

# Public Document Pack



County Hall  
Rhadyr  
Usk  
NP15 1GA

Wednesday, 13 July 2022

## Notice of meeting

# County Council

**Thursday, 21st July, 2022 at 2.00 pm,  
Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA**

## AGENDA

*Prayers will be said prior to the Council meeting at 1.45pm. All members are welcome to join the Chair for prayers should they wish to do.*

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd June 2022	1 - 8
3.	Declarations of interest	
4.	Public Questions	
5.	Chair's Announcement	9 - 10
6.	Cabinet Member Announcements	
6.1.	County Councillor Catherine Fookes, Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement - Tackling inequality and poverty	
6.2.	County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment - Addressing the climate and nature emergency	
7.	Timing of Council Meetings	11 - 14
8.	Motions for Council	
8.1.	Submitted by County Councillor Jill Bond Cost of Living Crisis Motion	

Our residents are facing a cost-of-living emergency. According to the Office for National Statistics, 88% of adults in the Great Britain reported an increase in their cost of living in May 2022, due to a range of factors including rising inflation, increases in energy prices and government tax rises. The average Welsh household will be at least £600 worse off this year according to Cardiff University's Wales Governance centre report.

The cost of living has been increasing across the UK since early 2021. In April 2022, inflation reached its highest recorded level, and the ONS estimates that it is now higher than at any time since around 1982, affecting the affordability of goods and services for households.

**Council notes:**

That the Cost-of-Living emergency is a key issue for us as Monmouthshire County Council, against a backdrop of financial factors at national and international level, such as the war in Ukraine

The need for us as a local authority to ensure our residents are supported during these increasingly difficult times, particularly as we head into the autumn and winter

The disproportionate impact of the crisis on low-income households, which will spend a larger proportion of their income than average on energy and food and will therefore be more affected by price increases, resulting in reduced disposable income.

The work we are currently undertaking as a council across all departments to support our most vulnerable residents, including:

- The £150 payments to those residents living in Council tax bands A to D
- The Discretionary payments of £150 to the most vulnerable in our communities
- Supporting charities such as Citizens Advice and MIND who help some of the most vulnerable in our society
- Signposting residents to where they can get help via our information campaigns

**Council Resolves that:**

We commit ourselves as a Council to working with our families and our communities, with the Welsh Government and the UK Government to provide practical support to those that need it most

We ensure that we continue to take a coordinated approach towards addressing the cost-of-living emergency

**8.2. Submitted by County Councillor Richard John**

This council:

Opposes any proposals from the Welsh Ambulance Services Trust to downgrade the ambulance stations in Monmouth and Chepstow by removing the Rapid Response Vehicles.

Calls on WAST executives to attend the appropriate select committee for pre-decision scrutiny of their national roster review proposals prior to Welsh Government approval and implementation.

**9. Member Questions**

<b>9.1.</b>	<b>From County Councillor Fay Bromfield to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment</b>  Will the Cabinet Member provide an update on steps to tackle speeding in Llantrisant?	
<b>9.2.</b>	<b>From County Councillor Richard John to County Councillor Rachel Garrick, Cabinet Member for Resources</b>  What assessment has the administration made regarding the impact of the Welsh Government's planned council tax revaluation on Monmouthshire residents?	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Date of next meeting - 22nd September 2022</b>	

**Paul Matthews**

**Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr**

**MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY**

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:**

County Councillor Laura Wright	Grofield;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Tony Kear	Llanbadoc & Usk;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Catrin Maby	Drybridge;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jan Butler	Goetre Fawr;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Ian Chandler	Llantilio Crossenny;	Green Party
County Councillor Sara Burch	Cantref;	Labour and Co-Operative Party
County Councillor Alistair Neill	Gobion Fawr;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Su McConnel	Croesonen;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Mary Ann Brocklesby	Llanelly Hill;	Labour and Co-Operative Party
County Councillor Fay Bromfield	Llangybi Fawr;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Jane Lucas	Osbaston;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Emma Bryn	Wyesham;	Independent Group
County Councillor Peter Strong	Rogiet;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Meirion Howells	Llanbadoc & Usk;	Independent Group
County Councillor Paul Griffiths	Chepstow Castle & Larkfield;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jackie Strong	Caldicot Cross;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Rachel Catherine Garrick	Caldicot Castle;	Labour and Co-Operative Party
County Councillor Maria Stevens	Severn;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Steven Garratt	Overmonnow;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Angela Sandles	Magor East with Undy;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Ben Callard	Llanfoist & Govilon;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor John Crook	Magor East with Undy;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Tomos Dafydd Davies	Llanfoist & Govilon;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Dale Rooke	Chepstow Castle & Larkfield;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Catherine Fookes	Town;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Sue Riley	Bulwark and Thornwell;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jayne McKenna	Mitchel Troy and Trellech United;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Jill Bond	West End;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Louise Brown	Shirenewton;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Lisa Dymock	Portskewett;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Tony Easson	Dewstow;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Christopher Edwards	St. Kingsmark;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Robert Greenland	Devauden;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Martyn Groucutt	Lansdown;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Simon Howarth	Llanelly Hill;	Independent Group
County Councillor Richard John	Mitchel Troy and Trellech United;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor David Jones	Crucorney;	Independent Group
County Councillor Penny Jones	Raglan;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Malcolm Lane	Mardy;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Phil Murphy	Caerwent;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Paul Pavia	Mount Pleasant;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Maureen Powell	Pen Y Fal;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Frances Taylor	Magor West;	Independent Group
County Councillor Tudor Thomas	Park;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru

County Councillor Armand Watts  
County Councillor Ann Webb

Bulwark and Thornwell;  
St Arvans;

Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru  
Welsh Conservative Party

## 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](http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk) or by visiting our Youtube page by searching MonmouthshireCC.

### Welsh Language

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu cyfraniadau gan aelodau'r cyhoedd trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg. Gofynnwn yn barchus i chi roi rhybudd digonol i ni er mwyn darparu ar gyfer eich anghenion. 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.

**Kindness:** We will show kindness to all those we work with putting the importance of relationships and the connections we have with one another at the heart of all interactions.



This page is intentionally left blank



# Public Document Pack Agenda Item 2

## MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of County Council held  
at Council Chamber - Council Chamber on Thursday, 23rd June, 2022 at 2.00 pm**

**PRESENT:** County Councillor Laura Wright (Chair)  
County Councillor Ann Webb (Vice Chair)

County Councillors: Tony Kear, Catrin Maby, Jan Butler, Ian Chandler, Sara Burch, Alistair Neill, Su McConnel, Mary Ann Brocklesby, Fay Bromfield, Jane Lucas, Emma Bryn, Peter Strong, Meirion Howells, Paul Griffiths, Jackie Strong, Rachel Garrick, Steven Garratt, Angela Sandles, Ben Callard, John Crook, Tomos Davies, Dale Rooke, Catherine Fookes, Sue Riley, Jayne McKenna, Jill Bond, Louise Brown, Lisa Dymock, Tony Easson, Christopher Edwards, Bob Greenland, Martyn Groucutt, Simon Howarth, Richard John, David Jones, Penny Jones, Malcolm Lane, Paul Pavia, Maureen Powell, Frances Taylor, Tudor Thomas and Armand Watts

### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Matt Phillips	Chief Officer People and Governance and Monitoring Officer
Paul Matthews	Chief Executive
Peter Davies	Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer, Resources
Jane Rodgers	Chief Officer for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health
Will McLean	Chief Officer for Children and Young People
Nicola Perry	Senior Democracy Officer
Frances O'Brien	Chief Officer, Communities and Place
Matthew Gatehouse	Head of Policy and Governance
Adam Fall	Local Democracy and Digital Apprentice

### **APOLOGIES:**

County Councillors Maria Stevens and Phil Murphy

#### **1. To approve the minutes of the following meetings:**

##### **2. 17th May 2022**

The minutes of the meeting of County Council held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were approved as an accurate record.

##### **3. 19th May 2022**

The minutes of the meeting of County Council held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were approved as an accurate record.

#### **4. Declarations of interest**

None.

#### **5. Public Questions**

## MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of County Council held at Council Chamber - Council Chamber on Thursday, 23rd June, 2022 at 2.00 pm

None.

#### **6. Chair's announcement and receipt of petitions**

No petitions presented.

County Councillor Simon Howarth highlighted it being International Women in Engineering Day and felt it was important that Council promote the gender setting for engineering.

#### **7. Monmouthshire Agreed Syllabus for Religion Values and Ethics (RVE)**

County Councillor Martyn Groucutt, Cabinet Member for Education presented the report in order for Council receive and consider the proposed Monmouthshire Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics. In doing so the Cabinet Member congratulated the members of SACRE committee on putting the new document together.

It was noted that any confusion around the format of the syllabus had been addressed for the final version of the document.

The Cabinet Member agreed to review the EQIA to ensure clarification between RSE and RVE.

**Upon being put to a vote Council resolved to accept the recommendation:**

**That Council adopt the Monmouthshire Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values, and Ethics.**

#### **8. Sustainable Learning Communities Programme Abergavenny 3-19 School**

County Councillor Martyn Groucutt, Cabinet Member for Education presented the report to seek Council's approval to include the construction of a new 3-19 school on the King Henry VIII School site in the Council's Capital Funding Programme. The new 3-19 school will be established through the closure of King Henry VIII and Deri View Schools, as agreed at the Monmouthshire County Council Cabinet meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The funding will enable the relocation of Ysgol Y Fenni to the current Deri View site.

Many Members were keen to support the recommendations and commend the project.

Assurance was sought that robust active travel initiatives be developed and targets set from the planning stage, promoting active and sustainable travel options to ensure that school related congestion does not result in a rise in poor air quality in the local area.

The following suggestions were made in support of the development:

- Engagement with residents of all ages.
- Pop-up site in the town at various phases of completion to maximise engagement, maybe a permanent base within the market.
- Competition to create an artwork or sculpture to be located at the school.
- Extend safe cycling routes to a drop off site at the edge of town where bicycle racks could be installed.

On behalf of the Conservative Group, the Leader of the Opposition commended all officers involved in the project and commended Ms. Lewis for her leadership. He questioned if officers were confident that the cladding being used will be sustainable.

# MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting of County Council held at Council Chamber - Council Chamber on Thursday, 23rd June, 2022 at 2.00 pm

The Leader of the Council thanked Welsh Government for the investment, therefore allowing the development of this third 21<sup>st</sup> Century School.

A question was raised regarding the socio-economic aspect of the EQIA, and the impact on those in receipt free school meals. The Cabinet Member for Education stood by the EQIA and explained that he believed the needs of the primary aged children on site would be met far more effectively that it had been possible in the past.

Officers had previously assured County Councillor Tony Easson that the cladding panels used would produce little or no smoke and would not produce flaming droplets.

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

**That Council note that Ministerial approval has been achieved on the Full Business Case confirming Welsh Government (WG) commitment and their contribution of £47,024,335 (67%) towards the total cost of building a new 3-19 school in Abergavenny of £69,292,62**

**That Council approve an increase the approved budget within the Council's Capital Programme from £43,000,000 to £69,792,623, reflecting the revised build cost of £69,292,623 and an additional £500,000 required for associated highways improvements.**

**That Council note that the increase in budget will require a further commitment of Council borrowing of £7,718,288 and that there are consequential revenue budget costs of servicing this borrowing as outlined in the resources section of this report.**

**That Council note the appointment of Morgan Sindall Construction to build the new 3-19 school.**

**To declare Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni Primary School surplus to requirements, to be disposed of by the Estates Development Team on terms to be agreed in consultation with the Chief Officer for Resources.**

### **9. Appointments to Outside Bodies - vacancies**

The Chief Officer for People and Governance presented the report to address the remaining vacancies on the Outside Bodies report discussed at the meeting of County Council on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

It was noted that 2 vacancies remain on the report.

**Upon being put to a vote Council resolved to accept the recommendation:**

**That Council make appointments to the outside bodies set out in the attached schedule.**

### **10. Motions to Council:**

#### **11. Submitted by County Councillor Frances Taylor**

*That this Council agrees to write to the Minister for Finance and Local Government in order to request that there is a review of the formula which underpins the un-hypothecated funding of Local Authorities through the Local Government settlement. In particular, that the elements of the formula related to delivering services in a largely rural county are reconsidered.*

County Councillor Ian Chandler seconded the motion.

## MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of County Council held at Council Chamber - Council Chamber on Thursday, 23rd June, 2022 at 2.00 pm

The Cabinet Member for Resources recognised that the Barnett Formula has resulted in poor allocations to Wales over the years and has been publicly criticised by many for its failure to understand the composition of the Welsh population. She agreed that Council could write to WG on the motion but highlighted that the formula is reviewed on an annual basis.

We heard that poverty and inequality are a key focus for the administration and is the number one priority on the manifesto. Clearer targets in term of the poverty action plan and social justice strategy are to be implemented.

**Upon being put to the vote Council unanimously resolved to accept the motion.**

#### **12. Submitted by County Councillor Richard John**

*This Council records its enormous admiration and heartfelt thanks to Her Majesty the Queen for a lifetime of dedicated public service and welcomes the successful community celebrations across Monmouthshire to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.*

*Agrees that all group leaders will sign a joint letter to Her Majesty on behalf of the people of Monmouthshire offering our warm congratulations and gratitude for all that Her Majesty and the Royal Family do for our residents.*

County Councillor Lisa Dymock seconded the motion and highlighted the events held across the County for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

We heard of a commemorative book to be issued to all primary school children across Wales.

**Group leaders welcomed the proposal and upon being put to a vote Council resolved to accept the motion.**

#### **13. Submitted by County Councillor Tony Kear**

*This Council:*

*Notes the decision of full council in March to become the first in Wales to declare a water quality emergency and commission a strategy to improve our waterways.*

*Has grave concerns about the declining state of the Wye and Usk rivers in Monmouthshire and particularly the excessive and unlicensed raw sewage discharges into the Usk which are threatening biodiversity and wildlife as well as fish numbers.*

*Commits the Leader and Cabinet Member to work with opposition parties and relevant authorities to ensure action is being taken to improve the health of our rivers before it's too late.*

County Councillor Jane Lucas seconded the motion.

*County Councillor Simon Howarth left the meeting at 16:09pm*

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment welcomed and fully endorsed the motion. She explained that she has already reached out to Powys and Herefordshire Councils, as well as community groups concerned with the well-being of our rivers. Councillor Maby has also been invited to a meeting with the MP for Hereford and has met with Welsh Water along with Council staff.

## MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of County Council held at Council Chamber - Council Chamber on Thursday, 23rd June, 2022 at 2.00 pm

In supporting the motion, the Cabinet Member expressed that the ecological disaster we are witnessing in our rivers is caused not only by sewage discharge but also by agricultural land management practices, in particular high intensity poultry farming and overly intensive cattle farming.

County Councillor Ian Chandler proposed an amendment to the motion, seconded by County Councillor Frances Taylor:

*This Council:*

*Notes the decision of full council in March to become the first in Wales to declare a water quality emergency and commission a strategy to improve our waterways.*

*Has grave concerns about the declining state of the Wye and Usk rivers in Monmouthshire and **the multiple sources of phosphate and other pollutants including those originating upstream outside of Monmouthshire**, which are threatening biodiversity and wildlife as well as fish numbers.*

*Commits the Leader and Cabinet Member to work with opposition **groups** and relevant authorities including **Powys County Council and Herefordshire County Council** to ensure action is being taken to improve the health of our rivers before it's too late.*

Following discussion Council resolved to accept the amendment, which became the substantive motion.

**Upon being put to a vote Council resolved to accept the motion.**

#### **14. Submitted by County Councillor Louise Brown**

This Council:

Notes the Welsh Government has decided not to progress the WelTAG 2 study on the options for improvement of the High Beech roundabout in Chepstow this year.

Calls on the Welsh Government to urgently commit and financially support all five stages of this study and implement High Beech roundabout studies and improvements as a priority, as the well-known daily traffic congestion and travel delays at this pinch point are having a detrimental impact on the lives of local residents in all areas of life including travelling for school, work, shopping and leisure purposes.

County Councillor Ann Webb seconded the motion.

The was recognised as a passionate topic for those living in Chepstow.

It was suggested that the semi-pedestrianised town centre contributed to the traffic issues.

It was expressed that residents of the ward of Mount Pleasant suffer from some of the worst pollution levels, not only in Wales, but in the UK and they deserve to have something done to alleviate their plight.

The Deputy Leader urged Council to support the motion, highlighting that the case for improvement on the roundabout is very strong. He agreed that the impact is not only on drivers but also the success and vitality of Chepstow as a town centre. Agreeing the motion would allow Cabinet to contact the Transport Minister to say that funding for the WelTag study is urgent.

**Upon being put to a vote the motion was carried.**

## MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of County Council held at Council Chamber - Council Chamber on Thursday, 23rd June, 2022 at 2.00 pm

#### 15. Members Questions:

##### 15.1. From County Councillor Paul Pavia to County Councillor Martyn Groucutt, Cabinet Member for Education

*Can the Cabinet Member for Education make a statement regarding the steps the Council is taking to provide mental health support for Key Stage 4 and Sixth Form pupils in Monmouthshire?*

*County Councillors Tony Easson and Richard John left the meeting at 17:38pm*

The Cabinet Member thanked the member for the question which had come at an opportune time to reflect on the experiences of learners who will have just sat the first set of formal examinations since 2019. The added layers of the covid experience has disrupted learning and heightened anxieties. There is a myriad of approaches to support learners and a wide range of support accessible from partners both within and outside MCC. At the broadest level a universal approach to emotional well-being and mental health is being established. All schools are working towards embedding a whole school approach to mental health and well-being, this encompasses mental health support. In this approach King Henry VIII and Chepstow Schools have taken part in phase 1 of the Public Health Wales pilot which has gone well. Caldicot and the Pupil Referral Service will be phase 2 starting in September 2022.

MCC have developed a well-being sub-group action plan from the secondary school health research network data. This survey addresses a number of health and well-being related issues and helps to determine areas of focus. As needs increase pupils can also access broader offers such as the Educational Literacy Support Assistance or school-based counselling. These services offer more intense support with individuals. All secondary schools have a link educational psychologist who can provide support as well as training and raising awareness around specific issues.

This year schools have received training including Youth Mental First Aid in Schools, Trauma Informed Schools, and Suicide and Self Harm Prevention. A training package has also been developed to support learners with emotionally based school avoidance. Other offers of support are via Monmouthshire Early Help Panel and agencies such as the Youth Service and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service.

Beyond Schools Monmouthshire Youth Service provides the Shift Project which offers non-clinical one-to-one support to young people aged 11-25. Mind Monmouthshire have been commissioned to support young people with emerging mental health concerns.

As a supplementary County Councillor Pavia asked if the Authority is putting any additional support in place around the key dates in August for both A-Level and GCSEs.

The Cabinet Member confirmed that every year officers work hard around the results period and he would talk to senior officers to ensure sufficient and adequate support is made available.

#### 16. Date of next meeting - Thursday 21st July 2022

Noted.

**MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of County Council held  
at Council Chamber - Council Chamber on Thursday, 23rd June, 2022 at 2.00 pm**

**The meeting ended at 5.50 pm**

This page is intentionally left blank



## Chair's Report 18<sup>th</sup> June – 10<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Rhondda Cynon Taff – Armed Forces Day Ynysangharad War Memorial Park in Pontypridd
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Abergavenny Arts Festival 2022 Abergavenny
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Abergavenny Wellbeing Festival Bailey Park, Abergavenny
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 3 p.m.	Newport Civic Service Newport Cathedral, Stow Hill, Newport
Friday 1st July 7 p.m.	VU Chamber Choir from Amsterdam St Mary's Church, Abergavenny
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> July 11 – 3 p.m.	Wye – July Monmouth

This page is intentionally left blank

## REPORT

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>TIMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS</b>
<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>FULL COUNCIL</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> July 2022</b>
<b>DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:</b>	<b>N/A</b>

### 1. PURPOSE:

To consider the recommendation from Democratic Services Committee, in line with the Local Government Wales Measure, to review the timing of Full Council meetings for the current term of Council.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That meetings of Full Council remain at 14:00 to allow newly elected councillors time to understand the role and impact of being a councillor fully. Democratic Services Committee may review the arrangements again and report back to Council following a minimum period of 12 months.

That individual committees are free to set the timing of their meetings that suit the committee and members of it.

### 3. REASONS:

Each local authority is required to review the times at which council meetings are held at least once in every term of the Council.

Guidance from the Welsh Government state that as a rule of thumb meetings will be held at times, intervals and locations that are convenient to the majority of members and that the Council should be willing to make changes to their pattern of working in order to retain new councillors with outside responsibility. Councils should also consider rotating meeting times due to the impossibility of pleasing all of their members all of the time.

### 4. KEY ISSUES / OPTIONS APPRAISAL:

The requirement to review the timing of council meetings was introduced as part of the Local Government Wales Measure in 2012 and requires Local Authorities to review and determine appropriate times for committees to meet.

Democratic Services Committee considered the item at its meeting on the 27 June 2022 and was presented with information and feedback from the review under the previous term of Council which consulted on holding meetings at 10:00, 14:00, 16:00 and 19:00. Further information from that meeting is available on the following link: [Agenda for Democratic Services Committee on Monday, 27th June, 2022, 2.00 pm \(monmouthshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/agenda-for-democratic-services-committee-on-monday-27th-june-2022-2.00-pm)

The committee was happy to confirm that individual committees set the time of their meetings but would like the dates to remain as they are in the current diary as agreed for this year to assist with planning and organising councillor diaries. Committee chairs will be consulted during the preparation of the council diary for 2022/23 as part of its preparations.

The committee discussed the start time for full council meetings but felt that they were not yet experienced enough to make an informed decision on the timing of meetings, particularly with such a high turnover of councillors at the recent election. Overall members supported a morning or afternoon start time for full council meetings for a wide range of reasons but were also mindful of the need to be as inclusive as possible.

Given the legislative requirement for Council to determine the start time of Council meetings, the recommendation is being brought forward to retain the status quo at this stage but Democratic Services Committee will review the issue going forward and report back to Council with another recommendation when it feels informed enough to do so.

**5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

No resource implications

**6. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no sustainability implications of the timing of meetings. However working members may be adversely affected by a council meeting start time between the normal office working hours of 9 am to 5 pm.

**7. SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS**

Where members have governor responsibilities meetings which start at 5pm or later may interfere with their ability to attend meetings of their governing body.

**8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

Local Government Wales Measure 2011 and supplementary Welsh Government statutory guidance.

**9. CONSULTEES:**

Democratic Services Committee  
Elected councillors in the previous term

**10. AUTHOR:**

John Pearson, Local Democracy Manager  
Email: johnpearson@monmouthshire.gov.uk  
Telephone: 01633 644978

This page is intentionally left blank