

# Public Document Pack



County Hall  
Rhadyr  
Usk  
NP15 1GA

Wednesday, 30 June 2021

## Notice of meeting

### Children and Young People Select Committee

Thursday, 8th July, 2021 at 10.00 am  
County Hall, Usk with Remote Attendance

*Please note that a pre meeting will be held 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting for members of the committee.*

## AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for Absence.	
2.	Declarations of Interest.	
3.	Public Open Forum.  <b>Select Committee Public Open Forum ~ Guidance</b>  Our Select Committee meetings are live streamed and a link to the live stream will be available on the meeting page of the Monmouthshire County Council <a href="#">website</a>  If you would like to share your thoughts on any proposals being discussed by Select Committees, you can submit your representation <a href="#">via this form</a>  Please share your views by uploading a video or audio file (maximum of 4 minutes) or; Please submit a written representation (via Microsoft Word, maximum of 500 words)  You will need to register for a <a href="#">My Monmouthshire account</a> in order to submit the representation or use your log in, if you have registered previously.  The deadline for submitting representations to the Council is 5pm three clear working days in advance of the meeting.  If representations received exceed 30 minutes, a selection of these based on theme will be shared at the Select Committee meeting. All representations	

received will be made available to councillors prior to the meeting.

If you would like to suggest future topics for scrutiny by one of our Select Committees, please do so by emailing [Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

- |           |  |         |
|-----------|--|---------|
| <b>4.</b> | <b>Presentation regarding Emerging Themes from the Public Consultation held on the new School in Abergavenny.</b>  |         |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>Children and Young People Select Committee Forward Work Programme.</b>  | 1 - 2   |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>Council and Cabinet Work Planner.</b>   | 3 - 12  |
| <b>7.</b> | <b>To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting.</b>   | 13 - 18 |
| <b>8.</b> | <b>Next Meetings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Special Meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 10.00am.</li><li>• Ordinary Meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 10.00am.</li></ul> |         |

**Paul Matthews**

**Chief Executive**

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Louise Brown	Shirenewton;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Christopher Edwards	St. Kingsmark;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Martyn Groucutt	Lansdown;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Dave Jones	Crucorney;	Independent Group
County Councillor Malcolm Lane	Mardy;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Maureen Powell	Castle;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Tudor Thomas	Priory;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jo Watkins	Caldicot Castle;	Liberal Democrats

**Added Members**

**Members voting on Education Issues Only**

Vacant Seat (Roman Catholic Church)  
Vacant Seat (Co-optee)  
Elizabeth Thomas

**Added Members**

**Non Voting**

Fay Middleton (Trade Union)  
Maggie Harris  
Peter Strong NEU

**Public Information**

**Access to paper copies of agendas and reports**

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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](http://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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## Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2021-22

Children and Young People's Select Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
8 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	<b>New School in Abergavenny</b>	Discuss the emerging themes following the close of the consultation on 22 <sup>nd</sup> June.	Will McLean	Policy Development
26 <sup>th</sup> July 2021 Special Meeting	<b>Budget Monitoring</b>	Scrutiny of the Revenue and Capital Outturn reports for 2020-2021	Jon Davies	Budget Monitoring
	<b>Performance Reporting</b>	Report on the performance against the 5 goals	Richard Jones Julie Boothroyd	Performance Monitoring
9 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	<b>Free School Meal Strategy</b>	To present the draft Free School Meals Strategy for pre-decision scrutiny following engagement in February.	EAS Will McLean Sharon Randall Smith	Policy Development
	<b>Return to School Update</b>	Brief update on return to school and pandemic implications.	Will Mclean	Performance Monitoring
14 <sup>th</sup> October 2021				
2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2021				
20 <sup>th</sup> January 2022				
3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2022				
7 <sup>th</sup> April 2022				

### Future Work Programme Items:

#### Schools items:

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

## ***Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2021-22***

### **Non-education issues:**

- **Domestic violence update** ~ impact on children in Monmouthshire
- **Support for Foster Carers** ~ Edge of Care Team and BASE. Bringing in Foster Carers
- **Young Carers**
- **Healthy Relationships** ~ **working group to be established with Engage 2 Change**
- **Childcare sufficiency** – annual update
- **Well-being reporting (obesity, eating disorders etc)**
- **Family Support Services** ~ **Young People's Mental Health Support in Schools:** Chair to liaise with Chief Officer
- **Play provision**

### **Suggestions from the Chief Officer:**

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

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

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

Committee / Decision Maker	Meeting date / Decision due	Subject	Purpose	Author	Date item added to the planner	Date item originally scheduled for decision
Council	04/11//2021	Final Statement of Accounts		Peter Davies	07/05/21	
Council	01/10/23	RLDP for Adoption		Mark Hand	23/01/20	
Council	01/02/23	LDP submission for examination		Mark Hand	23/01/20	
Council	01/07/22	RLDP Deposit Plan endorsement for consultation	Endorsement of Deposit Plan	Mark Hand	23/01/20	
Cabinet	06/04/22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 9 held on 10th March 2022		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	
Council	10/03/22	2022/23 Treasury Policy		Jon Davies	07/05/21	
Council	10/03/22	2022/23 Final Budget sign off including Council Tax Resolution		Peter Davies	07/05/21	
Cabinet	02/03/22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 8 held on 27th January 2022		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	

Cabinet	02/03/22	2022/23 WCF/Treasury Fund Investments		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	
Cabinet	16/02/22	2022/23 Final Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals		Peter Davies	27/04/21	
Cabinet	16/02/22	2021/2 Revenue and Capital Monitoring report - month 9		Jon Davies	27/04/21	
Council	27/01/22	Council Tax Reduction Scheme		Ruth Donovan	07/05/21	
IMCD	12/01/22	2022/23 Community Council and Police Precepts - final		Jon Davies	07/05/21	
Cabinet	05/01/22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 7 held on 16th December 2021		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	
Cabinet	05/01/22	2021/2 Revenue and Capital Monitoring report - month 7		Peter Davies/Jon Davies	27/04/21	
IMCD	18/12/21	2022/23 Community Council and Police Precepts draft		Jon Davies	07/05/21	
Cabinet	15/12/21	2022/23 Draft Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals		Peter Davies	27/04/21	
IMCD	08/12/21	Council Tax Base and associated matters		Ruth Donovan	07/05/21	

Cabinet	01/12/21	Consultation on the proposals to establish an all-through school, Abergavenny.	Cabinet to receive objection report and decide whether to proceed with the proposal.	Debbie Graves	26/05/21	
Cabinet	01/12/21	Review of Monmouthshire's Destination Management Plan 2017-2020	Purpose: to approve the revised Destination Development Plan	Matthew Lewis	22/09/20	
Cabinet	01/12/21	Welsh Church Fund Working group - meeting 6 held on 4th November 2021		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	
ICMD	24/11/21	SPG S106 Supplementary Planning Guidance	Adoption of SPG clarifying how S106 contributions are calculated following consultation	Mark Hand / Phillip Thomas	26/04/21	
Council	04/11/21	Climate and Decarbonisation Strategy	To endorse an updated climate strategy and action plan which will introduce new programmes of activity to achieve the council's clear policy commitment to reduce carbon emissions.	Matthew Gatehouse / Hazel Clatworthy	19/05/21	
Council	04/11/21	RLDP Preferred Strategy endorsement post consultation	Endorsement of preferred strategy to inform deposit plan	Mark Hand / Craig O'Connor	20/05/20	
Council	04/11/21	ISA260 - MCC Accounts				
Cabinet	03/11/21	2021/22 Revenue and Capital Monitoring report - month 5		Peter Davies/Jon Davies	27/04/21	
ICMD	27/10/21	Museum object disposal		Rachael Rogers	09/06/21	
ICMD	13/10/21	LDP Annual Monitoring Report and Development Management Annual Performance Report	Endorsements of reports for submission to WG	Mark Hand / Craig O'Connor	26/04/21	

Cabinet	06/10/21	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 5 held on 23rd September 2021		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	
Cabinet	06/10/21	Revenue and Capital MTFP update and process		Peter Davies	27/04/21	
Cabinet	06/10/21	Active Travel Network Maps		Paul Sullivan	13/11/20	
Council	23/09/21	Capital Strategy		Jon Davies	20/05/21	
Council	23/09/21	Review of Reserves and revised reserves & Capital receipts		Jon Davies	20/05/21	
Cabinet	01/09/21	Consultation on the proposals to establish an all-through school, Abergavenny.	Cabinet to receive the consultation report and consider recommendations on proposed way forward / whether to publish statutory notices.	Debbie Graves	26/05/21	
Cabinet	01/09/21	Welsh Church Fund Working group - meeting 4 held on 22nd July 2021		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	
Cabinet	01/09/21	LDP Preferred Strategy endorsement post consultation		Mark Hand	20/05/20	
Cabinet	01/09/21	Gilwern Site Developments		Marie Bartlett	23/05/21	
ICMD	18/08/21	SPG S106 Supplementary Planning Guidance		Matk Hand / Phillip Thomas	01/05/21	23/06/21

Cabinet	28/07/21	Placemaking Charter	Council signs up to the Placemaking Charter	Mark Hand / Craig O'Connor	28/04/21	
Cabinet	28/07/21	2021/22 Revenue and Capital Monitoring report		Peter Davies/Jon Davies	27/04/21	
Cabinet	28/07/21	Abergavenny CRC (Racecourse Farm)	CM	Mike Moran	14/10/20	
Council	22/07/21	Audit Committee Annual Report		Phillip White	29/06/21	
Council	22/07/21	investments in Leisure Centres		Marie Bartlett / Ian Saunders		
ICMD	14/07/21	Museum object Disposal		Rachael Rogers/Lisa Dymock	19/05/21	
Cabinet	07/07/21	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 3 held on 24th June 2021		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	
Cabinet	07/07/21	Capital Slippage		Jon Davies	11/06/22	
Cabinet	07/07/21	•Mutual Delegation of Strategic Procurement Services		Cath Fallon		
Council	24/06/21	Chief Officer's Report		Will Mclean	19/05/21	

Council	24/06/21	Shire Hall / Monmouth Museum		Matthew Lewis	24/05/21	
Council	24/06/21	LDP Preferred Strategy endorsement for consultation		Mark Hand	21/09/20	
Cabinet	09/06/21	2020/21 Revenue and Capital Monitoring outturn	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the forecast outturn position of the Authority at end of month reporting for 2020/21 financial year	Peter Davies/Jon Davies	27/04/21	
Cabinet	09/06/21	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 1 held on 15th April 2021 and meeting 2 held on 13th May 2021		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	
Cabinet	09/06/21	Digital and Data	To seek approval for the creation of a new Digital Design and Innovation Team, to strengthen our information governance arrangements and to broaden the remit of the existing performance team to include data analytics'.	Emma Jackson	13/05/21	
Cabinet	09/06/21	Shire Hall / Monmouth Museum – to consider the outcome of the feasibility study		Matthew Lewis/Ian Saunders	05/02/21	
Council	13/05/21	Outside Bodies		John Pearson		
Council	13/05/21	Appointment to Committees		John Pearson		
Council	13/05/21	Political Balance		Matt Phillips		
Council	13/05/21	Freedom of the Borough		Joe Skidmore	22/04/21	



Council	13/05/21	Climate and Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan		Hazel Clatworthy	14/04/21	
ICMD	12/05/21	A Nation of Sanctuary - Asylum Dispersal Scheme - <b>Moved to Cabinet</b>	To provide Council with an progress update on the Climate and Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan which was developed following the passing of a motion to declare a climate emergency.	Matt Gatehouse	19/04/21	
ICMD	12/05/21	Play Action Plan	Cabinet Member Richard John Report originally on Cabi	hew Lewis/Mike Moran/Ian Saun	16/03/21	
Cabinet	14/04/21	Leisure Centre Investments		Marie Bartlett	22/03/21	
Cabinet	14/04/21	Statutory Consultation to establish 4-19 school in Abergavenny		Cath Saunders	03/03/21	
Cabinet	14/04/21	Welsh Church Fund Working Group meeting	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2020/21 - meeting 6 held on 11th March 2021	Dave Jarrett	02/04/20	
Cabinet	14/04/21	Whole Authority Strategic Risk Assessment		Richard Jones	02/03/21	
ICMD	07/04/21	Strategic Procurement		Cath Fallon/P Murphy	09/03/21	
ICMD	24/03/21	SPG S106 Supplementary Planning Guidance	To Clarify how S106 contributions are calculated/ <b>deferred from 13/1/21 and 24/02/21</b> <b>deferred UFN</b>	Phil Thomas/Mark Hand	01/05/19	
Council	11/03/21	Appointments to outside bodies	To appoint a representative to the Wye Navigation Advisory Committee	Matt Gatehouse	08/02/21	

Council	11/03/21	Council Tax Resolution Report		Ruth Donovan	02/04/20	
Council	11/03/21	Treasury Strategy report		Jon Davies	15/12/20	
Council	11/03/21	Constitution Review		Matt Phillips	14/08/19	
Council	11/03/21	The Annual Pay Policy		Sally Thomas	11/02/21	
ICMD	10/03/21	disposal of land for consideration	Awaiting notification re inclusion DEFERRED UFN	by Cllr Murphy/ Ben Thorpe	09/02/21	
ICMD	10/03/21	Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2021-26		Matthew Lewis/Richard John	10/02/21	
Cabinet	03/03/21	•EAS Business Plan		Sharon Randall Smith	21/09/20	
Cabinet	03/03/21	Final revenue and capital budget proposals		Peter Davies	21/09/20	
Cabinet	03/03/21	Social Justice Strategy Update		Cath Fallon	17/09/20	
Cabinet	03/02/21	Welsh Church Fund Working Group meeting	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2020/21 - meeting 5 held on 14th January 2021	Dave Jarrett	02/04/20	

Cabinet	03/02/21	Apprenticeship Pay Rates		Gareth James	08/01/21	
Cabinet	03/02/21	Outdoor Adventure Provision at Gilwern		Marie Bartlett	30/11/20	30/11/20
Cabinet	03/02/21	Proposed Disposal of MCC Cottages		Nicola Howells	15/12/20	
ICMD	27/01/21	Approval on Local Government (Wales) Act 1994 - The Local Authorities (Precepts) (Wales) Regulations 1995	Deferred from 13/1 to 27/1	Jon Davies		
Cabinet	20/01/21	•Draft revenue and capital budget proposals for consultation		Peter Davies	21/09/20	
Cabinet	20/01/21	Chippenham Mead Play Area, Monmouth		Mike Moran	15/12/20	
Cabinet	20/01/21	Play Area Assessments and Future Play Area Policy	to advise members of play area assessments carried out last year and suggest a rationalisation of provision	Matthew Lewis	22/09/20	
Cabinet	20/01/21	BUS EMERGENCY SCHEME (BES) – REQUEST TO ALL COUNCILS TO SIGN UP TO THE BES2 SCHEME		Roger Hoggins	24/12/20	
Council	14/01/21	Council Diary 2021/22		Nicola Perry		
Council	14/01/21	Council Tax Reduction Scheme		Ruth Donovan	07/04/20	

Council	14/01/21	Annual Safeguarding Report		Jane Rodgers	21/09/20	
ICMD	13/01/21	Minerals Regional Technical Statement Second Revision (RTS2)		Rachel Lewis	17/12/20	
ICMD	13/01/21	Museum Service Collection Review	To propose the deaccessioning of and disposal actions for the proposed items in line with Section 4 of the Museums Association Disposal Toolkit	Matthew Lewis/Rachael Rogers	22/09/20	
ICMD	13/01/21	Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards in the Private Rented Sector		Gareth Walters	15/12/21	
ICMD	13/01/21	Staffing Changes: Business Support	To seek approval for the voluntary redundancy of the Chief Executive's Personal Assistant, reducing the cost of administrative support arrangements for the senior management team and contribute to budget savings during the 2021-22 financial year./Paul Jordan	Matt Gatehouse	15/12/21	
Cabinet	06/01/21	Budget Monitoring Report - month 7 (period 2)	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the forecast outturn position of the Authority at end of month reporting for 2020/21 financial year.	Peter Davies/Jon Davies	02/04/20	
Cabinet	06/01/21	RIPA Policy		Matt Phillips	21/10/20	
Cabinet	06/01/21	Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2020		Mark Hand	23/06/20	

## Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

Meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at Remote Meeting on Thursday, 27th May, 2021 at 10.00 am

### Councillors Present

County Councillor T.Thomas (Chairman)  
County Councillor (Vice Chairman)  
  
County Councillors: L.Brown, C.Edwards,  
M.Groucutt, M.Lane, M. Powell and J.Watkins

### Officers in Attendance

Will McLean, Chief Officer for Children and Young People  
Sharon Randall-Smith, Head of Achievement and Attainment  
Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager  
Robert McGowan, Policy and Scrutiny Officer

**APOLOGIES:** None

**1. To note the appointment of County Councillor T. Thomas as Chair.**

**2. To appoint a Vice-Chair.**

Councillor Brown was proposed by Councillor Powell, seconded by Councillor Lane.

**3. Declarations of Interest.**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Public Open Forum.**

No members of the public were present.

**5. Presentation regarding the New Curriculum for Wales - Discussion with the Education Achievement Service.**

James Kent (Assistant Director: Professional Learning) delivered the presentation and answered the members' questions, with Darren Jones (Principal Challenge Adviser) and Sharon Randall-Smith.

**Challenge:**

*From September last year, schools were meant to have a full year of preparation for the new curriculum. Where are Monmouthshire schools now in relation to the preparatory steps?*

We've spoken to a number of schools over that last 5-6 months, regarding distanced and blended learning. There's a continuum, in terms of preparedness: some schools are in a strong position because they had done a lot of work before the pandemic and some will require additional support as we move forward. We are currently talking to Estyn and Welsh Government about the 'Journey to 2022' document because we want to ensure that schools aren't rushing – it's important that this be done properly. We know that curriculum design

development takes years to get right, and we don't want there to be unintended consequences of not getting that engagement right. How that is framed is important, and making sure that schools feel supported. It is important that every member of staff has that opportunity for engagement, understands the key aspects of the curriculum framework, and has time to trial and develop.

There are two aspects. Every school was in a slightly different place before the pandemic, and each has developed according to individual circumstances. Some schools have been significantly affected by Covid, with bubbles of pupils away for significant periods, while others haven't. There have been many positives during this time as well. The way that virtual learning is now delivered, through virtual provision, has enabled more schools and practitioners to take part in the engagement sessions. Also, the fact that sessions are now recorded means that professional learning can be accessed at a time that is convenient, and watched several times, if that is helpful. Over this time, there has been a big focus in schools on pedagogy, leading to more collaboration in schools, networking, etc. The pandemic has affected the timeline for some schools, of course, but there has been a development of new skills and understanding in this time too. For those schools that have been unable to move forward at a fast pace, there will be bespoke support and the framework around them to continue the progression at their own pace. It takes time to build and embed a curriculum for our children.

Schools will have support from their school improvement partner or their school-to-school link. We have provided school development planning guidance to help with strategic planning over the next year. There is a national professional learning programme for senior leaders, headteachers and middle leaders that we have made available live and asynchronously. We will have professional learning support available for HLTAs and TAs. We have a secondary curriculum design network to support our deputy heads, and area learning and subject networks that are looking at planning within and across areas of learning. Moreover, if schools require bespoke support we will provide that as well.

*It's important that when the new curriculum comes in, schools are allowed the time to embed it. Would you agree that this challenge will be more difficult for secondary schools, and that in a cross-curricular approach, there are pitfalls that need to be avoided?*

It is going to be challenging for secondary schools. One of the anxieties for them is always what the qualifications will look like. This curriculum doesn't dictate the model that schools use to deliver their curriculum. We want specialists to teach in their specialisms but there are approaches that schools can take. Arts subjects, for example, are highly specialised but there might be a common theme or common set of processes. It almost becomes a multi-disciplinary approach as links and connections are made, but teachers are still teaching within their specialism. We need to think about curriculum design before timetabling, but that's challenging because of the number of hours that need to be allocated for GCSE and Key Stage 3, etc. Departments need time to think about how things will work, and to trial different approaches, evaluate them, and get pupil feedback. Looking at cross-curricular themes like climate change, for example, it's hard to see how a rounded understanding of it can be achieved without involving science, wellbeing, and other aspects.

With the increased challenge will come increased support. It's also a case of knowing the schools well, in order to know whether that support will fit them. It will be helpful moving forward to have the reduction in high stakes accountability to which schools have previously been

subject. It gives schools a bit more flexibility to experiment. Though the new curriculum will be a challenge for secondary schools, it is also an exciting opportunity. When schools presented to members about blended learning they noted that they looked at the range of skills and cross-curricular themes. In delivering blended learning to students, staff have had to be in contact with other departments to maximise the offer.

*Can you further explain the flexibility of the curriculum and the timescale in which to deliver it?*

Over the summer, Welsh Government will ask schools about preparedness, to support any decision about the curriculum. Our understanding at present is that the curriculum will proceed from September 2022, but we would reassure that members that Estyn and EAS are listening and feeding back to Welsh Government about schools' concerns and needs regarding timescales and expectations. We know that there needs to be flexibility because we have to get this right. Curriculum design and implementation is an iterative process, taking years to get right.

*Can we ensure that every subject has the same wealth of resources?*

Absolutely, there will be support across all areas of learning and experience, and disciplinary areas that feed those areas of learning. There has to be, in order to support our teachers to do the best job that they can. There will be plenty of networking opportunities to share practice, that we will facilitate, so schools can see other models in practice and work with practitioners. As part of the planning, schools will audit subject areas as part of that designing of the curriculum, and look at the coverage of skills and 'what matters' statements. As schools go through their trialling of the curriculum, they will review and audit those. Neither subjects nor skills will be lost – they will be taught in a more exciting and multi-disciplinary way.

*If schools are self-assessing, will there still be standard tests relating to literacy and numeracy?*

Unless the minister decides otherwise, our understanding is that we will continue with those international tests. In fact, our performance in those is why the curriculum reforms were introduced in the first place.

*How are we actually going to assess where schools are in the process?*

Assessment will continue, with emphasis on the formative development. Any inference we make about progress is either summative or formative, the former being a perhaps reflection on progress across an entire period of work. That information is for the school, to feed into its self-evaluation. We will still have to make those inferences in our teaching and capture that information, so that we know where the learners are. That information will still exist in the system but we won't look at it at a local authority or regional level. One of the key reasons for that is that it hasn't always been helpful when it comes to the conversation around learning and supporting learners in their progress – the focus has been too much on the numbers. There will be a period of review and self-evaluation for schools for a number of years after September 2022. From EAS' perspective, there will be professional learning, the development of case studies and sharing of practice; schools will undertake these themselves too. Collaboration will increase significantly. Working in hubs during the pandemic brought schools closer together, sharing resources to reduce the workload, etc. Within the schools themselves, the self-evaluation process will be vital.

From the local authority's perspective, we meet with schools regularly to look at their progress. The focus in the last few years has been on the self-evaluations and school development plan. We will have the opportunity to understand how schools are progressing in relation to those

priorities, what the challenges are, and how we can help them, but also to celebrate the progress that they have made, and view it in the context of other schools.

*Consultation is ongoing for the opening of a new all-through school, starting from age 4, with a private contractor providing for the 3 year olds on the site. But the rationale brought to this committee and to full council was for a 3-19 school. When was that age range in the consultation changed, and who was consulted when the 3-19 became a 4-19?*

The document is under consultation; therefore, what has been shared is the document for the local authority to consult on. Across the site, there is provision for 3-19 and therefore, within that, whatever the model is when the decision is made, we will still make sure that there is provision from 3 to 19 on that site. How the element for 3-4 year olds is delivered will be determined as a result of the consultation but it won't change provision from 3-19 on that site.

*Can we ensure that this will be covered the next time this committee meets?*

We can't pre-empt what will happen in the consultation – we will have to wait to see how people respond. By the July meeting of CYP, we will have hard evidence of what people think about the new school proposal.

*Can you confirm that when you spoke to the governing bodies at Deri View and King Henry VIII about the new provision, the inference was that the current staff in Deri View who provide the nursery education would continue to do so, and what would happen to them .if they lose that nursery provision within the school curriculum?*

We weren't in attendance at that meeting so can't say what the inference was. We can say that on the site there will be 3-19 provision. We will know what the feedback to the consultation is by the time of the CYP meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> July, and committee members will have the opportunity to make their feelings known, which can then be fed back into the consultation.

*Could the claim that Welsh history isn't compulsory be clarified?*

As part of the bill achieving its passage through the Senedd, there was a requirement to strengthen the position of Welsh history in the curriculum. So that will now come through more strongly within the statements of what matters, which will be a mandatory part of the framework. The group responsible will work on the detail through the summer term.

*What does a bigger Welsh GCSE mean?*

It was a proposal, which has gone out for consultation, to strengthen the Welsh GCSE by having a 1.5 equivalent GCSE, whereas currently it's 1 GCSE equivalent. We'll see what the feedback is on the consultation, at which point Qualifications Wales will need to respond.

*Will a 1.5 GCSE squeeze out something else?*

Other GCSEs are adapting too i.e. Maths and English also potentially becoming 1.5, rather than 2 as they are currently, so we will need to look at the entire consultation in that light.

*What does the Skills Challenge Certificate involve, and what type of qualification is it?*

This is the current Welsh Baccalaureate, which will be reformed. It has 4 elements: an individual project, Enterprise Challenge, Community Challenge and a Global Citizenship aspect. It's a level 2 qualification now, equivalent to a GCSE, and there's a level 3 pathway at A level too. There are also going to be additional skills qualifications in other areas but the detail on that isn't clear yet.

*Is there a chance of it including things like training in how to write CVs?*



Within the curriculum framework there is scope for schools to do that, but there is generally less that is prescribed in this curriculum, in order to give that flexibility. There will be an element of choice for schools.

*In the terms of the Wellbeing Act, how much resource will be available for the pastoral care of those pupils who might need support?*

There will certainly be a continuation of funding from Welsh Government through the Accelerated Learning Plan funding and Pupil Deprivation Grant funding that will go on to support programmes of intervention for pupils. Across Monmouthshire, there has also been a significant amount of professional learning, and schools now have practitioners who are better able to support pupils. A number of schools have increased practitioners in ELSA support and Thrive support, so for those pupils who require that support, there are more practitioners on the ground to provide it. Under the new curriculum, the health and wellbeing area of learning puts it at the heart of school life. Schools have never been so aware of wellbeing – for the staff as well as pupils.

**Chair's Summary:**

Thank you to officers for their hard work. This curriculum is a sea change for staff and pupils, but there is also a huge job to do in terms of involving the parents. Teachers have adapted so well during Covid, with regard to blended learning etc. We will call on EAS to come back, as the curriculum progresses. Councillor Brown requested that a link to the current consultations be made available.

**6. Children and Young People Select Committee Forward Work Plan.**

The next meeting will cover the new school in Abergavenny. Councillor Edwards proposed putting 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools back on the agenda for a meeting later in the year. He also reminded the committee that the Chief Officer offered in the previous meeting, to give an update to the committee on his schools visits. Mr McLean confirmed that these are ongoing and he could be available at the next meeting (8<sup>th</sup> July), if the committee wishes.

**7. Council and Cabinet Work Planner.**

**8. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting.**

The minutes were confirmed and signed as an accurate record (proposed by Councillor Groucott and seconded by Councillor Powell).

**9. Next Meeting: Thursday 8th July 2021 at 10.00am.**

The meeting ended at **11.50 am**

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