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County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Dydd Llun, 13 Gorffennaf 2020

Notice of meeting

Cyd-Pwyllgor Dethol

Dydd Mawrth, 21ain Gorffennaf, 2020 - 10.00 am
Cyfarfod o Bell

AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Ethol y Cadeirydd	
2.	Apwyntio'r Is-gadeirydd.	
3.	Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb	
4.	Datganiadau o Fuddiant	
5.	Ailagor Canol Trefi (adroddiad i ddilyn).	1 - 4

Paul Matthews

Prif Weithredwr

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillors:

J. Becker
D. Blakebrough
P. Clarke
A. Davies
D. Dovey
L. Dymock
A. Easson
D. Evans
M. Feakins
L. Guppy
R. Harris
P. Pavia
R. Roden
V. Smith
B. Strong
J. Treharne
A. Webb

Public Information

Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

A copy of this agenda and relevant reports can be made available to members of the public attending a meeting by requesting a copy from Democratic Services on 01633 644219. Please note that we must receive 24 hours notice prior to the meeting in order to provide you with a hard copy of this agenda.

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.

Monmouthshire Scrutiny Committee Guide

Role of the Pre-meeting

1. Why is the Committee scrutinising this? (background, key issues)
2. What is the Committee's role and what outcome do Members want to achieve?
3. Is there sufficient information to achieve this? If not, who could provide this?
 - Agree the order of questioning and which Members will lead
 - Agree questions for officers and questions for the Cabinet Member

Questions for the Meeting

Scrutinising Performance

1. How does performance compare with previous years? Is it better/worse? Why?
2. How does performance compare with other councils/other service providers? Is it better/worse? Why?
3. How does performance compare with set targets? Is it better/worse? Why?
4. How were performance targets set? Are they challenging enough/realistic?
5. How do service users/the public/partners view the performance of the service?
6. Have there been any recent audit and inspections? What were the findings?
7. How does the service contribute to the achievement of corporate objectives?
8. Is improvement/decline in performance linked to an increase/reduction in resource? What capacity is there to improve?

Scrutinising Policy

1. Who does the policy affect ~ directly and indirectly? Who will benefit most/least?
2. What is the view of service users/stakeholders? Do they believe it will achieve the desired outcome?
3. What is the view of the community as a whole - the 'taxpayer' perspective?
4. What methods were used to consult with stakeholders? Did the process enable all those with a stake to have their say?
5. What practice and options have been considered in developing/reviewing this policy? What evidence is there to inform what works?
6. Does this policy align to our corporate objectives, as defined in our corporate plan?
7. Have all relevant sustainable development, equalities and safeguarding implications been taken into consideration? For example, what are *the procedures that need to be in place to protect children*?
8. How much will this cost to implement and what funding source has been identified?
9. How will performance of the policy be measured and the impact evaluated.

Questions for the Committee to conclude...

Do we have the necessary information to form conclusions/make recommendations to the executive, council, other partners? If not, do we need to:

- (i) Investigate the issue in more detail?
- (ii) Obtain further information from other witnesses – Executive Member, independent expert, members of the local community, service users, regulatory bodies...
- (iii) Agree further actions to be undertaken within a timescale/future monitoring report...

General Questions....

Empowering Communities

- How are we involving local communities and empowering them to design and deliver services to suit local need?
- Do we have regular discussions with communities about service priorities and what level of service the council can afford to provide in the future?

Service Demands

- How will policy and legislative change affect how the council operates?
- Have we considered the demographics of our council and how this will impact on service delivery and funding in the future?

Financial Planning

- Do we have robust medium and long-term financial plans in place?
- Are we linking budgets to plans and outcomes and reporting effectively on these?

Making savings and generating income

- Do we have the right structures in place to ensure that our efficiency, improvement and transformational approaches are working together to maximise savings?
- How are we maximising income? Have we compared other council's policies to maximise income and fully considered the implications on service users?
- Do we have a workforce plan that takes into account capacity, costs, and skills of the actual versus desired workforce?

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SUBJECT: Re-Opening of Town Centres

**MEETING: Joint Economy and Development and Strong Communities
Select Committees**

DATE: 21st July 2020

DIVISIONS/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The report affords the committees an opportunity to examine the work undertaken to re-open town centres following the easing of lockdown restrictions and to understand the rationale for the decisions that have been taken.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members evaluate the effectiveness of the arrangements in place.
- 2.2 That Members engage in the development of further changes that may be required as arrangements are revised in response to learning and feedback from residents, businesses and visitors.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Since the declaration of COVID-19 as a global health emergency, the nation has experienced changes to our daily lives that are unprecedented in modern times. Prior to the virus, the Council was already considering ways in which it could reduce carbon emissions to make visits to town centres a much more pleasurable experience for pedestrians and cyclists alike, creating environments where the car is no longer paramount and enabling town centres to become much safer and friendlier destinations. This approach is advocated by the latest Welsh Government transport and land use planning guidance.
- 3.2 On 27th May Cabinet received a report on 'Unlocking our Town Centres.' This included reference to a bid to Welsh Government for funding for low cost, high impact, experimental measures to be introduced into town centres. Measures suggested by Welsh Government included: footway widening by using carriageway width; road closures with modal filters for cyclists; temporary parking removal or restrictions; decluttering of footways e.g. by consolidating signs. The measures have focused on nine settlements: Abergavenny, Caldicot, Chepstow, Gilwern, Magor, Monmouth, Raglan, Tintern and Usk. Each High Street has required a different response.
- 3.3 The Council undertook public engagement to seek views of residents and businesses and this engagement was used to help shape proposals, which included the closure of roads in town centres in order to widen pavements and allow for social distancing and queuing outside shops. Guidance for businesses has been developed alongside

posters and a campaign encouraging people to shop locally. On 19th June the First Minister Confirmed that non-essential retail would be able to re-open on Monday 22nd June. Subsequent decisions have lifted the 5 mile travel restriction from 6th July, allowed self-catering accommodation to open on 11th July, and allowed food and drink to be served outdoors only and hairdressers to open from 13th July.

- 3.4 This joint Select Committee is meeting four weeks after the re-opening of town centres. Committee will receive a presentation from officers on progress that has been made, the response to the changes and learning that needs to be considered to enable on-going improvements to be made to ensure that our local businesses are supported and that our town and village centres are safe places for businesses, residents and visitors.

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

- 4.1 All decisions have been undertaken following the completion of a Future Generations Evaluation. These have continued to be revised and re-iterated in response to feedback and as more evidence becomes available. One example is the potential negative impact on people with certain physical disabilities from the re-location of on-street disabled parking bays. On-going dialogue has resulted on parking arrangements being revised to mitigate, as far as possible the negative impacts, while recognising that we continue to operate within a global health emergency.
- 4.2 The virus has resulted in a growing recognition of the need to build climate change into a green recovery. While recognising the adverse impact on many aspects of our lives the benefits include improved air quality due to reduction in driving and increased support for local shops which can be capitalised on as part of the transition towards the next phase of the council's response.

5. REASONS:

- 5.1 To ensure that Members understand the rationale for the decisions that have been taken regarding the re-opening of town centres and inform any future changes that may be needed learning from the experience of the early weeks.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 The project has been delivered by colleagues from Highways, Operations, Economic Development, MonLife, and Communications with support from the Digital Team. £438,500 Welsh Government grant for sustainable transport measures in response to COVID-19 has been awarded which will fund many of the measures. Some aspects might be funded by bids to the COVID-19 emergency fund. Others, such as the car parking proposals, will be funded by MCC existing budgets.

7. CONSULTATION;

- 7.1 An engagement exercise was carried out ahead of the re-opening of non-essential retail to get ideas about the most effective ways to enable town centres to operate with safe social distancing arrangements. Nearly 1500 responses were received and these helped inform the proposals that were developed. These proposals were then shared as part of a series of engagement meetings held with County Councillors, Town/Community Council representatives and representatives of the business community.
- 7.2 There have been particular concerns about the impact on people with disabilities. The chairs of the two Select Committees have met with representatives of Monmouthshire Disability Advice Project to understand in more detail any potential negative impacts of people with protected characteristics.

8. AUTHOR:

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