since used my expertise to setup and maintain websites for the local community and the RDA South Wales region.

Sheila Hampshire

As a member of the farming community I have had a lifelong interest in wildlife and the countryside and I feel I can offer the farmers point of view to public access. Having been brought up in large town I recognise the importance of access to the countryside for mental renewal and physical health. I am, however, acutely aware of the conflict of interest between people and nature and I seek to promote respect for both by means of education and facilitation. We farm alongside a stretch of the Usk Valley Walk and our land also borders the River Usk. I value my experience in maintaining both areas throughout the years. I am keen to enable farmers to see the value of promoting their places of beauty in a workable relationship with the general public.

Tracy Hook

I believe that I would be a good member of the LAF as I am passionate about the countryside I live in and believe that it should be accessible to all whether you are able bodied or disabled.

I am reliable hardworking and committed, I can work easily as part of a team and can converse with people from all walks of life.

I have recently been a Trustee for an International Charity/Society so understand what pressures and commitment is required.

I also attended every day at the duelling of the A465 Public Enquiry and played a major part in making sure that rights of way were kept open and/or replaced if they were going to be closed due to the new proposed Duelling road construction. I also attended meetings with Sustrans when they constructed the cycle/walking and bridle route on the old railway line from Govilon to Brynmawr.

We live in a popular tourist County and so therefore I believe it is important that when tourists visit to our beautiful countryside is a memorable one for all the right reasons.

Shan Lewis

I retired two years ago and believe I have sufficient time to commit to Local Access Forum and advise capably in regard to countryside access issues. I feel strongly about promoting the enjoyment of the open air and universal, enjoyable outdoor recreation in Monmouthshire.

I have an interest in the countryside and have been a keen walker (and dog walker) for many years. Although I have no formal technical qualifications in regard to rights of way, I have experience of navigating rights of way, footpaths and long distance routes (such as Offa Dyke footpath). I believe as an access user myself I can reflect the experiences and understanding of those use countryside amenities regularly.

I feel it's important the Forum represents wider community and people of all abilities to ensure safe, enjoyable access for all Monmouthshire residents.

I look forward to working with members of the forum. I believe my previous experience as an Office Manager and Change Implementation Manager will be useful in working closely with colleagues. I have experience within a customer facing organisation of working with internal and external stakeholders including third sector, Local Authority and Government Departments. As a Team Leader I facilitated small working groups, ensuring a participative approach and the opportunity all everyone to contribute.

I have recently moved to Abergavenny and feel it's important to contribute to the community to promote healthy lifestyles via access to the open air, preserving the environment for future generations.

Philip Mundell

As a keen walker, with an interest in the countryside I am, naturally, concerned about the maintenance and preservation of rights of way in the county. My involvement in the maintenance of paths has given me first-hand experience of the issues confronting those whose responsibility is to keep paths open..

I have been a volunteer with Monmouthshire CC Countryside section for the past twelve years. During this time I have acted as a volunteer Path Warden for two Piercefield (Promoted route No. 6) and Devauden/Chepstow Park Wood. In addition I am a regular walk leader of weekend walks organised by Mark Langley. During this period I have received training from the County Council in Path Surveying, Walk Leading, and Emergency First Aid.

I am involved in a number of walking groups including the Lower Wye Ramblers, Chepstow Walkers are Welcome and Walk for Health and lead walks for all three groups. I am proud of my involvement in the Walk for Health Scheme and alongwith my colleagues we have recently reorganised the group to take into account the removal of funding by Welsh Government through the "Lets Walk Cymru" scheme. I believe the Chepstow group is now the only group in Monmouthshire able to accept candidates from the GP Referral Scheme due to success in obtaining alternative funding for insurance cover. I am now an active member of the Chepstow team. The Walk for Health scheme has now been running for eight years without a break.

I am the Path Care Co-ordinator for Chepstow Walkers are Welcome and over the past year the group has received training in stile repairs and health and safety matters. Over the past three years I have completed a number of long distance paths including the Camino de Santiago and the Hadrian's Wall Path and I intend to walk the Francegina Way in Italy next year.

Apart from my involvement in countryside matters I have a long standing interest in Art History and since my retirement I have obtained a BA (Hons) in Humanities and Art History and an MA in Art History. I am involved in the Chepstow U3A Art Appreciation Group and a member of various national art societies. I a past Chairman and President of Chepstow Round Table and a Past Chairman of Chepstow Offa's Dyke 41 Club, where I am a past Chairman.

I have been a member of Monmouthshire's Local Access Forum for the past three years and, I believe, it has taken me almost all of this time to gain an understanding of the nature and working of the Forum. Although, as is apparent from the foregoing, my main interest is walking I am aware of the needs and rights of other parties that need access to the rights of way of Monmouthshire.

David Smith

I do not represent any particular Special Interest Group, but feel that I am representative of enthusiastic unaffiliated walkers.

I am an active walker, and long-term member of Achille Ratti Climbing Club and Ramblers Association. I am currently a countryside volunteer for Monmouthshire, engaged in surveying, repairing and maintaining rights of way throughout the county.

I am also an active member of BWHEG (Blaenafon World Heritage Environment Group), the voluntary residual body responsible for general maintenance of public access to the World Heritage Site.

I regularly survey and lead guided walks on behalf of both Monmouthshire Countryside Department and BWHEG. I am a volunteer leader for a regular Healthy Walking activity group based in Abergavenny

I volunteer on behalf of RSPB, and am one of the leaders of Wildlife Explorers, an activity group for children aged 8 - 12 based in the Newport Reserve. As such, I am appropriately CRB certified, and have received Level 3 Safeguarding training. I have also received training in Rescue First Aid

A Welsh speaker, I was a member of the Arts and Craft sub-committee of the Glyn Ebwy National Eisteddfod.

As an academic sideline, I am a member of the Editorial Board of the Springer Journal "AI & Society", for which I review and amend submitted papers.

I am reasonably fit and am a regular (early morning, 3 times weekly!) user of the gym at Abergavenny Leisure Centre.

Mark Storey

I am a current member of the forum, and am fully aware of the forum's operation and function.

- I have served on management committees (voluntary) in the past, so I'm familiar with procedure (assuming the LAF works in a similar manner).
- Local resident, living in the Wye Valley AONB.
- Walker cyclist and climber (BMC member).
- Some familiarity with local rights of way issues and some understanding of the CROW act.
- I am a reasonable communicator and willing to promote the work of the LAF as required.
- Self-employed, so flexible as regards meeting times etc.

Martin Sweeney

I am engaged in the use of both rights of way and access land both personally and professionally.

I lead groups on walks and courses in the Wye Valley and Brecon Beacons and am a contributor to several national walking magazines. I am also a white water kayaker, caver, rock climber and have previously served as the secretary of the South Wales area of the British Mountaineering Council. I have also been a member of the steering group of the South Wales Outdoor Activity Providers Group.

My business (Borderlands Outdoor) is a member of the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Tourism Association and I try to attend the members meetings of the association as regularly as I can.

Through teaching outdoor first aid I come into contact with a large number of outdoor enthusiasts and other users of the countryside, particularly mountain bikers.

I believe that all of the above makes me well placed to consult, understand and communicate the views and interests of a fairly broad range of outdoor interests

Anne Underwood

I am currently a LAF member and its Chair and have served in previous LAFS.

I have a good knowledge of rights of way legislation and have been a volunteer British Horse Society Access & Bridleways Officer for Monmouthshire and Newport for many years. I am a member of the Ramblers Association, and have acted as a walk leader for Lower Wye Ramblers. I have obtained a good knowledge of Monmouthshire's Prow Network as a result of my horse riding and walking activities.

As a former NHS registered nurse and hospital manager, I have an interest in promoting countryside access for all abilities and for maintaining and improving health and well being.

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Future Generations Evaluation

(includes Equalities and Sustainability Impact Assessments)

Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Matthew Lewis Green Infrastructure and Countryside Manager Phone no: 01633 644855 E-mail: matthewlewis@monmouthshire.gov.uk	Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal RE-APPOINTMENT OF MONMOUTHSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
Name of Service MonLife	Date Future Generations Evaluation form completed 7 October 2019

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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.

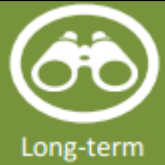




Well Being Goal	How does the proposal contribute to this goal? (positive and negative)	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	Countryside access contribute towards jobs and the economy and provide opportunities for sustainable transport benefits by improving walking and cycling opportunities, social and health benefits by working more proactively with communities and volunteers and to improve tourism and benefits to local businesses.	Seek to ensure the Local Access Forum which can provide guidance on these matters is as broadly based with a good spread of expertise as possible
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	Appropriate management of the countryside access network, as advised by the Local Access Forum, can support sustainable management of biodiversity interests.	

Appendix 2

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 healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>The Local Access Forum can advise on management of rights of way and countryside sites to reduce barriers to residents using the outdoors and to achieve a network of well promoted, useable paths, to help residents improve their health and well-being, including helping supporting working with community and other volunteer groups who can play an important part in identifying improvements, leading health walks, helping with maintenance and promotion of the network.</p>	
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>A strong Local Access Forum can help maximise opportunities for engagement with a range of key stakeholders.</p>	
<p>A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing</p>	<p>n/a</p>	
<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 skills and knowledge of Local Access Forum members can help maximise opportunities for engagement.</p>	
<p>A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances</p>	<p>A strong Local Access Forum can help promote countryside access to others so that they can maximise opportunities to for volunteering and participation a wide range of outdoor activities</p>	

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

Appendix 2

Sustainable Development Principle	How does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle?	What has been done to better to meet this principle?
 <p>Long-term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p>The Local Access Forum will contribute to the delivery of the Rights of Way Improvement plan, which establishes a long-term planning and management framework.</p>	
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>The skills and knowledge of Local Access Forum members can help maximise opportunities for community and volunteer engagement and future partnerships.</p>	
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>The core function of the Local Access Forum is to provide advice to the local authority and other agencies including Natural Resources Wales on the improvement of public access to land in the area for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area.</p>	
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>The Local Access Forum can provide advice and support to assist prioritisation of resources.</p>	
 <p>Integration</p> <p>Positively impacting on people, economy and environment and trying to benefit all three</p>	<p>The Local Access Forum can provide advice and support to assist countryside access management to benefit the economy, the environment and to provide the means for which the public can access our rich cultural heritage.</p>	

Appendix 2

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	The County Council is required by Regulations and guidance to achieve a well-balanced membership reflecting all relevant interests, and to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, a fair balance between persons of different genders, races, ages, disabilities and other characteristics.	None	After its initial meeting the Forum can ask the County Council, as appointing authority, to advertise for further individuals to serve on the forum reflecting any specific interests felt not to be represented and the report's recommendation facilitate this opportunity.
Disability	As above	None	As above
Gender Reassignment	As above	None	As above
Marriage or civil partnership	As above	None	As above
Race	As above	None	As above
Religion or Belief	As above	None	As above
Sex	As above	None	As above
Sexual Orientation	As above	None	As above
Welsh Language	As above	None	As above

4. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Social Justice, Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?

Appendix 2

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Social Justice	Positive through community involvement / volunteering	None	
Safeguarding	None	None	
Corporate Parenting	None	None	

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

Guidance and regulations; Local Access Forum Annual Reports

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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 County Council is required by Regulations and guidance to achieve a well-balanced membership reflecting all relevant interests, made up of individuals who meet the suggested criteria for appointment. In particular this includes that the membership of the forum achieves a reasonable balance between the interests of users of countryside access and of owners and occupiers of access land or land over which local rights of way exist and must have regard to the need to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, a fair balance between persons of different genders, races, ages, disabilities and other characteristics. Once in place the forum will be given the opportunity to review its composition and the interests reflected and to identify to the appointing authority if specific interests are under-represented and seek assistance in finding further members to reflect this. (See Appendix 2)

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
Report to Council re appointment, hold interviews as necessary and then form new Local Access Forum	By end of January 2020	Green Infrastructure and Countryside Manager / Countryside Access Manager	

Appendix 2

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:	Following the first two meetings of the new Local Access Forum
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SUBJECT:	REMIT OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD SELECT COMMITTEE
MEETING:	COUNCIL
DATE:	24th October 2019
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to request a change to the title and the terms of reference of the Public Service Board Select Committee, in order to broaden its remit which will provide enhanced governance arrangements for services delivered to Monmouthshire citizens.
- 1.2 The proposal has been approved by the PSB Select Committee and Democratic Services Committee. The proposed changes would enable the Select Committee to scrutinise wider public service provision and where powers allow, to provide greater accountability of services delivered in collaboration or by external partners.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Council agrees the changes proposed (below) and alters the Constitution accordingly.
- 2.2 To change the title of the existing “Public Service Board Select Committee” to “Public Services Select Committee” for reasons outlined in this report.
- 2.3 To revise the existing Terms of Reference to extend the Select Committee’s remit to:

Scrutinise and constructively challenge (where powers allow) the work and effectiveness of strategic partnerships (including the Public Service Board) and other public service providers to ensure public accountability of collaborative services and improved outcomes for people in Monmouthshire, through;

- a) *considering evidence and different views and perspectives on public service provision in order to make recommendations on improving services delivered to residents*
- b) *influencing the decisions, policy and practice of public service providers by providing a platform for greater accountability and democratic involvement*

KEY ISSUES:

- 2.4 The Future Generations Act 2015 requires public bodies to improve social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing in their area through statutory Public Service Boards (PSB). Local government was afforded the responsibility to scrutinise the PSB and to ensure the principles of the act are applied to policy and decision-making. Significant thought was given to developing a ‘Monmouthshire Approach’ to scrutiny

of the PSB to provide democratic accountability and to ensure that statutory partners, invitees, and others add value to scrutiny of the PSB.

- 2.5 A report taken to 21st January 2016 Council meeting to establish a bespoke scrutiny arrangement to scrutinise the activities of the PSB was agreed. This report attached as Appendix C provides a more detailed explanation of the requirements of the act in relation to scrutiny of the PSB and the wider scrutiny responsibilities.
- 2.6 The allocation of the new responsibilities to a bespoke committee has enabled the PSB Select Committee to date to play a distinct and strategic role in scrutiny of the PSB, whilst the existing four scrutiny committees have played a key role in ensuring that future generations are considered through their scrutiny of policy and decision-making.
- 2.7 The Public Service Board Select Committee has fulfilled its statutory responsibilities and provided effective scrutiny as follows:
- Reviewed the governance structure of the Public Service Board and recommendations made to the PSB.
 - Scrutinised the robustness of the evidence gathering process for the “well-being assessment”.
 - Considered the emerging findings of the well-being assessment.
 - Scrutinised the draft well-being assessment and made recommendations to the PSB.
 - Invited the Future Generations Commissioner to a meeting to outline her expectations of the scrutiny committee.
 - Scrutinised the final well-being assessment, inviting key PSB Partners (National Resources Wales and Public Health Wales) and the Chair of the PSB to discuss key priorities for collaborative/shared delivery.
 - Scrutinised the draft well-being plan.
 - Held key partners to account on how they are delivering the six steps outlined in the PSB Plan.
- 2.8 Whilst the Select Committee has performed its role effectively, it has become evident that if the role and remit were able to be expanded, the Select Committee would be able to play an enhanced role in providing challenge to strategic partnerships and other public service providers. Some services delivered in partnership could be more effectively scrutinised and the proposed change to the title and terms of reference would allow this Select Committee greater flexibility in scrutinising services that do not fit neatly within the remits of other Select Committees. The proposal would enhance Monmouthshire’s governance arrangements and provide improved outcomes for people in Monmouthshire.
- 2.9 Appendix B provides the report that was taken to the PSB Select Committee’s first meeting on 28th June 2016 outlining the governance arrangements for the select committee. The responsibilities for scrutiny of the PSB and the current governance arrangements outlined in that report would remain unchanged, however the changes to the title and the terms of reference will reflect the Select Committee’s wider focus. Whilst the Select Committee would have not formal powers to obligate partners other than the PSB to attend scrutiny meetings, they are able to draw upon the Local Government Act 2000 parameters for scrutiny that enables them to scrutinise any issues that affect residents.

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

- 3.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report, however, the decision will enhance Monmouthshire's scrutiny arrangements which will have a positive impact upon future generations through enhanced accountability for services delivered to the public.

4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 4.1 Two options are available for Members to evaluate as follows:

- 4.2 **Option 1:** To continue with the current Select Committee remit of scrutiny of the Public Service Board.

Advantages: The simplicity of a bespoke Select Committee solely to scrutinise the work of the Public Service Board and to hold it to account for its delivery.

Disadvantages: The Select Committee would be confined to scrutiny of the Public Service Board, whilst other services delivered by partnerships and collaborations could be more effectively scrutinised through this vehicle.

- 4.3 **Option 2:** To broaden the remit of the current Select Committee, whilst still providing accountability for the Public Service Board.

Advantages: The opportunity to provide a clear mechanism to hold partnerships and collaborations to account.

Disadvantages: There are none envisaged ~ there is capacity within the Select Committee and a desire to enhance its role.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 5.1 If agreed, the proposal would be subject to a review by the Select Committee at the end of the administrative term as to the effectiveness of the changes implemented, based upon the Select Committee's impact and the outcomes demonstrated.

6. REASONS:

- 6.1 There is a need to ensure that the Council continues to enact its responsibility to scrutinise the PSB. The arrangement in place is fit for purpose and can deliver these responsibilities effectively, however, there is an opportunity to enhance the role and remit to ensure that the Council's scrutiny arrangements offer maximum added value.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 7.1 There are no direct implications arising from the report, providing the four Select Chairs continue to rotate the chairing the Select Committee (negating the need for a further Special Responsibility Allowance). There is likely to be an increase in the number of meetings held and there will be implications on staff resources, however, these will be managed as appropriate.

8. CONSULTEES:

Head of Policy and Governance
Democratic Services Committee
Public Service Board Select Committee
Chief Executive
Cocunillor Paul Jordan ~ relevant Executive Member

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix A ~ Terms of Reference for the “Public Services Select Committee”

Appendix B ~ 28th June 2016 - Governance report for the Public Service Board Select Committee

Appendix C ~ 21st January 2016 - Report to Council to establish the Public Service Board Select Committee

9. AUTHOR:

Hazel Ilett
Scrutiny Manager

10. CONTACT DETAILS:

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Scrutiny in Monmouthshire

Terms of Reference for the Public Services Select Committee

The Public Services Select Committee will:

Scrutinise and constructively challenge (where powers allow) the work and effectiveness of strategic partnerships (including the Public Service Board) and other public service providers to ensure public accountability of collaborative services and improved outcomes for people in Monmouthshire, through;

- a) considering evidence and different views and perspectives on public service provision in order to make recommendations on improving services delivered to residents
- b) influencing the decisions, policy and practice of public service providers by providing a platform for greater accountability and democratic involvement

Guidance for the scrutiny of Public Service Boards

The Future Generations Act 2015 requires each Public Services Board to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of its area in accordance with the 'sustainable development principle' and in doing so, it must:

- Assess the state of well-being in its area;
- Set local well-being objectives that are designed to maximise its contribution within its area to achieving the well-being goals; and
- Take all reasonable steps to meet those objectives

Each public service board will:

- Undertake a well-being assessment
- Agree well-being objectives that meet the well-being goals
- Develop a well-being plan
- Report annually on their progress

The Public Services Select Committee should hold the Public Service Board to account in:

- Improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of its area in accordance with the sustainable development principle: "long term, integration, collaboration, involvement and prevention"
- Planning for and delivery of the well-being goals: "a prosperous Wales, a resilient Wales, a healthier Wales, a more equal Wales, a Wales of cohesive communities, a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language, a globally responsible Wales"

Through the scrutiny of (but not limited to):

- The PSB's performance in collecting data, analysing evidence, engaging the community and ensuring partnerships deliver the well-being goals;
- Decisions and actions taken by the PSB; the strategic and corporate planning framework; the systems, projects and programmes in place to deliver the well-being goals; and the governance, finance, procurement and workforce planning arrangements to support them.
- Recommendations made by the Commissioner, Minister, Auditor General for Wales.

The Public Services Select Committee should examine whether the PSB:

- has **identified where progress should be made** in relation to the well-being goals: "a prosperous Wales, a resilient Wales, a healthier Wales, a more equal Wales, a Wales of cohesive communities, a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language, a globally responsible Wales";
- has **taken account of milestones** in setting well-being objectives and taking steps to meet local well-being objectives;
- has **referred to national indicators and milestones** in their assessment of local well-being;
- has **assessed the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in the area** and has had regard to this in setting local well-being objectives;
- has referred to the Future Trends Reports in assessment of local well-being;
- has **recognised long term trends** and has **considered how well-being objectives could contribute to addressing trends**;
- has delivered a well-being plan that takes into account the sustainable development principle.

Powers for the Public Services Select Committee in relation to Public Service Boards:

- To review or scrutinise the decisions made or actions taken by the public services board;
- To review or scrutinise the board's governance arrangements;
- To make reports or recommendations to the board regarding its functions or governance arrangements;
- To consider matters relating to the board as the Welsh Ministers may refer to it and report to the Welsh Ministers accordingly; and
- To carry out other functions in relation to the board that are imposed on it by the Act.

SUBJECT: GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD SELECT COMMITTEE

MEETING: PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD SELECT COMMITTEE

DATE: 28th June 2016

DIVISIONS/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To discuss and agree the governance arrangements for Monmouthshire's Public Service Board (PSB) Select Committee, including the drafting of appropriate terms of reference.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the PSB Select Committee agrees the approach outlined in this report in establishing:
- fit for purpose working arrangements and clear terms of reference in order for the Select Committee to perform its role effectively;
 - a clear governance structure to ensure the Select Committee embeds the principles of openness, transparency and accountability in its work.

3 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Future Generations Act 2015 requires public bodies to improve social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing in their area through statutory a Public Service Board (PSB). Local government has been afforded the responsibility to scrutinise the PSB and to ensure the principles of the act are applied to policy and decision-making in Monmouthshire.
- 3.2 The background paper attached to this report provides a more detailed explanation of the requirements of the act in relation to scrutiny of the PSB and the wider scrutiny responsibilities. That report sought the agreement of the council on 21st January 2016 to establish a bespoke scrutiny arrangement to scrutinise the activities of the PSB. It proposed that the existing four scrutiny committees play a key role in ensuring that future generations are considered through their scrutiny of policy and decision-making. The report's recommendations were accepted and the council has established a PSB Select Committee to scrutinise the activities of the PSB.
- 3.3 The Public Service Board Select Committee will hold its first meeting on 28th June 2016 at which they will need to discuss and agree an effective working approach. This report provides a framework for the future working arrangements and general conduct of the PSB Select Committee in line with the proposals agreed by full council.

Membership of the PSB Select Committee

- 3.4 The Public Service Board Select Committee shall comprise 9 non-executive Members. The four Select Committee Chairs shall be standing Members of the new committee with the remaining elected membership selected to ensure political balance. Political groups should nominate members on the basis of their skills and their commitment to the role. Members could consider multi-sector contribution via co-option of non-elected members

to ensure the committee has the necessary expertise to ensure the spirit of the Act is genuinely implemented.

Chairing of the of the PSB Select Committee

- 3.5 The four Select Chairs will rotate the chairing at each PSB Select Committee meeting to provide strategic leadership (it is anticipated the Select Committee will meet four to five times a year). The rotation of the chairing will negate the need for an additional Special Responsibility Allowance.

Rules of Procedure

- 3.6 Members and the public must have regard for the Chair who will have the authority to determine on any rules of procedure during meetings of the PSB Select Committee.

Referrals to other Select Committees

- 3.7 The PSB Select Committee will operate as a stand-alone scrutiny committee, however, the standing membership of the four Select Committee Chairs seeks to ensure a close alignment to the existing Select Committees. The PSB Select Committee may request another Select Committee to undertake detailed work on a relevant issue and it will be a matter for that Select Committee to decide whether to accept the referral from the PSB Select Committee.

Quorum

- 3.8 A quorum of one third of the PSB Select Committee's membership will be required to enable a meeting to proceed.

Setting the Agenda

- 3.9 Individual agenda items, other than standing items, are to be determined in the first instance by the work programme that is agreed by the PSB Select Committee. The decision to consider additional items or defer planned items will be a matter for the discretion of the Select Committee Chairs in consultation with the Scrutiny Manager.

Work Programme

- 3.10 The PSB Select Committee work programme will be reported to each Select Committee meeting to enable the Committee to review its content and include new items and to define the arrangements required for the next meeting. The updated work programme will be presented by the Select Committee Chairs to meetings of the council's Co-ordinating Board for the purpose of ensuring a clarity of topics being scrutinised and to avoid potential duplication in efforts. The PSB Select Committee work programme will be made publicly available on the council's scrutiny webpage www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/scrutiny

Invitations to the PSB Select Committee

- 3.11 The PSB Select Committee shall review and scrutinise the performance of the PSB and in doing so, shall invite members of the PSB, officers and Cabinet Members to its meetings when appropriate. The PSB Select Committee may request invitees to give account for their activities and their performance on matters within the Select Committee's remit, particularly relating to:

- Any particular decision
- The performance of partners in delivering shared objectives

3.12 When the Select Committee wishes to invite members of the PSB, officers, Cabinet Members or another individual to a meeting, it will:

- Offer a minimum notice of 6 weeks' notice;
- Clearly outline the reason and the likely areas for questioning;
- Identify whether any paperwork is to be produced.

3.13 Where individuals are required to attend before the Select Committee, the Chair shall ensure that they are treated with courtesy and respect. Following the meeting, attendees will be provided with feedback and clarification as to whether further information is required as part of the Scrutiny process.

PSB Select Committee Meeting Procedure

3.14 Robust Scrutiny depends on effective questioning which relies on effective preparation. The meetings of Select Committees will operate as follows:

- Main agenda items will be identified at the previous meeting in line with the agreed work programme. At this point potential witnesses and broad themes should be considered.
- Prior to the meeting all Select Committee Members should be engaged in raising and discussing possible questions by email. The Select Committee Chair will facilitate this process.
- A pre-meeting for all Select Committee Members will be held for 30 minutes immediately before each Select Committee meeting. The purpose is to ensure that members are fully prepared for the Select Committee meeting and that the questioning strategy is clear.
- During the meeting, the Select Committee Chair will be responsible for ensuring that questioning is effective and that the Select Committee achieves its objective.
- Those invited to attend for a particular agenda item shall not be expected to remain at the meeting.
- At the close of the meeting, witnesses will be asked to leave to enable Select Committee Members to discuss their conclusions any recommendations arising from the meeting. These conclusions and recommendations will be reported to the PSB and relevant Cabinet Member(s) in the form of a Chairs' Letter. This part of the meeting should review the effectiveness of the meeting and identify ways that future meetings could be improved.

Call in Arrangements

3.15 In the event of a "Calling-in" of a decision, in line with the 'Call-in Mechanism' outlined in the Constitution, the PBS Select Committee is required to meet within 15 working days of the publication of the decision. The Committee would endeavour to offer advance notice to invitees required to attend.

Evidence Gathering

3.16 The Select Committee is entitled to gather evidence in connection with any review or inquiry it undertakes as part of their agreed work plan. The Select Committee shall adopt methods of gathering evidence to inform their deliberations. These include, but are not limited to, task and finish groups, holding enquiries, undertaking site visits, conducting public surveys, holding public meetings, commissioning research, hearing from witnesses

and appointing advisors and assessors. The knowledge of councillors is also a valuable source of evidence and should be considered as part of each inquiry.

Responding to Scrutiny's Recommendations

- 3.17 The Select Committee will agree outcomes of its meetings and detail the conclusions and any recommendations arising from a Select Committee meeting. The Select Committee may recommend amendments to a strategy or policy at their meeting which will be formally minuted. The Chair will formally make recommendations via a Chairs Letter to the PSB and relevant Cabinet Member(s) in person after the meeting has closed and will report these to the Commissioner following each meeting. Where recommendations have been made to the PSB and/or the Cabinet Member, a written response would be expected within one month, indicating whether the recommendation is to be accepted and what action (if any) will be taken in response.

Accountability Framework

- 3.18 There are parameters for the PSB Select Committee defined within the Future Generations Act, as follows:
- The act allows for scrutiny of the PSB as a 'corporate body', not the individual partners comprising the PSB. Paragraph 169 of the Future Generations guidance states that; ***"The committee can require any member of the board to give evidence, but only in respect of the exercise of joint functions conferred on them as a member of the board under this Act."*** The PSB Select Committee will therefore scrutinise the work of the PSB and not the individual activities of PSB partners.
 - Whilst the joint actions of the PSB will demonstrate the impact and outcomes achieved, the PSB Select Committees may choose to probe individual partners as to how they intend to exercise their well-being duty in line with the PSB's wellbeing plan. Section 36 (1) (c) of the Act (in defining the PSB's well-being duty) refers to; ***"The taking of all reasonable steps by members of the board (in exercising their functions) to meet those objectives."***
 - Furthermore, Select Committees can exercise their existing power under S21 (2) (e) of the Local Government Act 2000 to; ***"Make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of that area."***

Declarations of Interest

- 3.19 Members of the PSB Select Committee must declare any interest during meetings of the Select Committee (and withdraw from the meeting if necessary) in accordance with the council's Code of Conduct.

Confidentiality of Information

- 3.20 In accordance with the council's Code of Conduct, members of the Select Committee must not disclose any information considered 'exempt' in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Accessibility of the PSB Select Committee

- 3.21 All meetings of the PSB Select Committee will be held in the public domain and will be live streamed across the internet unless the information is considered 'exempt information' in line with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972. The minutes and agendas of meetings shall be publicly available on the council's website unless the information is deemed 'exempt' (as above). Any member of the public may address the Select Committee under the Public Open Forum for a maximum duration of 15 minutes.

Functions to be exercised by the PSB Select Committee

- 3.22 The PSB Select Committee shall be responsible for exercising the following functions:
- a) review or scrutinise the decisions made or actions taken by the public services board;
 - b) review or scrutinise the board's governance arrangements;
 - c) make reports or recommendations to the board regarding its functions or governance arrangements;
 - d) consider matters relating to the board as the Welsh Ministers may refer to it and report to the Welsh Ministers accordingly; and
 - e) carry out other functions in relation to the board that are imposed on it by the Act.
- 3.23 The PSB Select Committee is requested to discuss appropriate terms of reference for adoption at its next meeting. The full responsibilities for local government scrutiny are outlined in Appendix A of the background report tabled to council on 21st January 2016. The PSB Select Committee will need to consider these responsibilities in order to agree an appropriate terms of reference for the Select Committee.

4. REASONS

- 4.1 The new responsibilities for local government to scrutinise the PSB requires the council to ensure its scrutiny arrangements are fit for purpose and can deliver the responsibilities effectively. Significant thought has been given to developing a 'Monmouthshire Approach' to scrutiny of the PSB to provide democratic accountability and to ensure that statutory partners, invitees, and others can add value to scrutiny of the PSB. The allocation of the new responsibilities to a bespoke committee should enable the PSB Select Committee to play a distinct and strategic role in scrutiny of the PSB.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct implications arising from the report, providing the four Select Chairs rotate the chairing of any new Committee (negating the need for a further Special Responsibility Allowance). There is likely to be indirect implications on staff resources and these will need to be managed as appropriate.

6. SAFEGUARDING, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct implications arising from the report.

7. CONSULTEES

Head of Legal Services
Dr Alan Netherwood, Netherwood Sustainable Futures

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to Council on 21st January 2016.

9. AUTHOR

Hazel Ilett
Scrutiny Manager

10. CONTACT DETAILS:

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E-mail: Hazeilett@monmouthshire.gov.uk

SUBJECT:	FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT : SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS
MEETING:	COUNCIL
DATE:	21st January 2016
DIVISIONS/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

1. PURPOSE

- 1.2 To advise Members of the requirements of the Future Generations Act in relation to Local Authority scrutiny and to guide Members on the establishment of fit for purpose scrutiny arrangements for Monmouthshire.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the Council notes the new responsibility for Select Committees to ensure the principles of the Act are applied to policy and decision-making in Monmouthshire.
- (ii) That the Council agrees to the proposal recommended in this report to establish a bespoke scrutiny arrangement to scrutinise the Public Service Board (PSB) in line with the Acts' requirement.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act achieved Royal Assent in April 2015 and the legislation comes into force in April 2016. The Act requires public bodies to improve social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing, by taking action in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'Wellbeing Goals'.
- 3.2 The guidance (extract attached as Appendix D) advises that public bodies need to embed the Act within their existing corporate processes if they are to effectively carry out sustainable development. This requires the Council to integrate the thinking behind the Act into policy and decision making at every level and the Council's Select Committees to ensure that this occurs. Councils will be subject to review by the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales and for examination by the Auditor General for Wales in terms of their implementation of the Act.
- 3.3 The Act places a collective well-being duty on Public Service Boards, requiring each Public Service Board (PSB) to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of its area by contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals through preparing a wellbeing assessment and publishing a well-being plan in addition to producing annual reports. PSB's must also act in accordance with the sustainable development principle and the responsibility to ensure PSB's are challenged appropriately and supported to deliver these objectives has been given to local government scrutiny functions.
- 3.4 The Future Generations Act guidance states that;
- "In order to assure democratic accountability, there is a requirement for a designated local government scrutiny committee of the relevant local authority to scrutinise the work of the public services board" (paragraph 163).

The Future Generations Act states that;

“where a local authority has more than one overview and scrutiny committee, the references in this part to its overview and scrutiny committee are to the committee that the local authority designates for the purposes of this section” (Section 35).

- 3.5 Whilst the guidance is something the Council only needs to ‘have regard to’, the Act is definitive and under Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council must ensure a scrutiny Committee (new or existing) adopts the remit.
- 3.6 The full responsibilities for local government scrutiny functions are outlined in Appendix D, however, there are two distinct roles for Local government scrutiny:
- The scrutiny that would take place within the existing Select Committees to ensure the Council applies the principles of the Act to its own decisions and policy – this will require Members to ask different questions to ensure the Council is implementing the act across all that it delivers.
 - Purposeful scrutiny of the PSB – this should be strategic and focussed on the work of the Public Service Board as a whole.
- 3.7 Monmouthshire County Council has volunteered to be part of the Welsh Local Government Association’s “early adopter” scheme, which offers support to help local authorities take steps in 2015/16 to prepare for the Act. Ensuring a ‘fit for purpose’ scrutiny arrangement is in place in readiness for the Act with Members who have been trained in this important role is a key priority.
- 3.8 Significant thought has been given to what would work best in Monmouthshire to provide both democratic accountability and multi-sector input into scrutinising the work of the PSB, ensuring statutory partners, invitees, and others could contribute and add value to scrutiny of the PSB. These issues are still to be determined, however, what is clear is that in order to avoid a scrutiny ‘bolt-on’ arrangement and to ensure that scrutiny can assist in shaping the evolving PSB, it is advisable to establish scrutiny arrangements at an early stage.
- 3.9 There are two options for scrutiny of the PSB that the Council could consider in line with the requirements of the Act:
- 3.10 Option 1: To allocate the new responsibilities to an existing Select Committee:
- Members have reflected that the current Select Committees are operating at full capacity ~ the concern would be that an existing committee may be overloaded and that there would be insufficient capacity to conduct the scrutiny effectively, the additional burden also conflicting with other scrutiny priorities.
 - Members have advised that they do not consider this responsibility should sit within one Committee’s remit, rather that it should be overarching of the 4 existing Select Committees.
 - If an existing Select Committee were designated as a parent Select Committee with a Sub-Committee of that Select Committee established, in line with the constitution, Members would need to be drawn from the parent Select Committee with the following implications:

- They Sub-Committee may not necessarily comprise of the appropriate Members – for example, the four Select Chairs would not be able to sit on the Sub-Committee and thus to oversee the work of the PSB and feed into their Select Committees as appropriate.
- Some Members who may wish to sit on the Sub-Committee that would oversee the work of the PSB would be unable to do so because they are not Members of the parent committee.

3.11 Option 2: To allocate the new responsibilities to a bespoke PSB Select Committee:

- The new Select Committee would play a distinct and strategic role in scrutinising the work of the PSB, the establishment of a designated Select Committee offering it a sense of status and legitimacy.
- This would ensure clarity in terms of role - avoid the confusion of ‘scrutiny of the PSB’ with ‘scrutiny of the Council’s application of the Act to policy and decision-making’.
- A stand-alone Select Committee comprising the 4 Select Committee Chairs would provide genuine integration, providing direct links to the other Select Committees. The Select Chairs could refer detailed work to their Select Committees ~ the Members of that Select Committee would decide whether to accept the referral. Given that the legislation is over-arching and will impact on all facets of the Council’s work, this approach would bridge the knowledge across the Select Committees.
- Other Members could be appointed to ensure political balance, political groups nominating Members on the basis of ‘their offer’ and commitment to the role. Representatives from outside the Council could be co-opted as appropriate, embracing the spirit of the act.
- If the Select Committee Chairs agreed to rotate the Chairmanship of the Committee, there would be no additional SRA required (cost-neutral).

3.12 The recommendation based upon the above factors is for:

- A stand-alone PSB Select Committee to be established as soon as possible after a Council decision has been reached.
- The Select Committee to comprise 9 Members (in line with the other Select Committees), with the ability to co-opt non-voting Members as it sees fit.
- The four Select Committee Chairs to be standing Members of the new Committee with the remaining elected Membership politically balanced.
- The four Select Chairs to rotate the chairing at each meeting to provide strategic leadership (it is anticipated the Committee would meet four to five times a year). The rotated chairing would also negate the need to budget for another Special Responsibility Allowance.

3.13 If the Council agrees this option, an expert in Future Generations has agreed to work with Monmouthshire Members to design a ‘Monmouthshire approach’ to scrutiny of the PSB. This would provide an excellent opportunity for Members to proactively design an effective scrutiny arrangement based on the five sustainable development principles

(involvement, collaboration, prevention, integration, long term). Members could consider multi-sector contribution via co-option of non-elected Members to ensure the Committee has the necessary expertise to ensure the spirit of the Act is genuinely implemented.

- 3.14 The success in delivering effective scrutiny of the PSB will hinge upon ensuring clarity of the terms of reference of the PSB Select Committee, ensuring the recruitment of suitable individuals to perform the role, establishing an arrangement that is overarching and adopting an integrated approach suitable for Monmouthshire.

4. REASONS

- 4.1 Scrutiny is a statutory function and performs a fundamental role in the Council's decision-making process. The new responsibilities for local government scrutiny functions arising from the Act requires the Council to ensure its' scrutiny arrangements are fit for purpose and can deliver these responsibilities effectively.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct implications arising from the report, providing the four Select Chairs rotate the chairing of any new Committee (negating the need for a further Special Responsibility Allowance. There is likely to be indirect implications on staff resources and these will need to be managed as appropriate.

6. SAFEGUARDING, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct implications arising from the report.

7. CONSULTEES

Scrutiny Chairs Liaison Group
Head of Legal Services
Political Leadership Group

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

9. AUTHOR

Hazel Ilett
Scrutiny Manager

10. CONTACT DETAILS:

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Chapter 6 - Local accountability

161. Local integrated planning will only be effective if the members of the public services board take joint responsibility themselves for securing improvement, with local democratic processes providing appropriate challenge and support. For this reason, the Act gives the Welsh Ministers relatively few powers and relies predominantly on the role of local government scrutiny to secure continuous improvement.

162. The Welsh Ministers will not approve local well-being plans. Local well-being plans are the plans of the public services board members, locally owned and subject to local scrutiny. The Welsh Ministers instead have a power to direct a board to review its local well-being plan; or to refer a plan to the relevant local government scrutiny committee if it is not considered sufficient; for example, due to an adverse report by the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales or a concern statutory duties are not being met.

163. In order to assure democratic accountability there is a requirement for a designated local government scrutiny committee of the relevant local authority to scrutinise the work of the public services board.

164. While it will continue to be entirely legitimate for a subject scrutiny committee (such as a children and young people's scrutiny committee) to scrutinise the public services board's work in relation to a specific issue, it is important that one committee takes an overview of the overall effectiveness of the board. This is the reason one committee must be designated to undertake this work.

165. Overview and scrutiny functions: Each Local Authority must ensure its overview and scrutiny committee has the power to:

- a) review or scrutinise the decisions made or actions taken by the public services board;
- b) review or scrutinise the board's governance arrangements;
- c) make reports or recommendations to the board regarding its functions or governance arrangements;
- d) consider matters relating to the board as the Welsh Ministers may refer to it and report to the Welsh Ministers accordingly; and
- e) carry out other functions in relation to the board that are imposed on it by the Act.

166. The Local Authority will do the above through the 'executive arrangements' it is required to make under Part 2 of the Local Government Act 2000. Executive arrangements are arrangements for the setting up and operation by a Local Authority of an executive, which has responsibility for certain functions of the authority.

167. The designated committee will be provided with evidence in the form of the draft assessment of local well-being and, the draft local well-being plan (both of which they will be formally consulted on) and copies of the final versions of both. It will also be provided with annual reports.

168. In addition, the committee will be able to draw on the published advice provided to the public services board by the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales.

169. The committee can require any member of the board to give evidence, but only in respect of the exercise of joint functions conferred on them as a member of the board under this Act.

This includes any person that has accepted an invitation to participate in the activity of the board.

170. The committee must send a copy of any report or recommendation it makes to the Welsh Ministers, the Commissioner and the Auditor General for Wales.

SUBJECT:	CLIMATE EMERGENCY STRATEGY
MEETING:	COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE:	24 OCTOBER 2019
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To set out Monmouthshire's strategy and action plan to respond to the Climate Emergency declared by Council in May 2019 and describing the objectives and actions to reduce the council's carbon emissions.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Council approve the ten objectives within the plan, listed in paragraph 3.7, which cover the areas of activity that the council will need to focus on to achieve its goal of reducing carbon emissions to net zero by 2030.
- 2.2 That council endorse the action plan which will be an evolving document as new technologies develop and other opportunities arise.
- 2.3 That a member led-working group is created to accelerate progress and take responsibility for ensuring the action plan continues to evolve and be shaped by emerging evidence and cutting-edge practice and opportunities.

3 KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 In 2019 no one can be blind to the threat that climate change poses to our eco-system, our local environment and our way of life. There can be little doubt that this is one of the biggest challenges facing humanity. Carbon emissions from fossil fuels are one of the main causes of climate change and as a council we are striving to become carbon neutral by 2030.
- 3.2 On 16th May 2019 Council unanimously agreed to declare a Climate Emergency and passed the following motion:
- That this council will ensure it will reduce its own carbon emissions to net zero before the Welsh Government target of 2030.
 - That this council will develop a strategy and associated costed action plans to aim to deliver these targets as soon as practicable.
 - That this council revise the Corporate plan, Well-being plan, Local development plans and other relevant plans and policies in support of above.
 - Publicise this declaration of a climate emergency to residents and businesses in the county and encourage, support and enable them to take their own actions to reduce their carbon emissions in line with a 2030 target.

- Work with partners across the county and other councils and organisations to help develop and implement best practice methods in limiting global warming to less than 1.5 degrees C.
- 3.3 A strategy has been developed and an associated action plan produced that begins to set out the things we will be focusing on over this period. We will do this while continuing to provide the services that help form the social foundations on which our communities are built. We have already made a start:
- Councillors have called on our pension fund to divest itself of investments in fossil fuels and this has started to happen
 - We've built and operate a solar farm that forms the significant part of the £650,000 of renewable energy that the council generates ever year
 - More than 99% of the energy we buy comes from renewable sources
 - We are piloting with riversimple to pilot hydrogen powered cars in Abergavenny and have installed a hydrogen refuelling station in the town.
- 3.4 Work has been done to understand the county's current emissions which have dropped from around 900,000 tonnes per year in 2005 to around 650,000 tonnes per year in 2016. 51% of these emissions are from transport, reflecting the rural nature of the county, 24% from domestic emissions, and 25% from industrial and commercial emissions. Addressing this cannot be done by the council alone, it will take collaboration, community action and determined action from many third parties.
- 3.5 The Council itself emits around 8,700 tonnes of carbon a year from static assets such as buildings and street lighting and another 3,000 tonnes from vehicles. We know that significant indirect emissions come as a result of procurement – the carbon produced in the manufacture of the supplies we buy that are made elsewhere and a crude estimate of these suggests around 15,000 tonnes of CO2 emitted from procured goods and services per year.
- 3.6 Over the summer officers have taken part in a number of workshops to identify potential actions that could be undertaken to reduce carbon emissions. These have focussed on local authority emissions which are within the control of the authority Council as well as some actions which will help to reduce wider emissions from the county, for example around transport and waste. An emerging action plan is appended to the strategy and will be kept under continuous review to capitalise on new and emerging opportunities.
- 3.7 Potential activities contribute to, and will be grouped under ten themes, each of which is linked to a broad outcome:
- Energy and Buildings - Reduce the amount of energy that is used for buildings and street lighting
 - Green Spaces - Manage green spaces to absorb carbon and provide resilience to climate change
 - Waste - Reduce waste by encouraging people to reduce, re-use and recycle more
 - Greener Transport - Reduce the impact of vehicles and encourage the use of electric and hydrogen vehicles
 - Education and involvement - Help people understand climate change and what they can do to make a difference
 - Renewable Energy - Speed up the move from fossil fuels to renewable energy
 - What we Buy - Reduce carbon by thinking carefully about when and what we buy and the whole life costs
 - Active Travel - Encourage and make it easier for people to walk and cycle rather than drive
 - Public Transport - Encourage people to use public transport rather than cars

- Climate Adaptation - Preparing and adapting for the impact of climate change.

- 3.8 On 26 October Strong Communities Select Committee undertook pre-decision scrutiny to explore, debate and prioritise the relative merits of different policy interventions to help shape the action plan. The actions range from very bold statements that we are not yet sure how we can deliver, through to more specific and manageable actions. This is part of the 'Cathedral Thinking' that climate campaigner Greta Thunberg has described as essential if we are to tackle the climate emergency – to do this on time you need to commit to laying the foundations before you know exactly how you are going to build the ceiling.
- 3.9 Officers recommend that the action plan, remains a live and flexible document to which further actions and information can be added as it becomes available. This also gives the flexibility to add additional actions as technology develops and new opportunities arise. For this reason the establishment of a member led Climate Emergency working group, to be chaired by the cabinet member with attendance from officers and members of the community has been established to ensure that this important agenda is progressed with the necessary pace and ambition.
- 3.10 The Climate Emergency Action Plan cannot be delivered by the Council alone. We need other partners to join us in helping to reduce carbon emissions across the county. The Public Service Board have agreed to focus on their climate change objectives, and work together with us on carbon reduction. We hugely value the enthusiasm, energy and expertise of the residents of Monmouthshire who have such a lot to contribute and plan to collaborate with our communities and other partners to work together on our action plan.
- 3.11 We must do this while continuing to provide the services which form part of the social foundations our communities are built. We know that this will not be easy. Our core and unifying purpose is, and remains, building sustainable and resilient communities. Now, perhaps more than any time in the past, we need everyone to get behind this commitment and play their part in securing a better tomorrow.

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

- 4.1 The Climate Emergency Action Plan has significant positive contributions to make to the Wellbeing Goals. In particular it has strong benefits for a Prosperous Wales, by developing a low carbon economy and thinking carefully about sustainable procurement. There are also benefits for a Resilient Wales, based on changes to the way we manage green spaces. A Healthier Wales will be enhanced by improvements to air quality from more sustainable travel and more walking and cycling. There is also significant potential to contribute to Cohesive Communities, by working collaboratively and in partnership with our communities. There are no negative impacts on the Well-being Goals.
- 4.2 There are no significant positive or negative impacts on the protected characteristics, safeguarding or corporate parenting. The principles of Long term, Prevention, Integration, Collaboration and Involvement have been used throughout the development of the Action Plan.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

5.1 Through the motion, the Council has committed to producing an action, so doing nothing was not an option. However, the content and extent of the action plan has been subject to a number of options, set out below:

	Option	Pros	Cons
1	Focus the action plan solely on direct MCC emissions	Easy to manage and measure Within the remit of the council	Will miss large emissions from the wider community
2	Focus on direct MCC emissions and some actions which will reduce emissions in the whole county	Many actions are easy to manage and measure Will impact on a wider range of emissions Potential to involve wider community and partners Maximises policy levers that we do have in place to influence county emissions e.g. transport, waste	Harder to measure county emissions Will require further resources
3	Broaden the action plan to address all the emissions of the whole county	Could potentially give the most comprehensive carbon reductions Potential to involve wider community and partners	Hard to measure and manage Policy levers to influence wider county emissions are not in place Emissions are beyond council control Lack of council resources to address emissions of whole county

5.2 The decision has been made to use option 2 as a pragmatic approach which incorporates our own emissions as well as some wider county emissions where we have the policy levers to do so. However, it needs to be acknowledged that some of the wider county emission reductions may be hard to measure.

6 EVALUATION CRITERIA

6.1 In order to evaluate the success of the Climate Emergency Action Plan, the newly established member led working group be established will meet quarterly. Once adopted by Council, updates on progress against the actions will be collated every 3 months and reported to the working group.

7 REASONS:

7.1 The action plan needs to be agreed to deliver on the Climate Emergency motion that was agreed by Council.

8 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

8.1 Currently the work of co-ordinating our response to the Climate Emergency lies with the Head of Policy and Governance and Sustainability Policy Officer, and has been completed within existing staff resources.

8.2 Reaching zero carbon will not be cost neutral and there are likely to be decisions that will have to be made in future which will require additional capital and revenue financial resources to be allocated. The actions within the Climate Emergency Action Plan all have different resource implications and will be funded in different ways. Some are zero cost,

some will be grant funded, some will be funded by prudential borrowing and invest to save schemes. It is anticipated that where additional funds are needed these will be subject to subsequent decision making processes.

9 CONSULTTEES:

Cabinet
Senior Leadership Team
Strong Communities Select Committee

The actions in the plan were collated and discussed by officers from a wide range of departments across the council. Each action is “owned” by a named officer who has been responsible for pulling together further detail on the action.

A draft list of actions were circulated to members of Monmouthshire Community Climate Champions for discussion and feedback in July 2019.

A draft list of actions were discussed at Strong Communities Select. This was used to help prioritise actions. Some of the key general feedback includes: Important to involve Town and Community Councils and business, needs to be adequately resourced, important to lobby Welsh Government (e.g. on building regulations, grid capacity, infrastructure projects etc.) and data needs to be easy to visualise.

Consultation resulted in a streamlining of the action plan to focus on and prioritise the key activities.

10 BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None

11 AUTHORS:

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**Monmouthshire County Council
Climate Emergency Strategy
October 2019**



Title	Climate Emergency Strategy
Purpose	This strategy outlines the council's response to the climate emergency declared in May 2019
Owner	Monmouthshire County Council
Approved by	Not yet approved.
Date	October 2019
Version Number	0.9
Status	Unapproved Draft
Review Frequency	Annual
Next review date	September 2020
Consultation	Strong Communities Select Committee (open to all members) on 26 th September 2019.

Foreword

The purpose of Monmouthshire County Council is building sustainable and resilient communities. This feels more relevant than ever. In 2019 no one can be blind to the threat that climate change poses to our eco-systems, our local environment and our way of life. Carbon emissions from fossil fuels are one of the main causes of climate change and as a council we are striving to become carbon neutral by 2030.

If we are to stand a chance of slowing the rise in the Earth's temperature we need to act now. Earlier this year councillors in Monmouthshire were unanimous in declaring a climate emergency. We intend to play our part in tackling this issue and we will work with communities and local businesses to help them reduce their emissions. This will require engagement, community involvement and commitments from third parties.

We have made a start:

- We have called for our pension fund to divest its fossil fuel investments and have seen the proportion of the fund invested in such firms decline from 9.10% to 6.95% since 2018;
- We have built a solar farm which contributes towards the £650,000 worth of renewable energy we put into the national grid each year;
- More than 99% of the energy we buy comes from renewable sources.

And we will continue to do more:

- Developing an investment programme to help our services transition to a low carbon future
- Piloting the use of locally designed and built hydrogen powered cars;
- Trialling digital solutions which make it easier for people to travel through better use of existing transport capacity;
- Installing a network of charging points for electric vehicles.

We will do this while continuing to provide the services which form part of the social foundations on which our communities are built. We know that this will not be easy. It needs bold thinking and we don't yet have all of the answers. Monmouthshire is blessed with a rich tapestry of caring and committed people, businesses and community groups that make this place what it is. Now, perhaps more than at any time in the past, we need everyone to get behind this commitment and play their part in securing a better tomorrow.



Cllr Jane Pratt,
Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Neighbourhood Services

Monmouthshire 2030: A Carbon Neutral Council

Why this matters?

Tackling climate change and moving to a low carbon economy is one of the biggest challenges facing our society. Rising temperatures bring increased risks to our communities and are causing long-term and potentially irreversible damage to our planet's eco-systems, with significant local impacts such as flooding and loss of species.¹ By 2030 this council aspires to reduce its net carbon emissions to zero while continuing to deliver important local services to our communities.

Carbon emissions from fossil fuels are one of the main causes of climate change. The scientific consensus is that human activity since industrialisation has been the major factor in the recent warming of the Earth's surface. It will take action and ingenuity from humans to halt it.

Climate change, deforestation and agriculture mean the ability of the planet to lock up carbon is reducing. Soil is being eroded at a quicker rate than new soil can be formed while melting ice is contributing to rising sea levels and releasing carbon previously trapped beneath frozen land. These changes result in feedback loops where rising temperatures accelerate the degradation of land and soil through drought, desertification and rising sea levels. This in turn increases the volume of greenhouse gases being released by land, further accelerating global warming.



Time to Act

If we are to stand a chance of addressing climate change and slowing the rise in the Earth's temperature there is a narrow window of opportunity to take action. The International Panel on Climate Change has indicated that rises above 1.5 °C will affect the ability of the planet to sustain human life as we know it and that crucially, without significant change, that figure will be passed by 2030. In short, we don't have long to act.

In May 2019 Monmouthshire County Council unanimously passed a motion declaring a climate emergency². This sets out a clear policy commitment for the council to:

- strive to reduce its own carbon emissions to net zero in line with the Welsh Government target of 2030;
- encourage and support residents and businesses to take their own actions to reduce their carbon emissions;
- Work with partners across the county and other councils and organisations to help develop and implement best practice methods in limiting global warming to less than 1.5 °C.

This must be done while continuing to provide the services which create the social foundations our communities are built upon and which no-one should be without. These include the commitments within the council's Social Justice Strategy. Our challenge is to find a way to exist in the safe space between the ecological limits of the planet while continuing to provide these social foundations³. The Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Neighbourhood Services will chair a group to oversee progress and ensure that the council's plans are continually challenged to reduce carbon and incorporate

emerging technology and concepts. This will require bold thinking, we do not yet have all of the answers and will continue to seek out the people, ideas and evidence about what works and apply this in Monmouthshire.

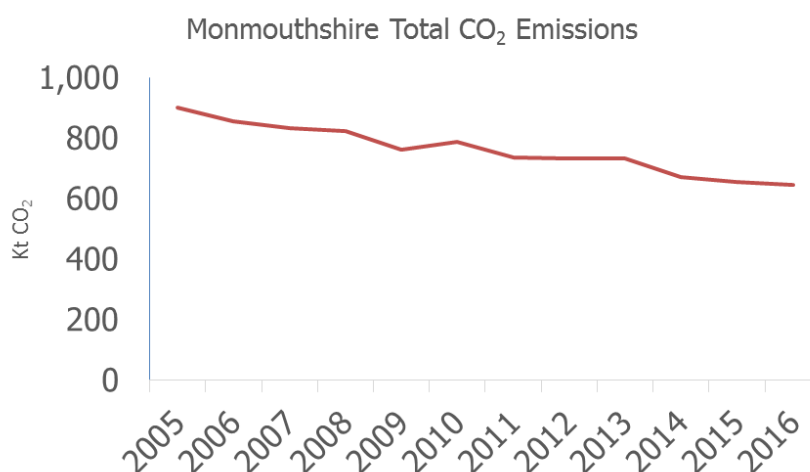
The Benefits of Action

As well as the global and moral imperative to act on climate change we can also expect to see multiple local benefits from moving to a lower carbon society:

- Lower energy bills for residents and businesses
- Better air quality and the resulting health benefits
- Shorter commuting times between home, work and school
- Increased use of active travel like walking and cycling which can help improve peoples' health
- Less damage to the local environment from drought, floods and fire
- Increased demand for green technologies and the resulting potential for job growth in these sectors
- Better habitat management, increased biodiversity and creation of green space
- Increased connectivity between people and the environment and more globally responsible citizens

Local Carbon Emissions

Climate is a global issue but we all have a part to play. If we are to reduce our net emissions we need to understand what they are now – both in our county and our organisation. Emissions per head of population across Monmouthshire are above UK levels. Since 2005 net carbon emissions in the county have reduced by 28% from 903 kilotonnes to 648 kilotonnes per year while our population has increased by 7%⁴. Although the emissions have reduced, this is still a weight the equivalent of 54,000 London double decker buses.



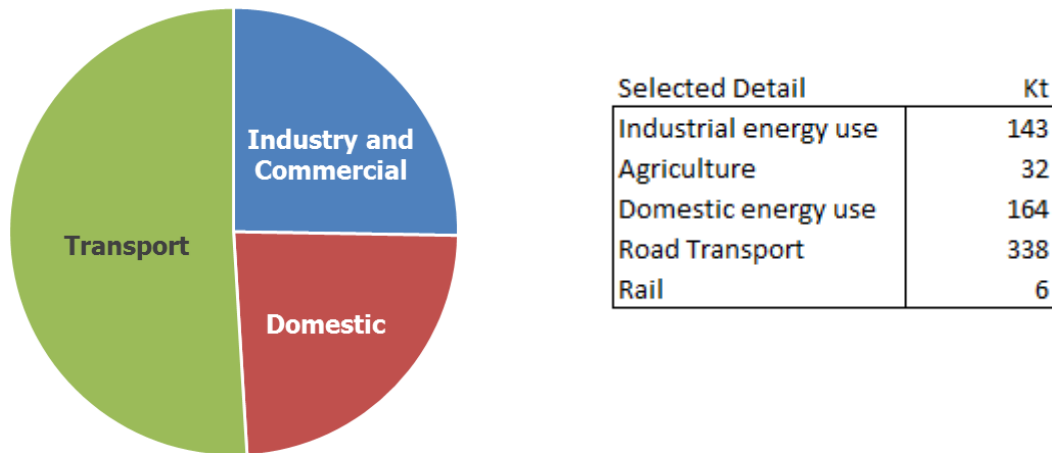
(Source: UK local authority dioxide emissions, National Statistics)

The downward trajectory mirrors a similar trend as across the UK as a result of things like an increase in the use of cleaner energy. Over this time we have also seen an increase in carbon captured in the county from 17 to 43 kilotonnes but the amount captured is less than 7% of the total

CO₂ produced⁵. If decarbonisation were to continue at this rate we would not be carbon neutral until after 2050, too late to prevent catastrophic climate change. We need to do more.

Carbon emissions in the county come from a range of sources including industry, agriculture, road transport and domestic homes. The biggest single contributor is transport and in particular road transport. This is shown in the chart below⁶:

Source of Monmouthshire Emissions



(Source: UK local authority dioxide emissions, National Statistics)

Monmouthshire County Council will strive to reduce its own emissions while working with partners, including members of the Public Service Board, local businesses and community groups to reduce emissions and improve carbon capture across the county as a whole from things like trees, vegetation and green infrastructure which help to sequester and store carbon.

Data from our own organisation shows that we generate approximately:

- 8,700 tonnes from static assets such as buildings and street lighting (the weight of 725 double decker buses)
- 3,000 tonnes from council vehicles like buses and refuse trucks, plus cars driven by officers and councillors in the course of their work (250 double decker buses)
- 15,000 tonnes of emissions from the manufacture of the good and supplies we buy (1,250 double decker buses).

This is still an incomplete picture and we will increase our understanding as our work develops.

We’ve made a start...but have a lot more to do

The Council are already taking steps to reduce our carbon emissions. This infographic shows some of the work that is already underway in Monmouthshire⁷.

TAKING ACTION ON CARBON

WE'VE MADE A START...



19.3%

of the electricity we use has come from our own renewables including our solar farm



99.5%

of the energy the council buys comes from renewable sources



64%

of household waste is recycled



Carbon emissions from buildings and streetlights has gone down by **28%** over the last 5 years



We are working with Riversimple to pilot **20 hydrogen powered cars** in Abergavenny



Our pension fund is reducing the amount it invests in fossil fuels



Our renewable energy generation brings in over **£650,000** of income every year



2 million

square metres of grassland managed in a sustainable way to encourage pollinators



11,000

tonnes of waste are composted each year

...BUT WE HAVE A LOT MORE TO DO.



Our Objectives at a Glance

Our action plan covers ten broad objectives that will deliver a net reduction in carbon emissions by 2030. Each of these objectives contains actions for the local authority which will reduce the council's own emissions, as well as actions that will reduce county wide carbon emissions which will need to be taken forward in partnership with the community, plus steps that everyone can do.

The action plan contained as an appendix to the strategy is not the finished article. It will be updated and reported on annually, but the actions will be continuous, as we look globally for examples of leading edge practice that can help us accelerate our progress. It contains an initial and high level of assessment of impact, cost and feasibility. Low cost actions are those below £5,000, medium are those between £5,000 and £50,000 and high cost are those above £50,000. Our priority will be to put our energy and investment into those that offer the most advantageous balance of carbon reduction and feasibility. We also need to ensure some early actions to get the maximum cumulative benefit over the next twelve years.

Energy and Buildings Reduce the amount of energy that is used for buildings and street lighting	Renewable Energy Speed up the move from fossil fuels to renewable energy
Green Spaces Create and manage green spaces to absorb carbon & provide resilience to climate change	What we Buy Reduce carbon by thinking carefully about when and what we buy and the whole life costs
Waste Reduce waste by encouraging people to reduce, re-use and recycle more	Active Travel Encourage and make it easier for people to walk and cycle rather than drive
Greener Transport Reduce the impact of vehicles and encourage the use of electric and hydrogen vehicles	Public Transport Encourage people to use public transport rather than cars
Education and involvement Help people understand climate change and what they can do to make a difference	Climate Adaptation Preparing and adapting for the impact of climate change.

Playing your part

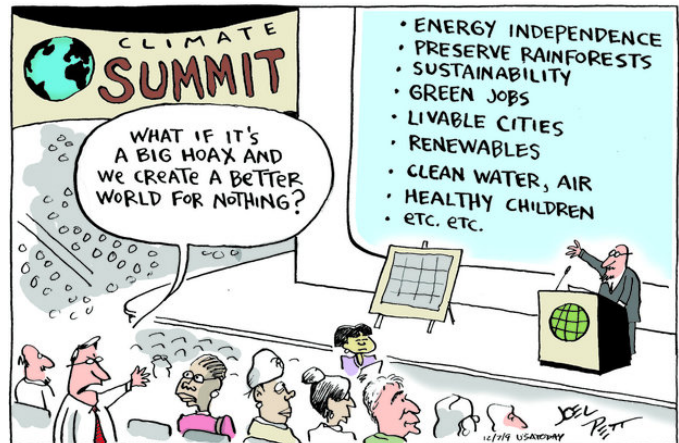
The Climate Emergency Action Plan cannot be delivered by the Council alone. We need other partners to join us in helping to reduce carbon emissions across the county. To that end, we will be working with Public Service Board partners over coming months.

We hugely value the enthusiasm, energy and expertise of the residents of Monmouthshire who have such a lot to contribute, and we plan to collaborate with our communities and other partners to work together on our action plan. This process began at the end of July 2019 with a Community Climate Champions workshop to begin to identify where they can help us deliver.

There are things that every resident, visitor or worker in Monmouthshire can do to play their part in reducing carbon emissions and helping to slow down climate change. We are all part of the problem, but can all be part of the solution too.

Climate Adaptation

Even if we were to stop all carbon emissions today, we will still have to face the impacts of climate change that are already happening. Over the next few decades we are facing some level of climate change regardless of any action to reduce our emissions now. The 2012 Climate Change Risk Assessment for Wales forecasts hotter, drier summers, warmer, wetter winters and more extreme weather events.



There are lots of things that the council is doing to make sure that we are prepared for the impacts of climate change. In recent years, council services have thought about what the potential risks to their services are, in order to start thinking about how to adapt to these risks. The Local Development Plan has a key role to play in making sure that our communities are sustainable and resilient to the impacts of climate change.

With an increase in winter rainfall and rising sea levels, flooding is likely to increase, and this will be a particular concern in parts of Monmouthshire. Much of the work to co-ordinate emergency responses is organised through the Gwent Local Resilience Forum (LRF). We will continue to work with partners on the LRF to make sure that we are prepared for severe weather events.

If you live somewhere prone to flooding, make sure you know what to do. Find out more at <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/services/planning-for-emergencies/flooding/>

Keeping tabs on how we are doing

It is important that we know whether the actions we will be taking to reduce climate change are making a difference to our emissions. We can measure how much carbon some of the actions will save. However, we will not be able to measure carbon savings from some of the actions, but we can at least make sure that we are doing what we have said we will do.

We will be starting a member led working group, to be chaired by the cabinet member (with community and officers) which will meet quarterly. Updates on progress against the actions will be collated every three months and reported to the working group to make sure that we are making good progress.

Our Commitment to Action

Addressing climate change will require collaboration and the commitment of many people. We are determined to play our part and the actions that Monmouthshire County Council is committed to include:

- We have built a solar farm which contributes towards the £650,000 worth of renewable energy to the national grid each year, and will invest in more renewable schemes when the national grid has enough capacity
- We have called for our pension fund to divest its fossil fuel investments and have seen the proportion of the fund invested in such firms decline from 9.10% to 6.95% since 2018;
- Develop an investment programme to help our services transition to a low carbon future
- Transition the council's transport fleet to hybrid, electric and hydrogen vehicles as these become available
- Pilot the use of locally designed and built hydrogen powered cars;
- Trial digital solutions for next generation transport schemes that make it easier for people to travel by making better use of existing transport capacity;
- Install a network of charging points for electric vehicles.
- Recruit a member of staff to develop, promote and secure funding for active travel schemes to reduce car journeys while increasing walking and cycling
- Install photovoltaic canopies at council owned car parks to power electric vehicle charge points with renewable energy
- Plant 10,000 new trees by 2022
- Make all of our buildings water refill stations and eliminate single use plastics from all council-run premises
- Promote Monmouthshire as a test-bed for companies looking to trial low carbon technologies in a rural setting

Appendix A

Climate Emergency Action Plan



Reducing energy use
 Reducing the amount of energy that is used for buildings and street lighting

Action to reduce MCC emissions	CO2 reduction	Cost to Taxpayer	Feasibility
New council buildings will operate with net zero carbon emissions by 2025 or use carbon offsetting where this cannot be achieved	Low	High	Medium
Implement energy efficiency improvements across the existing council estate by 2022	Medium	High	Medium
Reduce CO2 emissions from our energy supply	Low	High	Easier
All remaining street lighting will be converted to LED bulbs	Low	Medium	Easier
All bulbs within council owned buildings will be LED	Low	Medium	Easier
Action to reduce County emissions	CO2 reduction	Cost to Taxpayer	Feasibility
Use planning policy to insist on higher energy standards for new buildings	Medium	Low	Harder
Reduce carbon emissions across all public service buildings in the county in partnership with the Public Service Board	Medium	Low	Easier
Promote minimum energy standards in private owned accommodation	Low	Low	Medium

- What can I do to play my part?**
- Make sure you have got draft proofing and loft and cavity wall insulation in your home – save money and energy. <https://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-insulation>
 - Simple things like switching off the lights, not leaving things on standby and only boiling the water you really need in the kettle can really make a difference. <https://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency>
 - Understand how your heating controls work and using thermostats properly can save energy.
 - If you use a dishwasher, make sure you only use it when full.
 - Make sure your washing machine in full and dry clothes on a line rather than tumble dry if you can.



Using renewable energy			
Speed up the move from fossil fuels to renewable energy			
Action to reduce MCC emissions	CO2 reduction	Cost to Taxpayer	Feasibility
Build and operate two new solar farms – subject to national grid capacity	High	High	Medium
Develop proposals for a district heating scheme	High	High	Medium
Develop a Whole System Smart Energy Plan as part of Cardiff Capital Region Approach	High	High	Harder
Install photovoltaic canopies at council owned car parks to power electric vehicle charge points with renewable energy	Medium	High	Medium
Action to reduce County emissions	CO2 reduction	Cost to Taxpayer	Feasibility
Require renewable energy on private sector developments	Medium	Low	Harder
Identify areas for renewable generation in the new Local Development Plan	Medium	Low	Medium
What can I do to play my part?			
Switch your energy supplier to a renewable energy contract. https://www.moneysupermarket.com/gas-and-electricity/green-energy-tariffs/			
Find out whether you could install solar panels or another renewable energy in your home. https://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/renewable-energy			
Consider what you want your savings or pensions to be invested in. https://www.finder.com/ca/ethical-savings-accounts			



Managing green spaces
To reduce energy use, to absorb carbon and be resilient

Action to reduce MCC emissions	CO2 reduction	Cost to taxpayer	Feasibility
Eliminate the use of peat based compost by our grounds maintenance teams	Low	Low	Easier
Expand pollinator friendly management work and reduce grass cutting frequency/extent where appropriate and safe	Low	Low	Easier
Generate renewable energy from grass cuttings through anaerobic digestion	Low	Low	Medium
Plant 10,000 new trees by 2022	Low	Medium	Medium
Use our county farms as exemplars for sustainable agriculture.	Low	Medium	Medium
Use low carbon building technologies like green walls or roofs	Low	Medium	Medium
Action to reduce County emissions	CO2 reduction	Cost to taxpayer	Feasibility
Promote sustainable land management and agricultural practices, including nutrient/soil management and natural flood management	High	High	Harder
Maintain & enhance biodiversity & make ecosystems more resilient	Medium	Medium	Medium
Plant more trees and increase area of woodland, improve and increase woodland management and retain existing woodland	Medium	Medium	Medium
Secure more green infrastructure through development	Low	Low	Easier
Promote and support local food growing	Low	Medium	Medium
Reduce food miles by work with local famers to market local food	Low	Low	Easier
Ensure permeable materials and water storage is incorporated into new car parks	Low	High	Medium
What can I do to play my part?			
Leave part of your garden wild, make habitats for wildlife and plant trees to absorb carbon dioxide. https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions			
Join a "Friends of" group to get involved in sustainable green space management, or find out about local groups who are doing community gardening and growing. https://www.farmgarden.org.uk/			
Try and reduce your food miles by buying food which is locally grown where possible and in season.			
Think about where meat you buy comes from and have a varied diet with plenty of fruit and vegetables			
Get involved in community allotments or establish a new allotment and have a go and growing your own fruit and veg. https://www.theallotmentgarden.co.uk/Easier-grow/			



What we buy

What we buy

Reducing carbon by thinking carefully about when and what we buy and whole life costs

Action to reduce MCC emissions	CO2 reduction	Cost to taxpayer	Feasibility
Eliminate single use plastics within the council	Low	Low	Easier
Phase out fossil fuel investments from our pension fund	High	High	Harder
All tender document will contain criteria to criteria address climate emergency commitments	Low	Low	Medium
Incorporate climate and decarbonisation into strategic procurement collaborations	Low	Low	Medium

What can I do to play my part?
Think about how much you buy and whether you really need it.
When you are buying food think local, in season, reduced and recyclable packaging.
Support your local charity shop and buy second hand, or use schemes such as Freecycle https://www.freecycle.org/
Consider buying “experiences” for people as gifts, or charity gifts that support sustainable projects, rather than buy gifts that aren’t wanted or needed. https://www.oxfam.org.uk/shop/oxfam-unwrapped



Reducing waste
By encouraging people to reduce, re-use and recycle more

Action to reduce MCC emissions	CO2 reduction	Cost to taxpayer	Feasibility
Reduce waste and increase recycling in all public spaces including retail centres	Low	Medium	Medium
Reduce food waste in schools	Low	Medium	Harder
Action to reduce County emissions	CO2 reduction	Cost to taxpayer	Feasibility
Make all of our buildings water refill stations	Low	Low	Easier
Support, promote and expand the Repair Cafes and Upcycle movement	Low	Low	Easier
Roll out re-use shops at Household Waste sites, and use revenue to fund tree planting	Low	Medium	Medium
Increase 'reduce, re-use and recycling' across the county	Medium	Medium	Medium
Build a new high quality recycling facility in central Monmouthshire	Medium	High	Medium
Require all households to recycle	Low	Medium	Harder

What can I do to play my part?
Find out about and use all the different types of recycling that Monmouthshire does. https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/recycling-and-waste/
Get recipes and tips for using food and reducing food waste. https://lovefoodhatewaste.com/
Use refillable water bottles, and reusable containers for your lunch. https://refill.org.uk/
Try and cut down on single use plastics. https://www.sas.org.uk/plastic-free-communities/
Look after your clothes and don't buy disposable fashion. https://www.loveyourclothes.org.uk/
Donate unwanted clothes, bric-a-brac, books, furniture etc. to your local charity shop to reduce landfill and help raise money.



Walking and cycling
 Encouraging and making it easier for people to walk and cycle rather than drive

	CO2 reduction	Cost to taxpayer	Feasibility
Action to reduce MCC emissions			
Improve and expand our cycle and footpath network.	Medium	High	Medium
Develop a bike share scheme	Low	Medium	Medium
Fit bike carriers to buses to encourage cycling	Low	Medium	Medium
Introduce cycling mileage rates for staff to incentivise active travel over car journeys	Low	Low	Easier
Reduce business miles travelled by staff 25% by 2023 through use of technology	Medium	Medium	Medium
Action to reduce County emissions			
Develop e-bike and cycle hire schemes beginning in town centres	Low	Medium	Medium
Develop schemes that will increase walking and cycling to school	Medium	Medium	Medium
Introduce no idling near schools, and other appropriate locations	Low	Low	Easier
Maximise opportunities for active travel, ensuring routes are safe and convenient	Medium	Low	Medium

What can I do to play my part?
Try and walk for short journeys, and reduce carbon while getting fit at the same time!
Find out about local cycle routes and cycling groups and get on your bike. https://www.sustrans.org.uk/national-cycle-network/
Team up with parents and your local school to develop a walking bus to walk your little ones to school.
Get involved with local public rights of way volunteering opportunities. https://volunteer.monmouthshire.gov.uk/
Ask your employer if they can provide showers and lockers so that you can cycle to work.



Greener vehicles
 Reducing the impact of vehicle use and encouraging use of electric and hydrogen vehicles

Action to reduce MCC emissions	CO2 reduction	Cost to taxpayer	Feasibility
Introduce a green travel plan for staff and councillor travel	Low	Low	Easier
Increase the mileage rates payable for staff who use electric vehicles relative to petrol and diesel cars	Low	Low	Easier
Install EV charging points at all larger council buildings	Low	High	Medium
Transition the council's transport fleet to hybrid, electric and hydrogen vehicles as these become available	Medium	Medium	Medium
Action to reduce County emissions	CO2 reduction	Cost to taxpayer	Feasibility
Provide free car parking in MCC owned car parks for electric and hydrogen vehicles until 2025	Low	High	Medium
Encourage the use of electric or hybrid taxis	Low	Low	Harder
Use parking and speed enforcement to prevent traffic congestion and minimise air pollution	Low	Low	Harder
Launch the Riversimple hydrogen car pilot in Abergavenny	Low	High	Medium
Develop proposals for EV charging in street lights and new housing developments	Medium	High	Medium

What can I do to play my part?

Try and car share when you can, to save fuel and money. There are schemes to help. <https://liftshare.com/uk>

If you are thinking of replacing your vehicle, think about whether an electric car would work for you. There are grants which can help. <https://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/transport/electric-cars-and-vehicles/electric-vehicles>



Public transport
Encouraging people to use public transport rather than cars

Action to reduce MCC emissions	CO2 reduction	Cost to taxpayer	Feasibility
Develop a business case to move to an electric bus fleet	Low	High	Medium
Trial digital solutions for next generation transport schemes that make better use of existing transport capacity	Medium	High	Harder
Action to reduce County emissions	CO2 reduction	Cost to taxpayer	Feasibility
Encourage modal shift through the South Wales Metro	High	High	Harder
Continue to make the case to national governments for improved train frequencies and station provision	Low	Medium	Medium
Develop a 'Rural Uber' scheme linked to train stations	Medium	High	Medium
What can I do to play my part?			
Find out about public transport options that could work for you. https://www.traveline.cymru/			
If you are 16 to 21 you can get bus travel discounts. https://mytravelpass.gov.wales/en/			
If you are 16 to 25 you can apply for a young persons railcard. https://www.16-25railcard.co.uk/			
Concessionary bus passes are available from Transport for Wales. https://tfw.gov.wales/			



Education and involvement

Helping people understand climate change and what they can do to make a difference

Action to reduce MCC emissions	CO2 reduction	Cost to taxpayer	Feasibility
Make energy data available to schools and encourage pupils to get involved in managing energy consumption	Low	Low	Easier
Introduce carbon literacy training for all council staff	Low	Low	Medium
Change the council's default internet search engine to Ecosia which plants a tree for every search made	Low	Low	Easier
Action to reduce County emissions	CO2 reduction	Cost to taxpayer	Feasibility
Work with community groups to develop an Internet of Things sensor network to inform decisions and educate local communities	Medium	Medium	Harder
Start local growing and cooking schemes in schools	Low	Medium	Easier
Use the One Planet Centre as a focus for climate change education	Low	Low	Easier
What can I do to play my part?			
Get involved with your school's Eco Committee, or if your school isn't an Eco School, find out more and ask them if they would consider it. https://www.keepwalestidy.cymru/pages/category/eco-schools			
Does your workplace have recycling or other environmental issues in place? Why not try and start something.			
Get involved with one of the many voluntary groups in Monmouthshire doing great work on climate change. https://www.transitionchepstow.org.uk/ https://transitionmonmouth.org/ http://abergavennytransition.org/ https://www.facebook.com/AbergavennyExtinctionRebellion/			

References

¹ <https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>

² <https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=3758>

³ Doughnut Economics (2017); Raworth, Kate

⁴ UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005-2016, full dataset and methodology available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics>

⁵ LULUCF Net Emissions (land use, land use change and forestry) total. Ibid

⁶ 2016 data for Monmouthshire. Ibid

⁷ Council Data for 2018/19

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<p>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation</p> <p>Hazel Clatworthy Phone no: 01633 644843 E-mail: hazelclatworthy@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>To scrutinize the Climate Emergency Action Plan for submission to Council and approve establishment of a Climate Emergency working group.</p>
<p>Name of Service area</p> <p>Policy and Performance</p>	<p>Date</p> <p>26th September 2019</p>

Age 69

4 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	The Climate Emergency Action Plan will have positive impacts for all age groups. In particular there may be benefits for young people by increasing active travel to school.		
Disability	There will be positive impacts on all protected characteristics.		
Gender reassignment	There will be positive impacts on all protected characteristics.		
Marriage or civil partnership	There will be positive impacts on all protected characteristics.		




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?
Pregnancy or maternity	There will be positive impacts on all protected characteristics.		
Race	There will be positive impacts on all protected characteristics.		
Religion or Belief	There will be positive impacts on all protected characteristics.		
Sex	There will be positive impacts on all protected characteristics.		
Sexual Orientation	There will be positive impacts on all protected characteristics.		
Welsh Language	Press releases and web resources on the Climate Emergency are all bilingual. The Welsh language will be considered where required.		
Poverty	There should not be any adverse impacts on low income households. Measures to save energy in the home and improve access to public transport may well benefit low income households.		



2. 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. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!

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 action plan directly contributes to the Prosperous Wales vision of a low carbon society and action on climate change. There is the potential for green economy jobs to be developed.</p>	
<p>A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>The action plan contributes to more sustainable management of green spaces and includes measures which will build resilience of ecosystems.</p>	
<p>A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>Transport measures will improve air quality and increasing walking and cycling will improve physical and mental health.</p>	
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>Many of the actions will involve working closely with local communities to produce local community benefits. Transport measures should increase connectivity between communities, particularly for those without a car.</p>	
<p>A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing</p>	<p>Reducing carbon emissions in Monmouthshire will provide a small contribution towards reducing levels of climate change, which are having global impacts including flooding, drought and sea level rise.</p>	
<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>Where appropriate the Welsh language will be used for Climate Emergency communications.</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?
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	We are keen to work with the Community Climate Champions and other partners, of all ages and all backgrounds, to help us achieve our ambitions.	

3. 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 Action Plan sets out how we aim to achieve a target of zero carbon by 2030. This is a plan for the long term, but it requires quick and immediate action now, to reduce the devastating impacts of climate change in the longer term.</p>	
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>The Action Plan has been pulled together by officers from many different departments. We have involved the Community Climate Champions in that process.</p>	<p>We will establish a Climate Emergency working group, which will involve officers and members of the community.</p> <p>We will work with PSB partners to ensure that our climate actions are joined up and that our Climate Emergency aspirations are reflected by our partners.</p>
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>The Community Climate Champions have been involved in helping to develop the Action Plan and have given early feedback, as well as additional suggestions and specific offers of help. Young people and local community members came and presented to a member seminar in April 2019.</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>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>The whole aim of reducing our carbon emissions is to prevent (or at least reduce the scale of impact) of runaway climate change.</p>	
 <p>Integration</p> <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>.We are in touch with other local authorities across Wales and the UK who have declared a Climate Emergency. We are awaiting guidance from Welsh Government on how they want us to measure and report on zero carbon, so are working closely with them. We are also in touch with Town Councils who are considering/have declared a Climate Emergency to think about how we can work together in an integrated way.</p>	

4. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Social Justice, Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Social Justice	There should not be any adverse impacts on low income households. Measures to save energy in the home and improve access to public transport may well benefit low income households..		
Safeguarding	There are no safeguarding implications	..	

Corporate Parenting	There are no safeguarding implications		
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5. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

Evidence for the urgency to tackle climate change has come from the IPCC report: <https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>

Local information about energy and climate change has come from our Wellbeing Assessment: <http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2017/05/well-being-assessment-v3.0.pdf>

Data and statistics on energy use, emissions etc has come from the Estates Team.

Some ideas for potential projects have come from: <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/insight/33-actions-local-authorities-can-take-climate-change> and <https://gweddill.gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/190321-prosperity-for-all-a-low-carbon-wales-en.pdf>

Discussions with community groups such as Extinction Rebellion Abergavenny and Transition Towns have helped to inform our approach.

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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 Climate Emergency Action Plan has significant positive contributions to make to the Wellbeing Goals. In particular it has strong benefits for a Prosperous Wales, by developing a low carbon economy and thinking carefully about sustainable procurement. There are also benefits for a Resilient Wales, based on changes to the way we manage green spaces. A Healthier Wales will be enhanced by improvements to air quality from more sustainable travel and more walking and cycling. There is also significant potential to contribute to Cohesive Communities, by working collaboratively and in partnership with our communities. There are no negative impacts on the Wellbeing Goals. There are no significant positive or negative impacts on the protected characteristics, safeguarding or corporate parenting. The principles of Long term, Prevention, Integration, Collaboration and Involvement have been used throughout the development of the Action Plan.

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
Start a Climate Emergency working group	Autumn 2019	Sustainability Policy Officer

8. VERSION CONTROL: The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process to demonstrate how you have considered and built in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1	Strong Communities Select Committee	26 September 2019	Draft actions sent to Town and Community Councils for consideration. Considering how to better involve businesses. Will give further consideration to how to make data more understandable to readers
2	Council	24 th October 2019	

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SUBJECT:	MODERN DAY SLAVERY AND EXPLOITATION PROTOCOL
MEETING:	FULL COUNCIL
DATE:	24th October 2019
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

1. **PURPOSE:**

- 1.1 To raise awareness of the Council's recently adopted 'Modern Day Slavery and Exploitation Protocol', and advise on next steps including training for Officers and Members.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 Council familiarise themselves with the Authority's 'Modern Day Slavery and Exploitation Protocol', provided in Appendix One, and understand the importance of this issue in our county.
- 2.2 Members engage in the forthcoming training being organised - recognising their key community role, understanding local residents, businesses, etc. – and understand what to do should they receive any reports of suspicious situations.

3. **KEY ISSUES:**

- 3.1 County Councillors attended a policy development workshop on 18th April on Modern Day Slavery (MDS) and Exploitation. This provided an opportunity to discuss the Council's response to what is becoming an increasing problem.
- 3.2 One response has been to develop a Protocol to ensure Officers and Members of the County Council are consistent in their approach to this issue. The draft protocol was presented to Strong Communities Select Committee on 11th July for pre-decision scrutiny. Members of that Committee commented on the draft protocol and it has been amended to incorporate those views. The version contained in Appendix One was approved by Individual Cabinet Member Decision on 21st August 2019.
- 3.3 Modern slavery encompasses forced labour, human trafficking, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation. It impacts on both children and adults, for example, children can be sexually exploited, involved in organised theft and drug dealing.
- 3.4 The Modern Day Slavery Act 2015 has consolidated and strengthened previous legislation. This Authority is a 'First Responder' under the Act, which means there is a duty

to identify and refer modern slavery victims through the National Referral Mechanism, (NRM). The NRM is a framework for identifying victims of modern day slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support.

- 3.5 Various Officers of the Council may witness, or have suspicions, of modern day slavery practice, so it is crucial they know what to do in such circumstances. Officers could see exploitation in a number of settings, including the Authority's role in housing, environmental health, trading standards, licensing and Children and Adult Social Care. Councillors may also be notified of concerns, for example regarding local businesses or properties in their areas. The proposed Protocol provides clarity on what to do in specific circumstances.
- 3.6 Process maps are provided as part of the Protocol, providing guidance on what to do and who to contact when suspicions are raised by Officers or Members.
- 3.7 The Protocol identifies existing Designated Safeguarding Leads as MDS Champions, and outlines the level of training required. The Cabinet Member for Social Justice & Community Development has agreed to act as 'Member MDS Champion'. This fits well with her responsibilities for supporting people, poverty, disadvantage and equality.
- 3.8 Basic awareness will be available via a corporate video which is currently being developed with our Training Unit. Welsh Government have specifically requested Councils identify MDS Champions and provide appropriate training across the organisation.

4. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS, (incorporating equalities, sustainability, safeguarding and corporate parenting):

- 4.1 The 'Equalities & Future Generations Evaluation' form was completed and provided at Scrutiny and Individual Cabinet Member decision stages.
- 4.2 The proposed Protocol provides a positive contribution as it endeavours to protect highly vulnerable members of society. It provides a consistent approach and will be supported by appropriate training for Officers and Members.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL:

- 5.1 Do nothing – the Authority could rely on staff, and Members, finding out what to do when instances discovered. This would be high risk, with potential reputational damage for not intervening correctly, and not making proper referrals as legally required as a 'First Responder' organisation.
- 5.2 Adopt the 'Modern Day Slavery & Exploitation Protocol' for Monmouthshire, as provided in Appendix One. This provides clarity on what to do and when, for the safety of highly vulnerable children and adults, working with our partners such as Gwent Police.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA:

- 6.1 The Protocol can be evaluated for its' effectiveness in twelve months time. Feedback from anyone who has used the Protocol would help in refining further. An update on progress will be provided to Strong Communities Select Committee in one year's time.

7. REASONS:

- 7.1 Welsh Government have requested that all Local Authorities in Wales ensure they are aware of their responsibilities as First Responders, and put into place MDS Champions, provide suitable training etc. The proposed Protocol serves to bring these requirements together in one place, to ensure consistency and clarity.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 None as a consequence of this report. There will be some costs relating to the corporate 'MDS awareness video' (see 3.6), and specific training for certain front-line Officers. These costs are not likely to be significant and will be borne via existing service budgets.

9. CONSULTEES:

Strong Communities Select Committee, with comments incorporated
Strategic Leadership Team (SLT)
Cabinet
Social Care & Health Safeguarding Unit
Social Care & Health DMT
Community & Partnership Development Manager

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Home Office and Welsh Government guidance

9. AUTHORS:

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Appendices

Appendix One – Modern Day Slavery and Exploitation Protocol

Appendix Two – slides (4) for presentation at Council 24th October 2019

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Monmouthshire

Modern Day Slavery and Exploitation Protocol

Approved by Individual Cabinet Member Decision 21st August 2019

August 2019

1. Introduction

1.1 What is Modern Day Slavery?

Modern slavery is an umbrella term, encompassing human trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced labour.

Someone is in **slavery** if they are:

- forced to work through mental or physical threat
- owned or controlled by an 'employer', usually through mental or physical abuse or the threat of abuse

dehumanised, treated as a commodity or bought and sold as 'property'

- physically constrained or have restrictions placed on their freedom.

Servitude is similar to slavery, in that a person is under an obligation to provide a service which is imposed on them, but there is no element of ownership.

Forced work is defined as 'work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the person has not offered himself voluntarily' and has been found in a number of different industries including manufacturing, food processing, agriculture and hospitality.

Human trafficking is when men, women and children are moved and forced into exploitation. The movement could be international but also within the country, from one city to another or even just a few streets. A person is a victim of human trafficking even if they haven't yet been exploited but have been moved for the purposes of exploitation.

1.2 Types of Modern Day Slavery

- Sexual exploitation which includes prostitution and pornography
- Forced labour - may include little or no payment, include very poor living conditions, withholding of passports, threats of violence
- Domestic servitude
- Organ harvesting
- Child related crimes such as child sexual exploitation, forced begging, drug dealing, organised theft, related benefit frauds etc.
- Forced marriage and illegal adoption (if other constituent elements are present)
- Financial exploitation: including benefit fraud, false claims by perpetrators on behalf of their workers; bank accounts fraud; or workers' wages being paid directly into the exploiters own bank accounts, by companies who think they are paying a worker individually.

It is recognised that many victims of Modern Day Slavery will be subject to one or more different types of exploitation at any one time. Also, that debt bondage will be a feature, whereby the subject incurs a debt to their exploiter from which they have to perform criminal or dehumanising tasks to pay their debt, with a risk of serious violence if they do not comply.

1.3 Legislative Context

1.3.1 Modern Day Slavery Act 2015

- consolidated and clarified existing modern slavery and human trafficking offences and increased the maximum sentences for committing these offences
- introduced slavery and trafficking prevention orders and slavery and trafficking risk orders – which can be used to disrupt activities by modern slavery perpetrators
- created the role of the Independent Antislavery Commissioner
- introduced support and protection for victims including a defence for victims of slavery or trafficking who commit an offence, measures on the presumption of age of child victims of modern slavery and introduced the role of Independent Child Trafficking Advocates
- introduced a requirement for certain businesses to produce and publish a modern slavery statement on what they are doing to tackle modern slavery and trafficking in their supply chains.

Section 52 of the Act places a duty on Local Authorities to identify and refer modern slavery child victims and consenting adult victims through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). Councils also have a duty to notify the Home Secretary of adults who do not consent to enter the NRM. This confers **First Responder** status.

Section 43 of the Act states that specified public authorities (including councils) have a duty to cooperate with the Commissioner.

1.3.2 The Modern Slavery Act 2015 builds on the Modern Slavery Strategy published by the Coalition Government in 2014. Like the National Serious and Organised Crime Strategy, it is based around the 4P's framework:

- Pursue: prosecute and disrupt individuals and groups responsible for modern slavery.
- Prevent: prevent people from engaging in modern slavery.
- Protect: strengthen safeguards against modern slavery by protecting vulnerable people from exploitation.

- Prepare: reduce the harm caused by modern slavery through improved victim identification and enforcement support.

1.3.3 Other relevant Acts -

- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Housing Act 1996
- Children Act 1989
- Immigration Act 2016
- Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Act (Wales) 2015
- Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014

1.4 **National Referral Mechanism**

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying victims of human trafficking or modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support. Referrals must be sent to one of the two Competent Authorities (CA), these being -

- The National Crime Authorities' Modern Slavery Human Trafficking Unit (MSHTU)
- The Home Office Visas and Immigration (UKVI)

The NRM is also the mechanism through which the Modern Slavery Human Trafficking Unit (MSHTU) collect data about victims. This information contributes to building a clearer picture about the scope of human trafficking and modern slavery in the UK.

1.5 **Modern Day Slavery and Local Authority Safeguarding Function**

The Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014 (SSWA 2014) places a duty for professionals and partner agencies to report to the Local Authority individuals they suspect may be at risk of harm or abuse. This will include both adults and children who are subjects to exploitation and modern day slavery.

Children at risk of exploitation: In line with the All Wales Child Protection procedures, if a child is suspected of being subject to Modern Day Slavery an urgent Strategy Discussion should be held with the Police to determine immediate safeguarding actions and consider referral to NRM. A Strategy Meeting will then be convened with all relevant parties to share information and form a safeguarding plan. The Child Protection Co-ordinator, should chair this meeting.

See App 2. MCC Process - Children at Risk of Modern Day Slavery

App 3. MCC Process - Children at Risk of Child Criminal Exploitation

App 4. MCC Process - Children at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation

Adults at Risk of exploitation: In line with the Wales Interim Guidance for the Protection of Vulnerable People and the SSWA 2014, any adult suspected of being subject to Modern Day Slavery should be referred to the Adult Safeguarding Team. An urgent Strategy Discussion should be held with the Police to determine immediate safeguarding actions and consider a referral to the NRM. A Strategy Meeting should be convened with all relevant partners to share information and form a safeguarding plan. This meeting should be chaired by the Adult Safeguarding Manager. Although consent is needed from the victim to make a referral to the NRM, issues of mental capacity and consent will be central to the Safeguarding discussion and decision taking.

See App 1. MCC Process for Adults at Risk of Modern Day Slavery

1.6 Other agencies

Clearly this Authority needs to work closely with partners, notably Gwent Police who have the enforcement powers under the Modern Day Slavery Act 2015. There is also a 'Wales Anti-Slavery Leadership Group' at Welsh Government level which can provide guidance and assist in specific instances.

In relation to any worker exploitation, this Authority's Environmental Health section would liaise with the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and the Gangmasters & Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) where appropriate.

2. The Monmouthshire Response

2.1 Monmouthshire's role can be separated into distinct areas:

- identification and referral of victims
- supporting victims – this can be through safeguarding children and adults with care and support needs, and through housing/homelessness services
- community safety services and disruption activities
- supporting proactive campaigns, eg assisting with the 'Make Safe' project involving local hotels & B & B's
- ensuring that the supply chains this Authority procures from are free from modern slavery.

It is recognised that Modern Slavery intersects with many different areas of Council services, and a number of different Officers may come across instances whilst going about their everyday duties. These may include:

- housing and homelessness services - through the provision of homelessness services, or through inspections of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs)
- community safety officers - whilst working on issues around serious and organised crime, gangs, drug selling and other crimes committed within their area – for example, cannabis cultivation and begging
- Trading Standards, Licensing, Environmental Health and other regulatory services may encounter victims or perpetrators whilst visiting or inspecting premises. Premises such as takeaways, nail bars, car washes, farms, taxis and private hire vehicles could be involved in illegal activities.
- Councillors may hear concerns from residents about particular businesses or houses in their areas
- those working with local partners on resettling new arrivals may find that trafficking or modern slavery has been present in refugees and asylum seekers' routes into the UK
- customer services may come into contact with victims through their ordinary dealings with the public
- Children and Adult Social Care and Safeguarding teams

2.2 Identification of MDS Champions

It is recognised that staff will need support and advice to fully understand the different elements of exploitation and Modern Day Slavery in order to assure that appropriate referral are made to the Safeguarding Teams. Champions will be nominated from each part of the council service area to support members and staff with any questions or concerns they may have. Under Monmouthshire's Corporate Safeguarding Policy, Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL) are in place to perform this role for the wider corporate safeguarding function. These roles are ideally suited to include being Champions for Modern Day Slavery. At Member level, the Cabinet Member for Social Justice & Community Development will act as the political Modern Day Slavery Champion.

2.3 Training for Staff

2.3.1 **Champion Training:** Training aimed at developing understanding of the signs of MDS, and the legislative and corporate policy and process of MDS and the NRM, Trafficking and Exploitation of individuals and communities.

This to include:

- Designated Safeguarding Leads;
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads;
- Public Protection team;
- Housing and Tenancy Support teams;
- Team Managers in SCH Operational teams;

- Adult Safeguarding Manager;
- Councillors.

Modern Day Slavery to be included in Level 1 and Level 2 Safeguarding training.

2.3.2 **Corporate Video - Basic Awareness** - Basic Awareness video which highlights signs and potential locations within Monmouthshire, and signposts staff to the Safeguarding Unit or the appropriate Champion for their area. The Video also to be included in Corporate Induction Training and to be shared at team meetings across the authority volunteer and paid workforce.

2.4 **Commissioning and Procurement**

In 2019 Monmouthshire will be signing up to the Welsh Government Code of Practice for Ethical Employment in Supply Chains and an action plan for implementation will be drafted.

2.5 **Governance and Partnership**

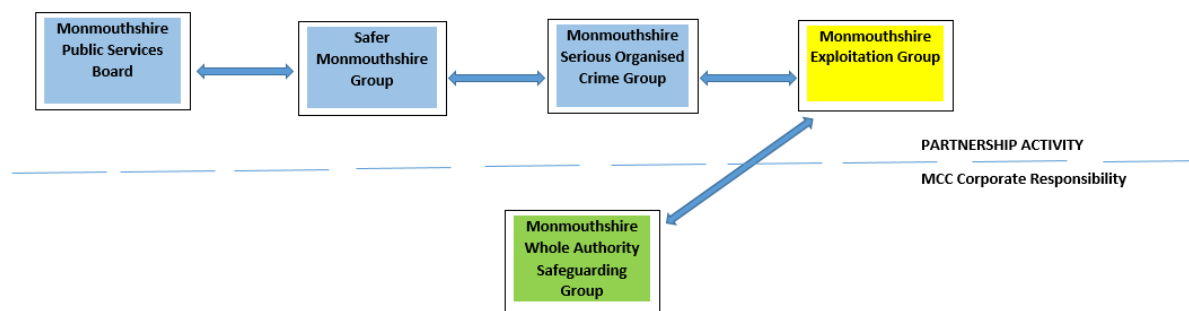
2.5.1 Monmouthshire Public Services Board discharges its statutory duties under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 via the Safer Monmouthshire Group, as per diagram below.

The Monmouthshire Exploitation Group (MEG) will sit under the Safer Monmouthshire Group and link closely with the Serious Organised (SOC) Crime Group, which reports to the overarching Safer Monmouthshire Group (SMG). The Safer Monmouthshire Group is chaired by the Chief Inspector for East Division of Gwent Police, and addresses issues in relation Crime & Disorder across the county through a multi-agency approach.

Responding to MDS and Exploitation clearly links to the Council's purpose and aspirations, as illustrated here –

Purpose:	Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities	
Our aspiration is to:	Reduce inequalities between communities and within communities	
	Support and protect vulnerable people	
	Consider our impact on the environment	
Our Well-being Objectives are:	People/Citizens	Place/Communities
	Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life	Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change
	Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change	Develop opportunities for communities and business to be part of an economically thriving and well connected county

2.5.2 The Monmouthshire Exploitation Group (MEG) will also report to the Corporate Whole Authority Safeguarding group (WASG) and be the conduit group between corporate MCC matters and partnership working in the areas of Modern Day Slavery, Exploitation and criminal activity. The Monmouthshire Exploitation Group will have a dual reporting function according to the respective responsibilities in relation to the issues of Modern Day Slavery, exploitation and crime. This is illustrated in the diagram below:-



3. Review

The Protocol will be regularly reviewed to ensure current and relevant for purpose intended. Progress to be reported through the Strong Communities Select Committee.

August 2019

APPENDIX 1

Monmouthshire County Council

Process for Adult at Risk of Modern Day Slavery (MDS)

1. Employee / Volunteer suspects an adult is a victim of MDS.
2. If the individual is perceived to be at immediate risk of significant harm call 999.
3. Employee to discuss concerns with their MDS Champion within their service (this will be the Designated Safeguarding Lead / Deputy Safeguarding Lead).
4. For further advice around suspicions employee to contact Safeguarding Unit (Claudia Don, Adult Safeguarding Manager 07971 113255 or Katie Jacobs, Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Officer 07976837800)
5. Referral made to Adult services by submission of a Duty to Report Form. Emailed to- mccadultsafeguarding@monmouthshire.gov.uk
6. Social Services will assess risk and make relevant enquiries (level of enquiries dependant on referral information- ensuring not putting suspected victim at any further risk).
7. Social Services email Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking Co-ordination Team to inform them of concerns and are available to advise further if required moderndayslavery@gwent.pnn.police.uk.
8. Strategy discussion held to include Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Co-Ordinator (details below).
9. Modern Day Slavery Strategy Meeting to be convened, chaired by Safeguarding Unit.
10. Modern Day Slavery Strategy Meeting include Social Services, Police, referring agency and Safeguarding partners, invites to further include-
 - **Jasmin Ahmed** (MARAC Regional Human Trafficking Co-ordinator) 02922403345 / 07970045557 / jasmin@bawso.org.uk
 - **Laura Thomas** (Gang Masters Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA)) Laura.Thomas@gla.gov.uk
 - **Carla Aguiar** (DWP Counter Fraud and Compliance Directorate, Organised Fraud Team) carla.aguiar@dwp.gov.uk

11. Modern Day Slavery Strategy meeting to agree immediate Safeguarding actions, and with support of MARAC Co-ordinator and other agencies decide if an NRM is required.
12. With the consent of the suspected victim; NRM to be completed, if consent not given then an MS1: 'notification of a potential victim of modern slavery' form to be completed.
13. Local Authority employee as a First Responder can complete the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). This is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support.
 - Referral forms can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms>
 - NRM is to be completed with all multi agency information, with the support of all available services.
 - For Adults - Only make referral if the person is able to give consent; the only exception to this is when the person is deemed to lack mental capacity under the Mental Capacity Act 2005.
 - **A NRM can only be submitted once so ensure it is fully complete and all guidance is followed fully- seek further advice if required.**
14. From 1 November 2015, specified public authorities have a duty to notify the Secretary of State of any individual encountered in England and Wales who they believe is a suspected victim of slavery or human trafficking. The 'duty to notify' provision is set out in Section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 This duty is intended to gather statistics and help build a more comprehensive picture of the nature and scale of modern slavery.
 - Completing the NRM is sufficient in notifying. However if consent is not given then an MS1 form should be completed and sent to dutytonotify@homeoffice.gov.uk
 - Details around duty to notify can be found <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/duty-to-notify-the-home-office-of-potential-victims-of-modern-slavery>
15. If Suspected Victim has not consented to NRM then further safeguarding measures to be in place to safeguard the victim, and signposting to other supporting agencies

(BAWSO 0800 731 8147, New Pathways 01633250205, Modern Day Slavery Helpline 0800 012 1700).

➤ **For adults- If they DON'T want help to leave now:**

- Provide information about assistance and support
- Be aware that any written material could be detected
- Try to arrange a follow-up appointment
- If the adult is responsible for a child- remember child protection procedures

16. Refer to Modern Slavery MARAC Co-ordinator (details above), if not done so already.

17. If no complex or ongoing needs but still concerns regarding Modern Slavery, MARAC Co-ordinator can signpost to other agencies, with no further involvement of Adult Services.

18. Modern Slavery MARAC is arranged by the Co-Ordinator (details above). Co-ordinator will invite relevant professionals. A relevant Monmouthshire County Council representative to attend when involved or invited. Within the MARAC process information will be shared and risk and safety planning will be managed.

19. Outcome of NRM is also sent to Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking Co-ordination Team, in Gwent Police, and they can refer to MARAC process too.

20. Review / Outcome Strategy Meeting to be held to monitor progress / conclude process.

APPENDIX 2

Monmouthshire County Council

Process for Child at Risk of Modern Day Slavery (MDS)

1. Employee / Volunteer suspects a child is a victim of MDS.
2. If the individual is perceived to be at immediate risk of significant harm call 999.
3. Employee to discuss concerns with their MDS Champion within their service (this will be the Designated Safeguarding Lead / Deputy Safeguarding Lead).
4. For further advice around suspicions employee to contact Safeguarding Unit (Katie Jacobs, Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Officer 07976837800 or Kelly Turner , Child Protection Co-Ordinator) Children Services 01291 635669.
5. Social Services will complete lateral checks and gather further information (level of enquiries dependant on referral information- ensuring not putting suspected victim at any further risk).
6. Request Strategy Discussion with Police (through usual process/ with Public Protection Unit (PPU)).
7. Modern Day Strategy Meeting to be held; request through Safeguarding Unit as usual.
8. Strategy Meeting to be chaired by Safeguarding Unit (Kelly Turner or Katie Jacobs).
9. Additional to police, referring agency and usual safeguarding agencies, further Strategy meeting invites to-
 - The Gwent Missing Children Team (01495 745 660/661/662/663
AlexisRedwood@llamau.org.uk)
 - Independent Child Trafficking Advocate Service, Barnardo's (0800 043 4303 / Allyson Davies, Manager, 07717541325 allyson.davies@barnardos.org.uk)
10. Strategy meeting to identify any safeguarding concerns, needs, and consideration given around threshold for significant harm and for Initial Child Protection Conference to be held, or continue on Care and Support Plan.
11. Decision made at strategy meeting as to whether a NRM is required.

12. Social Worker to consult with the Gwent Missing Children Team (details above), who will support with the completion of the NRM, general advice on process, and assist with the input of multi-agency information they hold.

13. Referral to be made for an Independent Child Trafficking Advocate (or RPC), forms to be sent to trafficking.referrals@bypmk.cjsm.net

- For guidance and Referral Form-
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-trafficking-advocates-early-adopter-sites>
- Child will be offered either of the two below supports depending on the circumstances (details below)-

The Role of the ICTA Direct Support: One-to-one ICTA's will provide support on an individual basis to trafficked and potentially trafficked children within the Early Adopter Sites where there is nobody who has effective parental responsibility for that child.

This includes: Any child from outside the UK who is separated from their family or any person who has parental responsibility for them. Or any child from outside the UK whose parents, or those assuming parental responsibility for them, are suspected as being involved in their trafficking. Includes support for young people, alongside support for professionals involved with their care.

Or

The Role of the ICTA Regional Practice Co-ordinator (RPC): The RPC will work with professionals to support them in recognising and responding to exploitation and trafficking for internally trafficked children. They will offer individual case consultation for professionals delivering direct work, with a focus on safeguarding within the context of exploitation; and will support in the submission of referrals to the National Referral Mechanism. They will contribute to best practice and strategy development; and support professionals through training and awareness raising sessions to staff teams.

14. Social Worker (or other Local Authority employee) as a First Responder is to complete the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). This is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support.

- Referral forms can be found at
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms>

- NRM is to be completed with all multi agency information, with the support of all available services.
 - **A NRM can only be submitted once so ensure it is fully complete and all guidance is followed fully- seek further advice if required.**
15. From 1 November 2015, specified public authorities have a duty to notify the Secretary of State of any individual encountered in England and Wales who they believe is a suspected victim of slavery or human trafficking. The 'duty to notify' provision is set out in Section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 This duty is intended to gather statistics and help build a more comprehensive picture of the nature and scale of modern slavery.
- Details around Duty to Notify can be found <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/duty-to-notify-the-home-office-of-potential-victims-of-modern-slavery>
 - Completing the NRM is sufficient in notifying.
16. Review Strategy meetings to be held to monitor and support process with all key agencies invited.
17. Outcome Strategy meeting held to discuss any conclusions and future plan to safeguard suspected victim.

APPENDIX 3

Monmouthshire County Council

Process for Child at Risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

1. Employee / Volunteer suspects a child is a victim of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).
2. If the individual is perceived to be at immediate risk of significant harm call 999.
3. Employee to discuss concerns with their Designated Safeguarding Lead / Deputy Safeguarding Lead.
4. For further advice around suspicions employee to contact Safeguarding Unit (Katie Jacobs, Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Officer 07976837800 or Kelly Turner, Child Protection Co-Ordinator) or Children Services 01291 635669.
5. Social Services will complete lateral checks and gather further information (level of enquiries dependant on referral information- ensuring not putting suspected victim at any further risk).
6. Social Worker completes a Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Form (SERAF).
7. If the SERAF scores over 16 (moderate or significant risk on the SERAF) request Strategy Discussion with Police (through usual process/ with PPU). However, a Strategy discussion can be considered with a score under 16 and lower (mild risk) if required.
8. CSE Strategy Meeting to be held; request through Safeguarding Unit as usual.
9. Strategy Meeting to be chaired by Safeguarding Unit (Kelly Turner or Katie Jacobs).
10. Additional to police, referring agency and usual safeguarding agencies, further Strategy meeting invites to-
 - The Gwent Missing Children Team (01495 745 660/661/662/663
AlexisRedwood@llamau.org.uk)
 - Sexual Health if appropriate.
11. Strategy meeting to identify if the child is at risk of CSE and if threshold is met, child to be held under Operation Quartz.

12. Strategy meeting to discuss any safeguarding concerns, needs, and consideration given around threshold for significant harm and for Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) to be held, or continue on Care and Support Plan (CASP).
13. If child is to be part of Operation Quartz, a decision can be made for Social Worker and Quartz Police Officer to jointly visit child once per month, or as guided by the need identified by the Strategy Meeting attendees.
14. If child is to be part of Operation Quartz, on a monthly basis they will be discussed at a strategic multi-agency level at Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) Meeting.
15. Social Worker to review SERAF with all multi-agency information three monthly.
16. Review Strategy meetings to be held (at least within 3 months, but can be sooner dependant on need) to monitor and support process with all key agencies invited. And to make decision as to whether child remains part of Operation Quartz.
17. Outcome Strategy meeting held to decide child to be removed from Operation Quartz, and discuss any conclusions and future plan to safeguard the child.

APPENDIX 4

Monmouthshire County Council

Process for Child at Risk of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

1. Employee / Volunteer suspects a child is a victim of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE).
2. If the individual is perceived to be at immediate risk of significant harm call 999.
3. Employee to discuss concerns with their Designated Safeguarding Lead / Deputy Safeguarding Lead.
4. For further advice around suspicions employee to contact Safeguarding Unit (Katie Jacobs, Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Officer 07976837800 or Kelly Turner , Child Protection Co-Ordinator) or Children Services 01291 635669.
5. Social Services will complete lateral checks and gather further information (level of enquiries dependant on referral information- ensuring not putting suspected victim at any further risk).
6. Social Worker completes a Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Form (SERAF).
Development of a new a tool is in discussion and will be used when available.
7. If the SERAF scores over 16, request Strategy Discussion with Police (through usual process/ with PPU).
8. Strategy Meeting to be held under current CSE process; request through Safeguarding Unit as usual.
9. Strategy Meeting to be chaired by Safeguarding Unit (Kelly Turner or Katie Jacobs).
10. Additional to police, referring agency and usual safeguarding agencies, further Strategy meeting invites to-
 - The Gwent Missing Children Team (01495 745 660/661/662/663
AlexisRedwood@llamau.org.uk)
11. Strategy meeting to discuss any safeguarding concerns, needs, and consideration given around threshold for significant harm and for Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) to be held, or continue on Care and Support Plan (CASP).

12. If child identified to be at risk of CCE, then specific CCE needs to be identified on their existing plan (Care Plan, Child Protection Plan or Care and Support Plan), and support services referred to, and work to be completed around this area of need in the aim to reduce the risk.
13. Additional to CCE, if any concerns around CSE also identified (follow CSE process).
14. Social Worker to review SERAF (or used tool) with all multi-agency information.
15. Review Strategy meetings to be held to monitor and support process with all key agencies invited.
16. Outcome Strategy meeting held to discuss any conclusions and future plan to safeguard child.

Modern Day Slavery and Exploitation Protocol

Approved by ICMD 21st August 2019

WHY?

- ▶ Modern Day Slavery Act 2015 passes a duty to all Local Authorities to be 'First Responders'
- ▶ Monmouthshire Officers and Members need to recognise and know how to respond and how to refer for specialist support and advice
- ▶ Monmouthshire has developed sound process and practice with partners across Gwent in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation and recognises that the exploitation of vulnerable children and Adults needs a unified response
- ▶ A coordinated approach will ensure appropriate protection for children and adults, help disrupt location based anti social activity, support the Police in criminal investigation, and support our communities.

HOW?

- ▶ Clarity of language, legislative requirements, process and practice
- ▶ Identification of MDS Champions
- ▶ To enlist support for national and Gwent wide services
- ▶ To train Monmouthshire Officers, Members and volunteers

TRAINING

- ▶ Corporate Basic Awareness Training for all staff and to become part of Corporate Induction
- ▶ Training of Designated Safeguarding Leads (Champions) across the authority
- ▶ Training for elected Members
- ▶ Training of Managers and Senior Practitioners of Children and Adult Service Teams and Public Protection Officers provided by the Safeguarding Unit and Gwent Missing Children's Team
- ▶ Support for National Referral Mechanism (NRM), Specialist Training, and individual case discussion provided by MDS and Trafficking Co-ordination team (Gwent Police)

SUBJECT: CORPORATE PARENTING

MEETING: COUNCIL

DATE: 24th October 2019

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

NON-PUBLICATION - NA

1. PURPOSE:

To provide elected members with a summary of the work and activity of the Corporate Parenting Panel at the 'half-way point' with regards to the objectives within the Corporate Parenting Strategy (2018 – 2021).

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that Council Members:

- Note the work and activity of the Corporate Parenting Panel over the last period within the context of the Corporate Parenting Strategy;
- Endorse the on-going work of the Corporate Parenting Panel towards the objectives identified within the Strategy;
- Consider the implications for all elected members and the wider council.

3. KEY ISSUES:

3.1 Background and Context

All Councillors have a special responsibility as Corporate Parents to ensure that all Looked After Children within our County have the opportunity to live a safe, happy, healthy and fulfilling life.

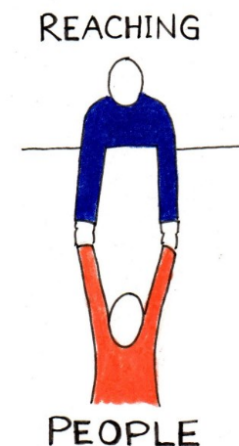
As at end of September 2019 there were 190 children who were 'looked after' in a range of placements including foster care, kinship care, placed with parents, supported living arrangements and in residential settings.

Part 6 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 is the core legislation which underpins the corporate parenting duty. Section 78 states that it is the Council's duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of each child it looks after, and every care leaver. Once a child is in care all elected members and officers of the local authority, as corporate parents, need to be concerned about that child.

The current Corporate Parenting Strategy (2018 – 2021) was endorsed by the Council in June 2018 (see appendix 1).

The strategy is set around 9 priority areas:

- Priority 1:** All elected members and officers understand and act on their responsibilities as corporate parents
- Priority 2:** All looked after children have a safe and stable home
- Priority 3:** Looked after children enjoy a range of educational and learning opportunities
- Priority 4:** Looked after children enjoy the best possible health
- Priority 5:** Looked after children enjoy a range of play, sport, leisure and cultural opportunities
- Priority 6:** Looked after children are listened to and treated with respect
- Priority 7:** Looked after children are supported and enabled to achieve independence
- Priority 8:** Looked after children are cared for by Monmouthshire carers and remain close to their homes and communities
- Priority 9:** All care leavers are supported in education, training and employment



The delivery of the strategy is overseen by the Corporate Parenting Panel. The Terms of Reference and membership for the Panel are set out at appendix 2 and 3.

The Corporate Parenting Strategy set out an action plan to support implementation of its strategic aims and objectives. The action plan has shaped the panel's activities and agenda over the last 18 months, a summary of which is provided below.

3.2 Activity and evaluation of progress of the current action plan

Of the 16 areas of activity set out in 2018, I have evaluated 9 of these as 'amber' and 7 'green' with no 'red' areas of activity.

Amber indicates that there are still some clear actions that can be achieved in the next period. Green indicates that the initial actions are complete; however, in most cases the nature of the activity means that it is on-going.

Overall the evaluation indicates that at this half-way point of the current strategy satisfactory progress is being made.

No.	What will we do?	Activity / Achievements	Measures / Evaluation	RAG
1.	Increase elected members understanding of their responsibilities as Corporate Parents	Corporate Parenting Training was offered to elected members in July 2017 (7 attended), January 2019 (7 attended) and July 2019 (3 attended).	17 members have received corporate parenting training	
2.	Ensure that consideration of Corporate Parenting responsibilities remains high profile within the Council's Senior Management Team	Impact of any council decisions are evaluated for impact on Looked After Children		
3.	Celebrate the achievements of looked after children, care leavers and our foster carers.	A celebration and consultation event was held at Hilston Park in October 2018	Planning for the next event is underway	
4.	Ensure that children and young people in care and care leavers have a voice, are heard and can influence service development	A care leavers consultation evening was held in March 2019. Outcomes and actions arising were presented to the panel in July 2019	Timing of meetings need to be reviewed to ensure care leaver representation at panel.	
5	Ensure that all Looked After Children and young people are offered advocacy through an 'active offer'	There are systems in place to ensure that the active offer for advocacy is made. NYAS are represented at the Corporate Parenting Panel and provide reports into the activity regarding referrals, take up and outcomes of children and young people using advocacy.	Q1 showed an increase in referrals from the previous quarter - from 54 to 61	
6.	Make every effort to avoid unnecessary changes of placement.	Placement moves remain well within WG targets	There was a slight increase in children with 3 or more placement moves from 2018 to 2019 (5.76% to 6.94%)	
7.	Improve support available to Special Guardians	Children's Services have used ICF money to provide additional support to kinships carers	Report to be provided to Corporate Parenting Panel	
8.	Ensure that adoption processes and adoption support is in place and working well	The panel receives the annual report from the South East Wales Adoption Service.	3 adoption orders were granted in 2018- 2019	

9.	Increase the number of LAC placements with Monmouthshire Foster Carers	<p>The Fostering Project work remains high profile across the county. Including 2 Foster Carer 'Thank-you' events.</p> <p>There continues to be a steady increase in Monmouthshire carers both generic and kinship carers.</p>	<p>Generic carers increased from 25 (2018) to 29 (2019)</p> <p>Kinships carers increased from 30 (2018) to 36 (2019)</p>	
10.	Increase the options for support and accommodation for care leavers including 'When I am Ready' placements	<p>There is a worker in place to promote When I am Ready placements and supported lodging placements.</p> <p>The needs of care leavers are considered within the Children's Services Commissioning Strategy (due at Panel Nov 2019)</p>	2 out of 55 care leavers (aged 16 – 24) experienced homelessness in 2019	
Page 106	Ensure that all children have a good understanding of their own "life-story" – why they live where they do and what the plans for their future are.	Life-story work for all children who are looked after has a high profile within Children's Service.	A presentation on Life-Story work within Children's Services is due at panel in November 2019	
106	Narrow the gap of educational achievement between looked after children and their peers	<p>Challenges remain for the Local Authority to ensure that clusters use the Pupil Development Grant effectively to 'close' the gap for children who have ALN or who are in the PRU provision.</p> <p>Further work is also required to ensure that PEPs are completed to a good quality.</p>	2019 data not yet received – due at panel Nov 2019	
13.	Ensure that all looked after children and care leavers are fully supported to engage in education, training or employment post-16	<p>Some recent achievements of care leavers are listed at point.</p> <p>Care leavers consultation indicated that further work was needed to grow 'real jobs' following training and apprenticeships.</p> <p>This is being addressed via Enterprise. The Council may wish</p>	The numbers of care leavers who are in education, training or employment have remained stable, with the needs of individuals being addressed on a 1:1 basis.	

		to consider how this could be supported in the future.		
14.	Ensure the health needs of LAC and young people are met		100% children who are looked after were registered with a GP within 10 days of placement 73.3 % of children who are looked after were seen by dentist within 3 months of becoming looked after (on target)	
15.	Promote good emotional health and safe behaviours amongst all our looked after children.	BASE provides therapeutic support to our looked after children and their carers. Children's Services have recently used ICF money to support the expansion of BASE. The panel receives an annual report of the work undertaken by BASE.	14 children currently open for direct work at BASE 10 carers receiving on-going support	
19.	Ensure that all LAC and Care Leavers have access to a full range of 'extra-curriculum' activities	This was discussed at panel together with the Independent Reviewing Officer. Any individual barriers to accessing extra-curriculum activity is addressed on an individual basis.		

3.3 Care Leavers Consultation Event

In March 2019 care leavers were invited to meet with members of the corporate parenting panel.

Care leavers were consulted on the 9 Priority Areas and asked for feedback:

- What are we doing OK at?
- Where do we need to improve?
- Ideas about what would help

The outcomes from the event were collated and presented to panel at the July meeting with representation from 2 care leavers. There were some strong themes arising from the event notably the loneliness and isolation that some care leavers can experience; the need to better prepare children who are looked after for independent living; the need to do all that we can to support care leavers into full and permanent employment.



Actions were identified as set out in appendix 4. These actions will go on to inform the work of the panel over the next period and potentially the subsequent Corporate Parenting Strategy.

Page 34 Key Achievements

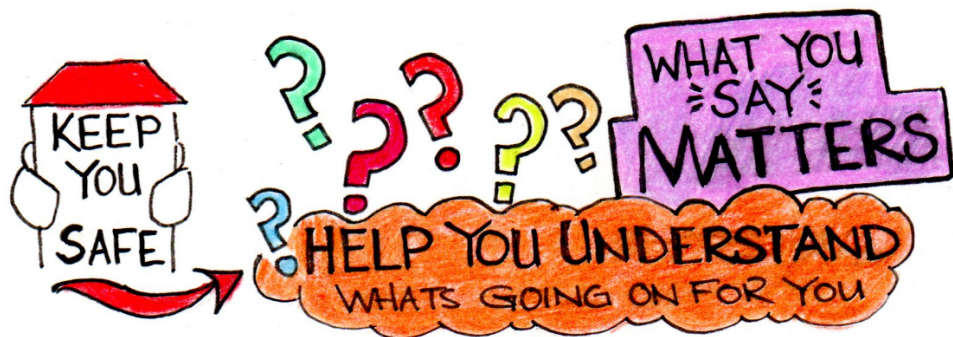
Foster carers 'thank-you' events were held in June 2018 at Caldicot Castle and at Usk show in September 2019. This gave panel members the opportunity to extend thanks to all Monmouthshire's foster carers in recognition of the wonderful work that they do. The intention is for this to be an annual occurrence.



FC4FC continues to run activities and events and provide opportunities for informal network and support between carers. There is representation on the panel from FC4FC and a regular report is received. This provides further opportunity for consultation and feedback to the panel directly from carers.

At Christmas time 2018 a huge effort was made from within Children's Services, across the Council and from some local sponsors to ensure that any child / young person who was in need would receive some Christmas presents. Work is underway to replicate this for Christmas 2019.

The LAC celebration event in October 2018 was attended by 18 children and young people and was lots of fun. As an initial 'tester' event this provided the panel with some good ideas about how to make this better next time particularly with some more age differentiated activities. Planning is now underway for a further event in Spring 2020. It is hoped that this sort of event will take place bi-annually.



Planning for Success training has been commenced to support foster carers and social workers in supporting children who are looked after to succeed at school. Training sessions have included Provision, Personal Education Plans and LAC funding; Attendance, behaviour and exclusions; Additional Learning Needs and Emotional Literacy.

Following the care leavers consultation event, care leavers residing in Monmouthshire now have access to a free leisure pass.

Children's Services aim to keep panel members informed about some of the achievements of our care leavers, many of whom achieve full independence despite the many adversities and challenges they have faced.

Whilst there are too many to list, some of the notable recent achievements include:

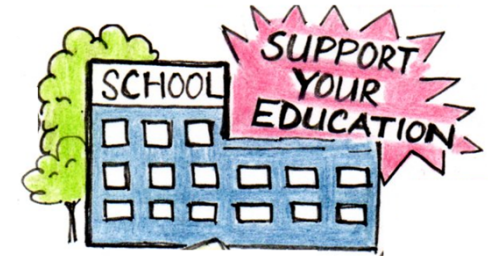
- One young person graduated with a First Class with Honours in Theological Studies in Philosophy and Ethics and received the Faculty of Humanities Dean's Award for Achievement
- One young person recently graduated in psychology studies and has already secured employment
- One young person returned to Higher Education to study social sciences
- One young person went to Africa on a volunteering programme where she help set up a school for orphan's and helped with a protected wildlife programme
- One young person is starting Bristol University to do a law degree.
- One young person is just starting an access course which again hopefully will lead to a university place.
- One young person is in the third year of a carpentry apprenticeship.

3.5 Next Steps

Over the next 18 months, the Corporate Parenting panel will continue to work towards the objectives within the current strategy, additionally incorporating actions arising from consultation events.

Some key actions for the panel over the next period include:

- Host a further Corporate Parenting training session for elected members
- Host a second celebration and consultation event for children who are looked after
- Induct care leavers as members of the panel
- Host a second consultation event for care leavers
- Receive and contribute to the Children's Services commissioning strategy in the light of care leavers consultation
- Gain a clearer understanding of the quality and impact of Personal Education Plans for Looked After children
- Generate and support ideas for how to promote employment opportunities for care leavers.



4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Other options were considered.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Evaluation measures are set out in the action plan at appendix 1 and have been included where possible in the current report.

6. REASONS:

The Council has a statutory requirement to define how it will respond to the duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of each child it looks after, and every care leaver, not only within Children's Services but through the involvement of the whole council.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

There are no core financial implications required to implement the strategy. A range of potential avenues will be explored to financially support aspects of the strategy around specific events and activities for young people or carers. Officer and Member time is required to ensure the effective implementation of the strategy.

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

9. CONSULTEES:

Who	Mechanism	Outcome
Corporate Parenting Panel Members	Discussed at panel Sept 2019	Report content and ideas discussed
Care Leavers Group	Consultation Event March 2019	See appendix

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

- Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2021 (appendix 1)
- Corporate Parenting Panel Terms of Reference (Appendix 2)
- Corporate Parenting Panel Membership (Appendix 3)
- Summary of outcomes and actions from care leavers consultation (Appendix 4)

Annual Director's Report

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Social Care & Health: Directors Report

This report is about people. The people we support, the people we work with and those that partner with us.

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Sway](#)

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monmouthshire
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Corporate Parenting Strategy

2018 - 2021

Foreword

The Monmouthshire County Council Corporate Parenting Strategy is an important document which identifies, as defined by the Welsh Government, ‘the collective responsibility across services and across local authorities.... to safeguard and promote the life chances of looked after children.’

All Councillors have a special responsibility as Corporate Parents to ensure that all our Looked After children within our County have the opportunity to live a safe, happy, healthy and fulfilling life. A good education and opportunities for social development are paramount to this and in this respect, Looked After Children are absolutely no different and must be afforded the same choices.

The strategy sets out clearly a reference guide for Corporate Parents to follow and emphasises the key aspects of the role which include how to listen, learn and question and act as advocates on behalf of this special group.

This is the Council’s second Corporate Parenting Strategy.

County Councillor Penny Jones

Cabinet Member and Chair of Corporate Parenting Panel

Corporate Parenting Priorities

Priority 1 – All elected members and officers understand and act on their responsibilities as corporate parents

Priority 2: All looked after children have a safe and stable home

Priority 3: Looked after children enjoy a range of educational and learning opportunities

Priority 4: Looked after children enjoy the best possible health

Priority 5: Looked after children enjoy a range of play, sport, leisure and cultural opportunities

Priority 6: Looked after children are listened to and treated with respect

Priority 7: Looked after children are supported and enabled to achieve independence

Priority 8: Looked after children are cared for by Monmouthshire carers and remain close to their homes and communities

Priority 9: All care leavers are supported in education, training and employment

Where I am Safe

Within Monmouthshire, our first pledge to children and young people is that whenever possible we will support them to remain within their families. We recognise that this is the best environment for the majority of children and young people to develop and achieve their outcomes.

There are however a small group of children and young people who will need to be accommodated, primarily as a result of abuse or neglect that they have experienced at home. We will ensure that children and young people who are unable to live safely within their own families are looked after and provided with the best possible care and support in placements that meet their needs.

Children in care will already have been placed at a disadvantage when they come into care. Monmouthshire County Council wants to ensure that the experience of children and young people does not add to this disadvantage but provides them with the stability and security they need to flourish. Children and young people will be healthy and happy, and feel valued and loved. Children and young people will enjoy learning and grow into successful adults who can have positive relationships, positive futures, become responsible citizens and achieve their goals and ambitions. “Our aspirations for the children and young people that we look after are the same as any good parent would want for their children. Where they need it children and young people will receive the very best possible standards of care and support” (Where I am Safe Strategy 2016).

Entitlements of Looked After Children and Care Leavers

Children who are looked after have the same entitlements as all children and young people. Under the Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales) 2014 this is now articulated through the concept of well-being. For children and young people this incorporates:

- Being safe
- Having somewhere suitable to live
- Being involved in decisions that impact your life
- Having friends
- Being part of good, strong communities
- Having every chance to do well in education, training, work-based learning and employment
- Feeling good about your life
- Being able to grow up happily and successfully,
- Being well-looked after

What is corporate parenting?

Parents always want the best for their children. For children in care it is elected members and officers who are together responsible for providing the quality of care that would be good enough for their own children.

Welsh Government defined the concept of corporate parenting as:

“The collective responsibility across services and across local authorities, to safeguard and promote the life chances of looked after children”

Councillors as Corporate Parents

Elected members have a ‘special responsibility’.

“When you became an elected member you took on one of your most important roles, as corporate parent to children your local authority looks after. The importance of your corporate parenting responsibilities cannot be overemphasised. Elected Members have a responsibility to ensure that children looked after by the Council are able to thrive, that they are nurtured, supported, educated, listened to and prepared for adult life in the way any good parent would want for their own children. These children will often have faced significant challenges and will need the help of adults who hold powerful and influential positions.”

Gwenda Thomas AM, Deputy Minister for Social Services

Key aspects of the role of a Corporate Parent include:

- To know what the key issues and concerns are of our looked after children and to ensure that the Council is responding to these.
- Ensuring that parental responsibilities for LAC are being fulfilled;
- To identify where things need to improve and to make a difference for good
- To consider and question the impact of Council decisions on looked after children and care leavers.

Officers of the Council

Corporate parenting responsibilities are not confined to elected members. All officers share the responsibility to promote the needs of looked after children.

Key responsibilities of all Officers are:

- To promote the life chances of looked after children and care leavers in their area of responsibility.
- To consider the impact of decision making on looked after children and care leavers.

Care Leavers

The Corporate Parenting Strategy applies equally to care leavers as it does to children and young people who are looked after.

A Care Leaver is defined as a child who was previously a Looked After Child and was in Care on their 16th birthday. Our duties to care leavers remain until they are 25. A young person can 're-connect' to care and support at any time during this period.

The local authority as a 'good corporate parent' will assist the young person with financial support to achieve economic well-being and make a positive and successful transition to adulthood. This recognises that supporting the emotional well-being of our care leavers is a key factor.

The report undertaken by the Children's Commissioner 'Hidden Ambitions' published in 2017 has re-emphasised to Local Authorities that Care Leavers still face many barriers, and that more needs to be done to ensure that care leavers have the support and resources they need to make successful transitions into adult life. Having access to some extra financial support at times of particular difficulty or crisis is an important element to this, and one that the young people's consultees felt needed highlighting.

At a regional level, the Institute of Public Care (IPC) recently undertook a review into the care leavers with complex needs to explore how support and accommodation services for this group of young people could be improved and developed. There are still circumstances when Young People with more complex needs or experiencing mental health difficulties are placed out of county making family contact difficult to maintain.

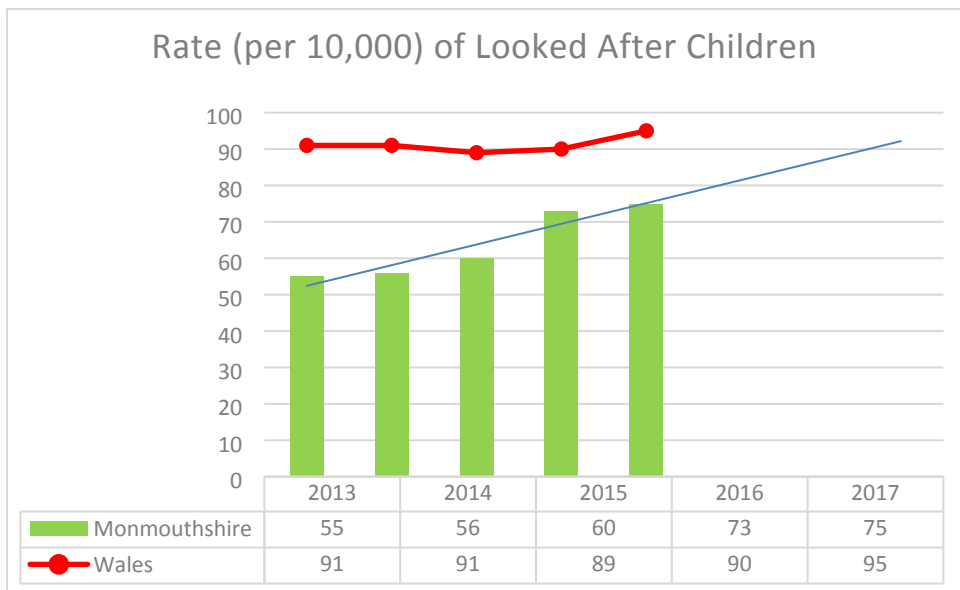
Looked after children

The National Picture

As at 31st of March 2017 there are 72, 670 children currently being looked after by Local Authorities in England and over 5,955 by Local Authorities in Wales, the majority of whom live in foster placements.

The number of children in care in Wales increased by 24% in the five years up until March 2017 and over the last 20 years has doubled.

Previously, Monmouthshire rate of looked after children per 10,000 children was lower than the all Wales average, however, over the last five years we have seen significant increase in Monmouthshire of looked after children.



Children who become Looked After are likely to have experienced trauma and exposure to multiple adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Children who become Looked After who are disabled and / or come from ethnic minority backgrounds can experience further disadvantage.

The outcomes for children and young people in care remain poor, with research indicating that this group is over represented amongst

- homeless and prison populations,
- are more likely to be offending,
- experience drug and alcohol misuse, and
- have poor mental health.

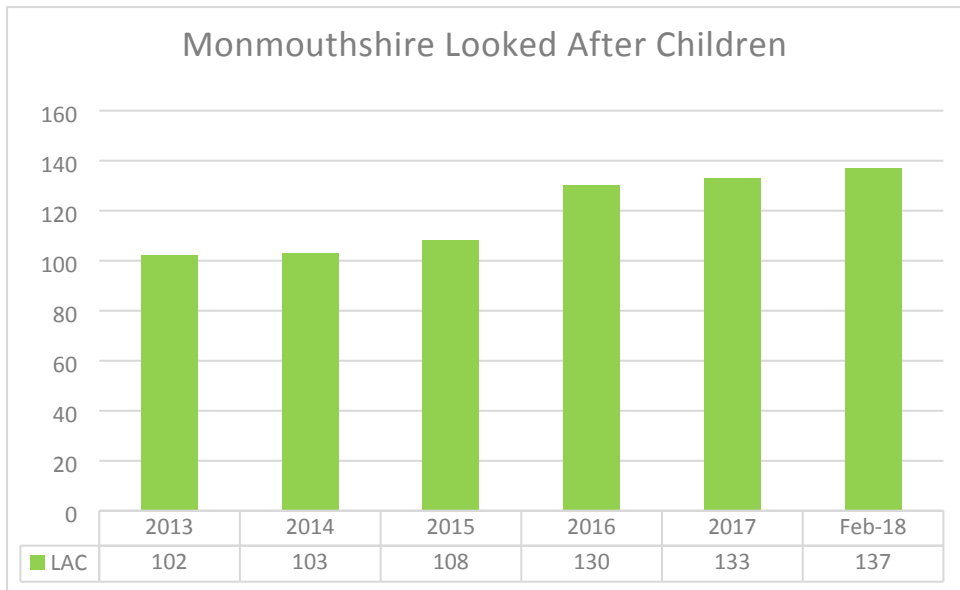
However, despite the complex needs these children and young people have, many can and do make a great success of their lives, with the right support and care.

As at Feb 2018, 72.73% (8 out of 11) of care leave engaged in education, training or employment during the 12th month after they left care

As at Feb 2018, 70% (7 out of 10) of care leavers engaged in education, training or employment during the 24th month after they left care.

The Local Picture

As at end of Feb 2018 were 137 children or young people Looked After by Monmouthshire Council and 56 category 1-4 care leavers. This represents a significant increase over the last five years.



The majority are being looked after because they have experienced significant abuse or neglect, and most are subject to Care Orders made by the courts under the Children Act 1989. These orders confer Parental Responsibility on the council (shared with their parents).

Breakdown by legal status

	Mar-13	Mar-14	Mar-15	Mar-16	Mar-17	Mar-18
Interim Care Order	24	12	10	23	17	15
Full Care Order	27	49	54	65	77	110
Placement Order Granted	50	13	8	15	13	4
Section 76		29	36	24	23	8
Wardship				3	3	2
Total	101	103	108	130	133	139

Breakdown by age

Age Band	Mar-13	Mar-14	Mar-15	Mar-16	Mar-17	Jan-18
0-4	27	26	25	39	32	32
5-9	21	26	24	30	32	38
10-14	26	26	28	31	44	42
15+	27	25	31	29	25	29
Total	101	103	108	129	133	141

Breakdown by type of placement

Placement Type	Mar-13	Mar-14	Mar-15	Mar-16	Mar-17	Jan-18
MCC Generic Fostering	36	35	34	32	26	28
MCC Kinship Fostering	28	19	16	29	23	26
Indep Fostering	25	25	37	32	42	42
Indep Living	2	2	1	1	5	5
Residential / Education Placement	6	5	8	10	8	11
Other LAC	4	17	12	26	29	29
Total	101	103	108	130	133	141

Breakdown by Age and time looked after

Length of time in care	Mar-13	Mar-14	Mar-15	Mar-16	Mar-17	Jan-18
Under 6 Months	12	12	25	20	26	14
6 Months to a Year	16	22	2	25	10	24
1-2 Years	35	16	27	16	35	22
3-4 Years	22	29	34	46	35	53
5+ Years	16	24	20	22	27	28
Total	101	103	108	129	133	141

Significantly, there are more children placed with foster carers working for independent fostering agencies than placed with Monmouthshire foster carers. This is something that the current strategy is seeking to address: In Monmouthshire we

want children to be looked after by Monmouthshire carers and, whenever possible, to remain within the geographical boundaries of Monmouthshire, closer to their home and communities. We believe that this is the best way of achieving best outcomes for our looked after children, and is the reason why we have added this to our Corporate Parenting priorities.

Review of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan 2014 – 2017

The current strategy and action plan is built on a review and appraisal of the previous 3 years and through consultation with key stakeholders. This includes Corporate Panel Members, the young people's participation group, foster carers, operational social worker teams and SLT. The review recognises that whilst some real progress has been made in some areas, in others changes have been harder to sustain. The context is ever changing both in terms of the legislative framework and in terms of the operational services that are tasked with delivering against many of the identified objectives.

The key outcomes from the review are set out below:

Key Achievements

- Members 'Introduction to Corporate Parents' was updated and carried out as part of the induction programme for the new administration
- Consideration of Corporate Parenting responsibilities is now required in all reports for Cabinet or Full Council.
- There is a good understanding and awareness of Corporate Parenting through SLT and across the Local Authority directorates. Actions around Looked After children feature in Service Improvement Plans other than Social Care.
- The council has evaluated initial apprenticeship programmes and has strengthened the operational leadership of this. There is a post created in Enterprise to support 16 – 18 year old care leavers with education, training and employment.
- We have a team of dedicated and committed foster carers in Monmouthshire, who have a good network of support through FC4FC.
- There is a training programme in place for foster carers.
- Members of the Placement and Support team are trained in attachment based practice to help them support foster carers.
- There is support in place for generic and kinship carers through the BASE.
- BASE is well established and helps ensure that the emotional and psychological needs of Looked After children, young people and care leavers are understood and met.
- Looked after children's educational outcomes and achievements are reported on a cohort basis (e.g. mainstream, Additional Learning Needs, Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers and Looked After Children attending the Pupil Referral Unit) which allows greater analysis of the educational progress of looked after children.
- A SGO support worker is in place to support carers and the impact of this is

being evaluated.

- TLCY and enterprise continue to provide extra curriculum activities to our Looked After Children, young people.
- The Fostering Project is in place to support the recruitment and retention of Monmouthshire foster carers.

Barriers and Challenges

- The achievements of our Looked After children, young people and care leavers are not as well recognised or celebrated at a corporate level as we would want.
- The young people's participation group is not as well-developed as we would wish at this point. There is a desire to increase the support of and the link between Corporate Panel Members and members of the participation group.
- We do not have sufficient Monmouthshire carers and remain overly reliant on independent foster agencies.
- There is still a shortage of positive support and accommodation choices for care leavers.
- Foster carers do not always find training easy to access and training can be inconsistent.
- There is still work to do to ensure that all members understand their roles as Corporate Parents.
- Life-story work is still not routinely in place with all looked after children.

The Changing Context

- Numbers of Looked After Children continues to increase
- The number of kinship carers continue to increase
- There is a strong drive at national level to increase the regional alignment of fostering services through the National Fostering Framework
- The Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales) 2014 has been implemented.
- Advocacy services are now commissioned regionally.

How the strategy will be delivered, monitored and evaluated

The Corporate Parenting strategy includes an action plan to support implementation of its aims and objectives. Where actions have been brought forward or amended from the previous action plan this is indicated. Measures have been put in place where possible, so that Corporate Panel members have an evidence base through which progress can be monitored. Implementation will be monitored and evaluated by the Corporate Parenting Panel on a 6-monthly basis. The Corporate Parenting Panel will present an annual report to Full Council on progress.

Terms of Reference and Membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel is at annexe 1

DRAFT

No.	What will we do?	How will we do it?	Who is responsible?	How will we measure progress?
1. B/Fwd	Increase elected members understanding of their responsibilities as Corporate Parents	Induct all elected members Hold annual corporate parenting members' seminar Present annual report on Corporate Parenting to Full Council.	Lead Member for Children and Young People HoS	# elected members inducted # elected members attending corporate parenting seminar Dates of annual reports to council
2. B/Fwd (amended)	Ensure that consideration of Corporate Parenting responsibilities remains high profile within the Council's Senior Management Team	Represent the rights of LAC and Care Leavers at SLT Annual reports	Chief Officer SCH	Dates of annual reports
3. B/Fwd	Celebrate the achievements of looked after children, care leavers and our foster carers.	Introduce programme of individual achievement awards Host an achievement event	Youth / Enterprise leads together with Children's Services with the support of Corporate Parenting Panel and Foster Carer reps	Awards made Date of event

4. B/fwd	Ensure that children and young people in care and care leavers have a voice, are heard and can influence service development	Support the development of young people's participation group Implement LAC survey and respond to outcomes	Youth lead working with Team Manager, Long-Term Support	Annual report from participation group
5. New	Ensure that all Looked After Children and young people are offered advocacy through an 'active offer'	Promote the 'active offer' within social work teams and foster carers	HoS NYAS	# active offers # LAC / Care leavers involved in advocacy
6. B/Fwd	Make every effort to avoid unnecessary changes of placement.	Training, supervision and support for foster carers both 'practical' and 'psychological'. Ensure good practice around matching processes. Ensure 'Stable Lives, Brighter Futures' arrangements are fully complied with	Service Manager, Managed Care	# of unplanned placement moves / placement breakdowns
7. B/Fwd	Improve support available to Special Guardians	Review of SGO policy and practice and implement new arrangements	Service Manager, Managed Care	# SGO support plans # SGO breakdowns and reasons

8. New	Ensure that adoption processes and adoption support is in place and working well	Ensure that operational link with SEWAS is working well	Service Manager, Managed Care working with SEWAS	SEWAS annual report including # of POs made and # of adoptions achieved
9. New	Increase the number of LAC placements with Monmouthshire Foster Carers	Implement the objectives of the fostering project	Service Manager, Managed Care working with the fostering project board	# increase in placements with Monmouthshire carers
10. New	Increase the options for support and accommodation for care leavers including 'When I am Ready' placements	Implementation of the LAC / commissioning strategy Where I am Safe Implement outcomes from the IPC review	Service Manager, Managed Care working with Lead Commissioner for CS	# Care Leavers experiencing period of homelessness or living in unsuitable accommodation
11. B/Fwd	Ensure that all children have a good understanding of their own "life-story" – why they live where they do and what the plans for their future are.	Ensure Support Workers, Social Workers and Foster Carers have skills and confidence in completing life-story work.	Service Manager, Managed Care	TBC
12. B/Fwd	Narrow the gap of educational achievement between looked after children and their peers	Ensure that cluster bids are strategic and are focussed upon improving outcomes for LAC pupils.	Inclusion Manager CYP	# (%) children reaching expected levels at key-stage Closing the gap between universal

		<p>Report Looked after children's outcomes on a cohort basis (e.g. mainstream, ALN, Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers and LAC in PRU)</p> <p>Ensure PEPs are completed within timescales; are of high quality and based on a multi-disciplinary approach</p>		outcomes and LAC pupils at each key stage
13. B/Fwd (amended)	Ensure that all looked after children and care leavers are fully supported to engage in education, training or employment post-16	Ensure that Pathway Plans are implemented through a partnership approach	Enterprise Leads together with Team Manager Long-Term Support	# (%) of care leavers who are in education, training or employment
14. B/Fwd (amended)	Ensure the health needs of LAC and young people are met	<p>Undertake LAC health assessments</p> <p>Ensure that Health records and information travels with children moving placements or entering care</p>	Lead Nurse for LAC ABUHB	<p># LAC health assessments completed on time</p> <p>Annual report</p>

15. B/Fwd (amended)	Promote good emotional health and safe behaviours amongst all our looked after children.	Support carers in meeting the emotional needs of LAC and young people Ensure LAC and young people have access to psychological and therapeutic support	Service Manager, Managed Care working with Family Support services and BASE	
16. B/fwd (amended)	Ensure that all LAC and Care Leavers have access to a full range of 'extra-curriculum' activities	Support carers and young people to access activities and events as identified based on understanding of children / young people's interests and potential	Service Manager, Managed Care working with youth, enterprise and leisure leads and schools	# LAC / Care leavers participating in clubs and events

Annexe 1



Corporate
Parenting Panel - Te

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Corporate Parenting Panel – Terms of Reference

Aim

To ensure a structured and effective approach to corporate parenting in Monmouthshire that supports positive outcomes for looked after children and young people by:

- being well-informed about looked after children and young people in Monmouthshire
- giving consideration to the effect of Council decisions on children and young people
- listening to what children and young people have to say about their care experiences and needs
- being a champion for children based on the standard "would it be good enough for my child?"

Objectives

- To ensure that councillors monitor the quality of services to children and young people for whom they have corporate parenting responsibilities.
- To inform and instruct councillors as corporate parents so that they are able to provide effective leadership and contribute to strategic planning processes.
- To ensure councillors have knowledge and understanding of how the needs of children and their families are met by the council.
- To ensure that Monmouthshire County Council has systems in place to meet legislative requirements and national guidance in relation to corporate parenting responsibilities.
- To ensure that all elected members are aware of their corporate parenting responsibilities and that they consider the effect of their decisions on children and young people in care.

Process

Effective corporate parenting requires knowledge and awareness of the needs of children and young people looked after and the services which they receive. The role of the Corporate Parenting Panel is therefore:

- Development and oversight of the implementation of the Corporate Parenting Strategy
- To support the development of integrated services for children looked after and care leavers to improve outcomes.
- To facilitate the development of a Children in Care Council.
- To receive regular performance reports on the Council's and partner's delivery in respect of the key indicators for children looked after and care leavers. Actions will be identified to unblock barriers to improvement.
- To be responsible for the production of an Annual Corporate Parenting Report to Full Council that will include an analysis of performance in respect of corporate parenting and an action plan for the following year.
- To support the development of the skills and knowledge of elected members, professional staff and officers working with looked after children and young people to provide effective learning and continuous improvements.

- To sponsor and support projects and events designed to improve and celebrate corporate parenting including looked after children achievement events and foster carers' events.
- To meet with representatives from the Children in Care Council and to attend the council as required.
- To ensure that children in care are welcomed and facilitated to attend and participate fully in the Corporate Parenting Panel.
- To receive ideas and proposals from children and young people with experience of being in care and consider how these may be developed and put into practice.

Membership

The Panel will be Chaired by the Lead Member for Children's Services and will act as an advisory group to the Lead Member for Children's Services.

The Panel will be a working group and members will include as a minimum:

- Five elected Monmouthshire County Councillors
- Service Manager responsible for Looked After Children
- Senior Manager from Education as nominated by the Chief Officer
- A young person who is in care or has previously been looked after.
- Two foster carers
- A Social Worker from Children's Services

Frequency of meetings

It is envisaged that the Panel will meet four times a year. It may be necessary on occasions to hold an additional meeting which will be arranged at the request of the Chair.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL - 2019

NAME	
County Councillor P. Jones	
County Councillor L. Dymock	
County Councillor T. Thomas	
County Councillor D. Blakebrough	
County Councillor J. Becker	
OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND FOSTER CARERS	
Nadia Lovell/ J. Kinnear	NYAS
L. Freeman	Foster Carer
C. Harris	Foster Carer
A. Baynton	Foster Carer
Sian Thomas	ABuHB
OFFICERS	
R. Austin	Principal Officer Inclusion CYP
I. Bakewell	Housing
J. Rodgers	Head of Children's Services
J. Boothroyd	Chief Officer
T. Arnold	Team Manager (Placement and Support)
J. Klein	Youth Services Manager
H. Jones	Youth Enterprise Manager

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2. Care Leavers' Participation Event Outcomes: To analyse the feedback provided by the young people generally and to address specific points.

9 Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are we doing OK at? • Where do we need to improve? • Ideas about what would help 	Feedback from Young People	Comments from whole group	Action Points agreed on 1st July 2019	Officer responsible
1. All elected members and officers understand and act on their responsibilities as corporate parents	The name "Corporate parent" was not liked. It is offensive because those carrying out this role are not a young person's parent. Housing was raised as an issue.	Corporate Parenting not a good term/phrase. Doesn't refer to Looked After Children Corporate Parenting members don't know "reaching care leavers" Need to meet more regularly Join the Panel Meetings Care Leavers bring lots of perspectives. Care Leaver Panel?? Advocate support	It was agreed that the Panel would discuss alternative names for the role of Corporate Parent, and also for Looked After Children at its next meeting.	
2. All looked after children have a safe and stable home	Young people are sometimes forced to leave a placement before they are ready to be independent. Children's homes are not able to offer ... When ready more supportive lodging should be available	Young People feeling forced to leave before they are ready. WIR in residential Lack of good options for care leavers No supported lodging placements available Loneliness and Isolation Independence too soon	1) Stronger links to be developed with other authority housing departments 2) Workshops for foster carers to help teach independent living skills to be arranged	

		<p>Moved into hostel, moved into independent when forced into</p>		<p>3) New foster carers to receive the message that the journey continues past age 18 4) Seek views of care leavers in six month reviews on what would help develop their independence 5) Develop more of a partnership with foster carers sharing what the service expects and the top ten tips from children 6) Research the approach of other fostering authorities for ideas 7) Explore if there are opportunities for a “stepping stone” accommodation facility for care leavers 8) Corporate Parenting Panel to continue the dialogue with many more care leavers 9) Develop links to combat loneliness and isolation 10) Extend some staff benefits to care leavers e.g. recent</p>	
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				offer to win All Saints tickets	
3.	Looked after children enjoy a range of educational and learning opportunities	Training is available but work is restricted especially when living independently and having to deal with rent payments. Good to access but want a job at the end of it. Declaring as a care leaver is optional for a guaranteed interview. EMA stops /income	Training is available but JOBS are needed. Benefit traps Policy framework Pressure through full council to put influence	1) Meeting with Youth Enterprise team plus a representative from ALN and then with Chief Exec. 2) Ideas included certificates of employment for employers, consideration for priority interviews, work with Inspire to Work team, Utilise Communications Team links and help with interview skills	
4.	Looked after children enjoy the best possible health	Agreed registered with doctors and dentists. Shortfall in mental health services	Mental Health and Social Services Department working together Some have lead worker with health imbalance	Monitor Gwent-wide transformation work to ensure developments are addressing needs on the ground	
5.	Looked after children enjoy a range of play, sport, leisure and cultural opportunities	Leisure passes for all care leavers please. Perhaps cinema passes, hobbies etc. Days out as a group.	Why not have free leisure passes for those care leavers who want them? Occasional treats/support with hobbies and days out Get mutual support/peer support	1) Free annual Leisure passes for Care leavers. Pas to liaise with Chief Officer 2) Pas to check if there is an existing amenity fund that can be added to as a Care Leavers Fund- 3) Events to be considered e.g. possible social event	

				<p>for Corporate Parent Panel and Care Leavers at Hilston Park?</p> <p>4) Other events to consider include foster carer event and LAC event with care leavers possibly mentoring</p>	
6.	<p>Looked after children are listened to and treated with respect</p>	<p>At times feels like forced to do. Is it ticking a box. Foster carers not listened to them in front office</p>	<p>Some foster carers don't treat young people with respect All about money Feel more listened to as adults</p>	<p>1) Message understood! Action point to facilitate ongoing representation and engagement between care leavers and the Corporate Parenting panel. Noted difficulties attending engagement events if the young person is working</p> <p>2) Committed to young people being full members of the committee (agreed excellent skill to add to CVs)</p> <p>3) Short induction for new/young people members to be arranged</p>	

				4) e mail addresses to Clerk to add to agenda distribution list	
7.	Looked after children are supported and enabled to achieve independence	A lot of support post 18 but young people need to be worked with in the foster placement. Residential, better independent living skills more accountability	Preparation for independence skills at foster carers. Need to use a structured approach and foster carers need to demonstrate outcomes Saving schemes for foster carers	See 2 above 1) need more dialogue with foster carers re: more independent living skills 2) Explore opportunities for a savings scheme in addition to the care leaving grant	
8.	Looked after children are cared for by Monmouthshire carers and remain close to their homes and communities	Out of county placement young people not consulted regarding where they may go – residential/special Cross county working with housing	Cross border housing lists. North/South divide	Panel aware of issues with out of county placements and the Welsh Government drive to address problems and make improvements	
9.	All care leavers are supported in education, training and employment		Training and education	1) Meeting with Youth Enterprise team plus representative of ALN 2) investigate feasibility of care leavers having access to internal job opportunities	

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Future Generations Evaluation (includes Equalities and Sustainability Impact Assessments)

<p>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Jane Rodgers</p> <p>Phone no: 01633 644054 E-mail: Janerodgers@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan</p>
<p>Name of Service</p> <p>Children's Services</p>	<p>Date Future Generations Evaluation form completed</p> <p>Oct 2019</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>Yes – supporting Looked After Children (LAC) and Care Leavers to make successful transitions in to adulthood and achieve economic stability.</p>	
<p>A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>Neutral impact</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?
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	Yes – supporting Looked After Children and Care Leavers achieve emotional well-being, resilience and good mental health.	
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	Supporting LAC and care leavers to contribute to their communities and become good parents and citizens into their adulthood.	
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	Neutral impact	
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	Yes supporting LAC and Care Leavers to make positive contributions and to participate to the cultural life, sporting and leisure activities of Monmouthshire	
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	Yes through a service that supports all LAC and care leavers fulfil their potential whatever their background	

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?

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><i>This strategy is about the long-term support of LAC and how LAC and Care leavers so that they can lead full and rewarding lives as adults.</i></p>	
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>The strategy relies on partnership working and joined up approaches across the council</p>	
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>Strategy development has involved care leavers and all members of the panel.</p>	
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>The strategy is preventative in its orientation to providing LAC and care leavers maximum opportunity to meet their potential and plan for future independence, stability and prosperity.</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	<i>All ages considered</i>	N/A	
Disability	<i>LAC or Care Leavers with disability are provided with the services they need</i>	N/A	
Gender reassignment	<i>As above</i>	N/A	
Marriage or civil partnership	<i>As above</i>	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?
Pregnancy or maternity	<i>As above – LAC or care leavers who are parents are provided with the services they need in their own right</i>	N/A	
Race	<i>As above</i>	N/A	
Religion or Belief	<i>As above</i>	N/A	
Sex	<i>As above</i>	N/A	
Sexual Orientation	<i>As above</i>	N/A	
Welsh Language	<i>As above</i>	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	Strategy core aim is to safeguarding LAC and Care Leavers		
Corporate Parenting	Strategy core aim is to promote Corp Parenting		

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

Data regarding the profile of LAC and care leaver current cohort

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?

Positives: That LAC and CARE LEAVERS will be supported to lead fulfilling lives and achieve economic stability and emotional well-being.

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
Implement the strategy and action plan	Within 3 years	Head of CS and Chair of Corporate Parenting Panel	Via annual report

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:	Annually
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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.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
	<i>e.g. budget mandate, DMT, SLT, Scrutiny, Cabinetetc</i>		<i>This will demonstrate how we have considered and built in sustainable development throughout the evolution of a proposal.</i>

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 10

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held
on Thursday, 19th September, 2019 at 2.00 pm

PRESENT: County Councillor S. Woodhouse (Chairman)
County Councillor S.B. Jones (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: P. Clarke, D. Batrouni, J.Becker, L.Brown, A.Davies, D. Dovey, L.Dymock, A. Easson, R. Edwards, D. Evans, M.Feakins, P.A. Fox, R.J.W. Greenland, M.Groucutt, R. Harris, G. Howard, S. Howarth, R.John, D. Jones, L.Jones, P. Jones, S. Jones, P. Jordan, M.Lane, P. Murphy, P.Pavia, M. Powell, J.Pratt, R.Roden, B. Strong, F. Taylor, T.Thomas and A. Watts

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Matthew Phillips	Head of Law/ Monitoring Officer
Paul Matthews	Chief Executive
Peter Davies	Chief Officer, Resources
Will McLean	Chief Officer for Children and Young People
Nicola Perry	Senior Democracy Officer
Frances O'Brien	Chief Officer, Enterprise
Julie Boothroyd	Chief Officer Social Care, Safeguarding and Health

APOLOGIES:

County Councillors D. Blakebrough, L. Guppy, J. Higginson, V. Smith, J.Treharne, J.Watkins, A. Webb and K. Williams

2. Declarations of interest

County Councillor M. Powell declared a non-prejudicial interest under item 11b as a Governor at King Henry VIII School.

County Councillor A. Easson declared a non-prejudicial interest under item 7a as a Governor of Ysgol Y Fin School.

County Councillor M. Powell declared a non-prejudicial interest under item 7a as Grandson has been educated at an ALN school.

County Councillor P. Pavia declared a non-prejudicial interest under items 8a and 12c as an employee of Practice Solutions Ltd who hold the administrative contract for ADSS Cymru.

3. Public Questions

None.

4. Chairman's announcement and receipt of petitions

County Councillor P. Jones presented a petition on behalf of Raglan residents asking that Raglan Community Council, MCC and Raglan Village Hall Association do all within their capability and power to secure the site of the Old Junior School in Raglan for use as a Community Facility.

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5. Report of the Chief Executive:

5.1. Corporate Plan Annual Report 2018/19

Council received the Corporate Plan Annual Report 2018/19 for approval and to ensure that members have access to performance information for 2018/19.

Concerns were expressed regarding how goals are measured and it was thought that opposition Members rejected the recommendation. Areas of concern included Mounon House and MonLife where performance was judged to be good.

A question was raised regarding the analysis of data and how we balance quantitative data with qualitative data.

Reference was made to child poverty and why figures were not included in the Corporate Plan. The Cabinet Member for Social Justice highlighted areas of success under the Social Justice Strategy.

Concerns were highlighted regarding the Scrutiny function, particularly noting poor attendance. Members asked at what stage the findings of Select Committees be fed into the report. The Cabinet Member for Governance responded that Scrutiny is an important function and asked what actions the Opposition Leader is taking to improve attendance. He added that Select Recommendations would come back to Cabinet when the Corporate Plan is reviewed in due course.

The Leader agreed that the level of Scrutiny had been weak, and welcomed constructive comments.

Upon being put to the vote the following votes were recorded:

For	21
Against	8
Abstain	4

Therefore Council resolved to accept the recommendation:

That the Corporate Plan Annual Report 2018/19 be approved, subject to any final amendments agreed by Council.

6. Report of the Chief Officer for Resources

6.1. Capital Additions 2019-20 and Strategy Approval

The Cabinet Member for Resources presented the Strategy Document:

- to add fully funded specific schemes to 2019-20 capital programme,
- to seek an exemption from the Constitution that states that any additions can only be approved by full Council,
- to approve 2019-20 capital strategy.

Examples were sought of times when there had previously been a need to bring these matters back to full Council, and the logic of the recommendation was questioned.

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The Assistant Head of Finance explained that we rely more on ad-hoc grant funding rather than when Members approve the Capital Grant Programme, and where monitoring information is provided to Cabinet and Select it must be on the proviso that additional schemes still have to be supported and approved by full Council.

The Cabinet Member clarified that when grants are received, there is no risk to the Authority and it therefore makes sense to make revisions to the constitution at the time of the review. Anything outside that would go through the Capital Programme.

It was explained that the purpose of putting this recommendation to Council at this time related to endorsing £7million worth of schemes coming in, and facilitating this in a different manner.

Upon being put to the vote Council resolved to approve the recommendation:

- **To approve the additions of the schemes identified in resourcing section.**
- **To approve a change to the Constitution whereby in future Cabinet can approve the addition of capital schemes where they are fully funded either from grant receipts or utilise 100% Section 106 funding in line with any requirements in the relevant Section 106 agreement.**
- **To review and accept the Capital Strategy (appendix 1) for the forthcoming year.**
- **To recognise that this is the first year that all these disciplines have been brought together in a combined Capital Strategy and that it may need to evolve as best practice becomes apparent.**

6.2. Acquisition of the former MOD railway line, Crick to Caerwent.

Council were presented with a report in order to seek approval to acquire an additional bridge and ancillary land as part of the agreed acquisition of the former MOD railway line between Crick and Caerwent to facilitate a cycle and walk way and to enable an easement to service the Crick Road LDP development site.

Reference was made to a feeder line at Severn Tunnel Junction, and considerations were required around the wider area of the B4245.

Council were advised that this had already been agreed and was being extended to include one additional bridge.

Upon being put to the vote Council resolved to approve the recommendation:

To agree to the acquisition of the additional land and infrastructure as illustrated in appendix 2.

7. Report of the Chief Officer for Children and Young People

7.1. Capital Programme - 21st Century Schools Programme

Council received the report to seek agreement to draw down funding during the current financial year 2019/20 to support the work of the team delivering the Band B project within the 21st Century Schools building programme.

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The purpose of the report was also to inform Council of the significant capital works within the education estate and agree to the establishment of a permanent post to manage the education capital building programme.

Within Monmouthshire

The Leader of the Opposition requested that an additional recommendation be added to the report:

To develop a business case to build a new specialist school that caters for SEBD and ASD pupils in Monmouthshire within the 21st Century Schools Programme.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Howarth and debate followed.

Reference was made repeatedly to the intention to close Mounton House School.

It was suggested that a business case would be sensible way to develop a long term plan, and it was recognised that Monmouthshire would be the only authority without a specialist school.

The Leader expressed that Cabinet had made a commitment at a meeting on 18th September 2019 over the future of ALN provision.

A Ward Member for Chepstow agreed that residents of Chepstow would welcome a business case for new provision.

The amendment was put to a recorded vote:

For	13
Against	21
Abstain	1

The original recommendation was therefore put to the vote and agreed:

- **The purpose of the report is to seek Council's agreement to draw down funding during the current financial year 2019/20 to support the work of the team delivering the Band B project within the 21st Century Schools building programme.**
- **To inform Council of the significant capital works within the education estate and agree to the establishment of a permanent post to manage the education capital building programme.**

8. Report of the Chief Officer for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health

8.1. Social Care, Safeguarding and Health Annual Director's Performance Report 2018/19

The Chief Officer for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health presented the Annual Directors Report. The report was presented via a SWAY presentation.

Following presentation the following comments were noted:

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Members commended the Foster Carers event at the Usk Show.

With regards to the Welsh Government targets to reduce the number of looked after children, there have been robust conversations as part of a wider review among heads of children's services. Reducing targets was not considered useful and the social care community has lobbied against this. MCC have taken a firm stance against this.

Reports of abuse of young vulnerable adults who have left children's services were highlighted and the Chief Officer assured that we endeavour to know all our people placed everywhere, and they are followed through. It was agreed that more could be done, systems are in place but unfortunately nasty things happen despite that. In any monitoring scenario officers keenly look at who's leading, are the values right, and are we seeing the outcomes for individuals.

The Chief Officer agreed to discuss individual cases following the meeting.

Concerns were raised regarding the fragility of private provider care in social services. Assurance was given that officers were constantly working on this and were confident in the excellent strong relationships with providers.

The Chair of Children and Young People commended a recent care leavers' engagement evening.

Consideration should be given to the increase of allowances to improve recruitment of foster carers.

Commendation was expressed around the integrated services provided at Mardy Park Resource Centre, but concern was highlighted that the same service is not available in all areas of the County. In response, we heard that the same philosophy is through Community Hubs across Monmouthshire.

Council resolved to accept the annual report.

County Councillors F. Taylor, D. Jones and S. Howarth left at 16:55pm

9. Reports of the Chief Officer for Enterprise

9.1. Rights of Way Orders Decision Making

Council were presented with a report to review rights of way order decision making and remove the need for opposed public rights of way Section 53 Wildlife and Countryside Act and 1980 Highway Act applications to be approved by Individual Cabinet Member Decision (ICMD).

Upon being put to the vote Council resolved to approve the recommendations:

That in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Functions and Responsibilities) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 the

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of County Council held
on Thursday, 19th September, 2019 at 2.00 pm**

following matters be made non-executive functions for the Licencing and Regulatory Committee, sitting as the Rights of Way Panel, to consider and approve or decline the making of any opposed orders

- a) The functions contained in section 25 of Part III of the Highways Act 1980 (5) (creation of highways):
- b) The functions contained in section 116 – 120 of Part VIII of the Highways Act 1980(stopping up and diversion of highways etc.):
- c) Exercising functions under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981(11) (duty to keep definitive map and statement under continuous review)

9.2. MonLife

Council received a report to seek approval of Council for the ongoing support and commitment to the internal transformation of services encompassed within the MonLife portfolio.

The Leader of the Opposition commended the good decision to keep services in-house and referred to the funding received from Welsh Government.

Concern was raised regarding the governance structure surrounding MonLife and questions were asked why Council were not provided an opportunity to hold Cabinet members to account. The Cabinet Member for MonLife explained that there is provision in place for monitoring, and scrutiny will take place by Select Committees

Reference was made to leisure centres in Monmouthshire, with investment made in Caldicot and Abergavenny. There was concern that there seemed to be an uneven distribution, given the lack of investment in Chepstow. The Cabinet Member responded that until the recent opening of Monmouth Leisure Centre, Chepstow had been renovated most recently. Studies into potential demand had concluded that Caldicot and Abergavenny are the areas with significant un-tapped potential in terms of increased memberships.

Upon being put to the vote Council resolved to approve the recommendations:

- To approve the Business Plan for MonLife that sets out the strategic direction and the operating model for MonLife.
- To approve an increase in revenue budget of £97,604 in 2020/21, to be accommodated as a pressure within the resultant budget and MTFP process. With pressures subsequently offset by savings in the following four years of the business plan and an overall net saving of £1.165m to be considered to support future investment priorities.
- To establish a £25,000 ring-fenced reactive property maintenance budget, funded from existing property maintenance budgets.
- To approve the principles of the Commercial and Investment Strategy and supporting documents.
- To formally approve the senior leadership structure required to deliver the MonLife business plan, the additional resource implications for which are included within recommendation 2.2 above.

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Councillor R Edwards left at 17:20pm

9.3. Cardiff Capital Region Strategic Development Plan

Council were presented with a report to seek agreement to be part of the Cardiff Capital Region Strategic Development Plan and the associated governance, funding and staffing resource.

Surprise was highlighted around the weighted panel and the effect on the voting process. It was explained that there had been considerable debate at regional cabinet and the weighting will give MCC a good opportunity to have a say in final decisions.

We heard the National Framework Development is in draft form and as it stands would not be in favour of us having a new settlement, and we would want to submit a strong consultation response.

The Head of Place Shaping, Housing and Flood noted concerns of Members and added that a paper will be brought to October Council to agree MCC response to the consultation.

It was explained that the Strategic Development Plan would provide better opportunity to consult on the level of housing than we currently have. We would be part of the decision making process on what level of housing we have for our County.

Current local development plans do not have the ability to recommend and bring forward a new settlement. A joint LDP with another authority would provide the ability of recommending a new settlement. The SDP does have the ability to bring forward new settlements.

Reference was made to the effect on residents in the Brecon Beacons National Park area, and that the whole of Monmouthshire should be included within the SDP.

Upon being put to the vote Council resolved to accept the recommendations:

- 1. That Monmouthshire County Council endorses the content of the report at Appendix 1 and agrees that the Responsible Authority be authorised to submit the Proposal for a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the Cardiff Capital Region to the Minister on behalf of the 10 Local Planning Authorities in the region.**
- 2. That Monmouthshire County Council endorses the Vale of Glamorgan Council as the Responsible Authority for the Cardiff Capital Region Strategic Development Plan (SDP).**
- 3. That Monmouthshire County Council endorses the strategic planning area should comprise the 10 local planning authority areas within the Cardiff Capital Region as shown on the map at Appendix A.**

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4. That Monmouthshire County Council authorises relevant officers to engage with the Welsh Government in drafting the Strategic Development Plan Regulations to deliver the following governance arrangements for the SDP and Strategic Planning Panel (SPP):

- i. That the Strategic Planning Panel (SPP) will be comprised of 10 Members, 1 from each constituent Local Authority with the weighting of votes for each constituent Local Authority being based on its population and geographical area as set out in the table below:

Local Authority	No. of Members on the Strategic Planning Panel	Weighting of Vote for constituent LA
Blaenau Gwent	1	1
Bridgend	1	2
Caerphilly	1	3
Cardiff	1	5
Merthyr Tydfil	1	1
Monmouthshire	1	3
Newport	1	2
Rhondda Cynon Taff	1	3
Torfaen	1	1
Vale of Glamorgan	1	2
Total	10	23
Nominated non-voting panel members	5	NA

- ii. That constituent Councils will be engaged through a prior consultation process as set out in Figure 1 of Appendix 1 and the SPP shall have full regard to the comments of constituent Councils.

- iii. That decisions made on the SDP by the SPP shall require a 70% quorum of voting Members on the Panel and decisions shall require a 70% majority vote of a quorate meeting.

5. That Monmouthshire County Council endorses the setting up of an Interim Strategic Planning Panel prior to the formal establishment of the SPP and the nominated Member below represents Monmouthshire County Council on the Interim Strategic Planning Panel with delegated authority to take initial decisions on the preparation of the SDP (with a vote weighted in accordance with the table at Recommendation 4(i)) and thereafter on the Strategic Planning Panel. Monmouthshire County Council nominates Councillor Bob Greenland, Cabinet Member for Innovation, Enterprise and Leisure, Monmouthshire County Council

That in the event that Councillor Greenland is no longer able to sit on Interim Strategic Planning Panel, give delegated authority to the Leader of the Council to nominate a new Member to represent to Council on the Interim Strategic Planning Panel and Strategic Planning Panel.

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6. That a Regional SDP officer team is established to progress the preparation of the SDP to be appointed by representatives of Interim Strategic Planning Panel, with appropriate human resource support from the Responsible Authority.

7. That the cost of preparing the SDP is shared across the 10 Authorities on a proportional cost based on the voting representation on the Strategic Planning Panel, as set out in Appendix F, to be reviewed on an annual basis. This comprises an initial contribution for 2019/20 from Monmouthshire of £6,520, and an annual contribution by Monmouthshire for the following five years of approximately £81,891 per annum. That Monmouthshire's Medium Term Financial Plan be amended to cover these costs as follows:

2019/20 £6,520 funded by current Planning Policy budget N130

2020/21 c.£81,891 as an addition to the MTFP

2021/22 c.£81,891 as an addition to the MTFP

2022/23 c.£81,891 funded by current Planning Policy budget N130*

2023/24 c.£81,891 funded by current Planning Policy budget N130*

*in-budget funding is possible once work on the replacement LDP is completed

County Councillor S. Jones left at 17:45pm

10. Report of the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal

10.1. Planning Committee Seat Allocation

Council were required to make a decision on the allocation of seats across for the Planning Committee to ensure that quorum is achieved and decisions are legal and effective.

The Leader of the Opposition agreed to nominate County Councillor A. Easson. He expressed frustration at members' lack of attendance, adding that the Labour Group are nominating an extra member out of respect of the Council and the residents of Monmouthshire.

The Leader of the Council agreed with the comments, adding that attendance was an unbalanced situation which should be addressed going forward. The Conservative Group nominated County Councillor S. Woodhouse to the Planning Committee.

A suggestion was made that Democratic Services Committee undertake a review of attendance and constitution of Committees.

Therefore the recommendation was made that:

Council nominates and votes on 2 Councillors to join the Planning Committee to fill the 2 vacant seats. Owing to the need for political balance, no Group may take both seats:

**County Councillor Sheila Woodhouse, Conservative
County Councillor Anthony Easson, Labour.**

11. Notices of Motion

11.1. Submitted by County Councillor A. Easson

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County Councillor A. Davies seconded the motion.

Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Neighbourhood Services provided an update to Council informing Members that Capita are progressing with a B4245 study and studies are currently being undertaken as part of the initial gathering data exercise. This will form the scheme design and associated costs.

Highways will be making a bid in 2020 for funding for design and build of a cycle and walking route through the B4245 linking Rogiet with Undy. In addition the Rockfield Farm development is making a £70k Section 106 contribution towards this route.

The Cabinet Member did not support the motion as it was based on figures from 2012.

Members welcomed the update, and a Ward Member confirmed surveys were in progress.

The Leader explained that even though the motion was not supported, Members were keen for progress to be made, by following a formal process. He acknowledged the road is extremely dangerous and was confident the route will happen as soon as possible.

Councillor Easson welcomed the reassurance that progress is being made and withdrew the motion.

11.2. Submitted by County Councillor D Batrouni

Councillor Batrouni presented his motion which was seconded by Councillor Groucutt.

ABUHB had, last year, published a report on poverty by ward which showed Lansdown Ward had 42% of children living below the poverty level, and the Ward Member hoped the motion would be taken in a bi-partisan action.

The Leader acknowledged the sentiments which was why he had created the Social Justice Portfolio. He read a statement on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Social Justice. The statement highlighted areas of development, including a Tackling Poverty Plan, and suggested an amendment to the motion that:

This Council recognises and supports the ongoing work that is being undertaken to tackle poverty across the County. We would welcome the opportunity for continued collaboration with all partners to address inequality as part of our commitment to Social Justice.

The Chief Executive advised that this amendment negates the motion and required no further debate.

Debate on the original motion ensued.

The Leader stated that should the motion not be carried lobbying Welsh Government for a fairer funding formula would still be welcomed, and the Cabinet Member would also welcome the opportunity to work together.

Upon being put to the vote: 8 votes for, 13 votes against. The motion was defeated.

12. Members Questions

12.1. From County Councillor S. Howarth to County Councillor P. Fox, Leader of

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the Council

Question deferred to next meeting.

12.2. From County Councillor P. Pavia to County Councillor P. Fox, Leader of the Council

Question withdrawn. Written response to be provided.

12.3. From County Councillor P. Pavia to County Councillor P. Jones, Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health

Question withdrawn. Written response to be provided.

12.4. From County Councillor M. Powell to County Councillor J. Pratt, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Neighbourhood Services

The Cabinet Member agreed with comments and referred to an incident at an Abergavenny event caused on the route to Post Office Square. The burger van in question had obtained the correct consent from the Estates Department. Further to Councillors comments, officers from Highways, Licensing and Estates met and it was recognised that the process would be improved to ensure that all traders are consulted on proposed events, and the Event Safety Advisory Group are kept informed to prevent event clashes.

It has been agreed to develop a better, coordinated booking system for all outside events. Officers are happy to receive comments from Ward Members, and Town and Community Councillors.

We are looking to engage in consultation and it was thought to be a good agenda item to be discussed at Licensing Committee with the Chairs agreement. The Cabinet member also suggested that Councillor Dymock agrees to add the matter to the Strong Communities Select Committee Work Programme.

12.5. From County Councillor D. Batrouni to County Councillor P. Jordan, Cabinet Member for Governance and Law

The Cabinet Member for Governance responded that Councillor Pratt has tasked officers in developing an action plan that will identify steps to take in response to the declaration of a climate emergency made by Council in May 2019. Officers are working through a series of options and have been asked to make any recommendations needed to be made to our governance and decision making arrangements, to ensure they are consistent with the direction set in the Chamber. It is too early to provide a full response, but this does not mean the issue is being ignored. Climate Change has been featured in our Corporate Plan and the PSB Wellbeing Plan. The Cabinet Member added this is a policy commitment and would expect to see Select Committee members scrutinising proposals to ensure they are consistent with decisions made in the Chamber.

As a supplementary Councillor Batrouni asked that if all committees will consider all projects that emit huge amounts of carbon with a mind to the climate change emergency motion?

The Cabinet Member confirmed that Select Committees would take those matters into consideration, and could be reported back to Council.

13. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 18th July 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th July were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

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The meeting ended at Time Not Specified