

Public Document Pack



County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Wednesday, 11 January 2023

Notice of meeting

County Council

**Thursday, 19th January, 2023 at 2.00 pm,
Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA**

AGENDA

Prayers will be said prior to the Council meeting at 1.50pm. All members are welcome to join the Chair for prayers should they wish to do.

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7. **Members Questions:**

7.1. **From County Councillor Ian Chandler to County Councillor Paul Griffiths, Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Economy**

An MCC report to the Place Scrutiny Committee in November stated that Llantilio Crossenny ward is in the worst 10% of areas in the whole of the UK when it comes to many measures of broadband connectivity. Over 12% of its households are unable to get any decent broadband (compared with 0.3% for the UK, 0.8% for Wales and 2.5% for Monmouthshire). Less than half of households are able to get Superfast Broadband (over 30Mbs) compared with 76.3% for Wales overall. Only 15% are able to get the latest gigabit connectivity, even though the UK Government has a target for gigabit broadband to be available across the UK by 2030, with 85% coverage by 2025.

Lack of access to decent broadband has a serious detrimental effect on farms, tourist accommodation and other rural businesses, as well as limiting opportunities for rural residents to work from home. Our rural economy and community life are suffering as a result.

As Broadband Connectivity is part of his cabinet portfolio, what actions will Cllr Griffiths take (and when will he take them) to ensure that all residents and businesses in Llantilio Crossenny ward are able to access Superfast and Gigabit speed broadband as soon as possible?

7.2. **From County Councillor Emma Bryn to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment**

I am speaking on behalf of the residents of Wyesham ward who rely heavily on the Wye Bridge in order to access the world beyond, regardless on their mode of travel. Residents have had to face a seriously degraded road surface on the bridge for a prolonged period, with quick fixes lasting little time, the soft tarmac quickly getting thrust onto the pavements causing issues for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike.

I understand works to improve the bridge are underway but we are seeking assurances that improvements will take place in the next financial year, and I am looking to you to give the community some peace of mind by providing us with a time-scale for these works.

7.3. **From County Councillor Fay Bromfield to County Councillor Martyn Groucutt, Cabinet Member for Education:**

Would the Cabinet Member explain why the review of primary school catchment areas promised for Autumn 2022 has not yet begun?

7.4. **From County Councillor Louise Brown to County Councillor Paul Griffiths, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Economy**

Would the Deputy Leader give a commitment to prioritise investment in key infrastructure in the Chepstow area in advance of delivery of the RLDP,

8.	including improvements to the Highbeech roundabout and M48, active travel schemes and a Chepstow bypass? Next Meeting 9th March 2023	
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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 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	Bulwark and Thornwell;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru

Public Information

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Watch this meeting online

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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.

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 2

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of County Council held
on Thursday, 1st December, 2022 at 2.00 pm**

PRESENT: County Councillor Laura Wright (Chairman)
County Councillor Ann Webb (Vice Chairman)

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, Maria Stevens, 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, Martyn Groucutt, Simon Howarth, Richard John, David Jones, Penny Jones, Malcolm Lane, Phil Murphy, Paul Pavia, Maureen Powell, Frances Taylor, Tudor Thomas, Armand Watts and Rachel Buckler

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
Mark Hand	Head of Place-making, Housing, Highways and Flood

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th October were confirmed noting the following:

- County Councillor Rachel Buckler had been in attendance.
- Page 3 of the minutes. Remove the following line:
Upon being put to a vote the amendment was accepted and debate ensued.

2. Declarations of interest

County Councillor Su McConnel declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in relation to item 7.3 as she is employed by HMPPO.

County Councillors Frances Taylor, Tony Kear and Tony Easson declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in relation to item 7.3.

3. Public Questions

The Chair invited Mr. Woodfield to present his question to Council.

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Ahead of asking his question Mr. Woodfield highlighted the Council purpose of building sustainable and resilient communities, and value of openness and fairness. He went on to ask what about the levelling up application, second submission on behalf of Severnside, including any consideration of proposals for Caldicot Leisure Centre, that the Council was embarrassed about, including the denial of recognising the legal requirements under the Freedom of Information Act and providing tax paying constituents with a copy of the application.

Mr. Woodfield added that, after submitting the question, he has been given access to a redacted version of the second application. Appendices were to be made available following further redaction.

In response County Councillor Paul Griffiths recognised the significance of the question and agreed that the documents should be made available to the citizens of Monmouthshire and apologised for the fact that they had not been. He explained that the process of redacting commercially sensitive information was necessary and understood that it had taken too long. The new administration had received the prepared bids and they had worked with officers to submit in time for July 2022. He was pleased that they were now in the public domain.

4. Chair's Announcement

Noted.

5. Council Reports:

6. GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

The Chair welcomed the Chair of Governance and Audit Committee to present the Council's Governance and Audit Committee's Annual Report for 2021/2022.

The report confirmed that the committee had met its terms of reference over the year and highlighted a range of papers considered.

When asked to what areas the committee may make a bigger contribution, the Chair of the committee referred to people risk and workforce challenges. He referred to a People Strategy expected to emerge in 2023, and highlighted the importance of maintaining a line of sight over the people matters being dealt with.

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

That Governance and Audit Committee endorse this report and recommend its presentation to Council, as confirmed in the Committee's approved minutes of 14th July 2022.

That Council accept and endorse this report.

7. REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (RLDP) PREFERRED STRATEGY

The Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Economy presented the report in order to seek Council's agreement to the new Delivery Agreement and Council's endorsement to commence statutory consultation/engagement and stakeholder involvement on the new Preferred Strategy for the Replacement Local Development Plan and consultation on the Candidate Sites Register.

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Members expressed the importance of suitable infrastructure being in place before development of the plan.

It was recognised that this was a compromised plan and that 50% affordable was a great aspiration but may not be achievable. It was noted that there should also be a plan around employment.

The ward member for Portskewett felt unable to support the plan considering the idea to add a further 925 properties would be disproportionate. She added that Caldicot area needs vital investment.

The Cabinet Member for Inclusive and Active Communities explained that the plan sets the basis for growth in sustainable settlements and added that there is commitment to develop active travel links.

The Labour Group expressed confusion around the lack of support given that the previous Conservative administration had developed a plan with more housing areas proposed and the reality of rejecting the proposed approach is that there would be no new housing for a considerable amount of time.

In terms of a transport plan, we heard that the new framework is for a regional plan, but officers will provide a local plan in 2023.

The Leader of the Opposition felt that there had been a lack of communication on the Chepstow Bypass, being a key piece of infrastructure and requested further information on a council run development company.

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

To agree the revised Delivery Agreement for the Replacement Local Development Plan for submission to the Minister for Climate Change for approval.

To endorse the new Preferred Strategy for the Replacement Local Development Plan to be issued for statutory consultation/engagement and stakeholder involvement.

To agree to consult on the Candidate Sites Register, Habitats Regulations Assessment and Integrated Sustainability Appraisal alongside the new Preferred Strategy.

8. CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The Cabinet Member for Social Care presented the report to inform members of the revisions to the Corporate Safeguarding Policy and seek endorsement of the revised policy.

County Councillor Ian Chandler suggested that the policy be rejected due to lack of scrutiny. He noted that the policy referred to Select Committees and did not reflect the new structure of the Council.

County Councillor Penny Jones highlighted that the policy had been scrutinised by the inspectorate and was found to be in good order.

A question was put to the Cabinet Member to whether he believed that the policy should be re-evaluated with reference to recent local and national reviews.

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The Chief Officer for Safeguarding and Social Care explained that through regional safeguarding arrangements officers routinely look through reports and understand how practices or processes need to be adjusted and explained that the annual evaluation was brought into safeguarding and taken through scrutiny and Full Council in October 2022.

County Councillor Frances Taylor repeated the request that an action be raised to identify the scrutiny plans around the report.

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

That Council endorses the revised Corporate Safeguarding Policy.

9. Motions to Council:

10. Submitted by County Councillor Penny Jones

This Council notes the longstanding concerns about road safety between the Raglan A40 Public Document Pack roundabout and the A40/A449 interchange. Agrees that the appropriate cabinet member will write to the Welsh Government to urge Ministers to expedite a fully funded road safety study in 2023/24 and commit to delivering any recommended road safety improvements without delay.

County Councillor Jayne McKenna seconded the motion and in doing so she referred to a tragic accident that had occurred 30 years and expressed disappointment that we are still discussing the same issues. This section of the A40 remains unsafe and is not fit for purpose for the traffic that uses it. She expressed concern at the lack of data.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment shared the concerns around safety and committed to write to WG to urge that the funding is made available to press ahead in 2023/24

Upon being put to a vote the motion was carried.

11. Submitted by County Councillor Jackie Strong

MCC notes the threat to the continued operation of the Main Post Office in Caldicot due to the surrender of the lease by the Morrisons supermarket company which currently hosts the post office business. MCC understands the importance of maintaining a Main Post Office service in Caldicot. It welcomes the work already undertaken to protect this service and commits itself to taking steps to support the continuation of this service in the town.

County Councillor Tony Kear supported the motion, and whilst adding his support he asked that the following line be added to the motion:

That MCC commits to the long term future of the UK's only council run Post Office in Usk.

The Cabinet Member for Resources highlighted the budget challenges being faced but did not see a reason to not support the amendment.

Debate ensued on the motion as amended.

County Councillor Tony Easson declared an interest as a member of Caldicot Town Council.

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Upon being put to a vote the amendment was accepted. Debate ensued.

County Councillor Tudor Thomas left at 16:51

County Councillor Ian Chandler left at 16:56

There were comments that the authority does have a role to play but not a financial one. This could be a role for Town and Community Councils.

There was recognition of the vital provision and service the Post Office delivers in Caldicot.

A comment was made that the Council's role in supporting the service may not be a financial one, and it would be difficult to expect the authority to be in a position to subsidise and fund the running of all post offices.

The Cabinet Member for Resources considered it essential for residents, small businesses, and community groups to have access to the Post Office service.

Upon being put to a vote the motion was carried.

12. Submitted by County Councillor Richard John

This Council has the utmost respect for the work of our partners in Gwent Police in keeping our communities safe. Expresses shock and dismay at media reports alleging a culture of misogyny, racism, homophobia, and corruption in the Force. Resolves to write to Gwent's Police & Crime Commissioner to express this Council's alarm and request that he attend a Monmouthshire select committee to address members' concerns.

Seconded by County Councillor Lisa Dymock

County Councillors Tony Kear and Tony Easson declared personal, non-prejudicial interests as members of the Gwent Police and Crime Panel.

The Leader fully endorsed the motion, agreeing that this was shocking, but not surprising. She noted that within the Council there is zero tolerance to sexual harassment, and to any form of abuse against anyone regardless of gender. The Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner had been invited to address Council through a Member Seminar.

It was expressed that this is a problem in male dominated institutions and The Leader of the Opposition was commended on bring the motion to Council.

County Councillor Tomos Davies left at 17:25pm

There were concerns that figures were under reported.

It was highlighted that an independent review of Gwent Police is being undertaken by Wiltshire Police.

Upon being put to a vote the motion was carried.

13. Members Questions

14. From County Councillor Paul Pavia to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

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Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on the progress the Council is making to develop the WelTag Stage 3 business case for the Chepstow Bypass?

The Cabinet Member explained that the County Council had submitted a bid to Welsh Government for the Local Transport Fund Grant for this financial year to progress a detailed business case for the Chepstow traffic relief road. Unfortunately, this aspect of the funding bid was unsuccessful. As set out earlier in the meeting by County Councillor Paul Griffiths, the traffic relief road is just one part of a range of solutions needed to address the current and future travel pressure through Chepstow.

A day earlier, the Leader and Deputy Leader met with their opposite members at Gloucestershire County Council to talk about shared challenges and objectives around the cross-border travel and will be working closely together to lobby for the necessary improvements.

The Cabinet Member was pleased to inform Council that the proposals for the Chepstow Transport Hub had secured funding for a WelTag 3 detailed design this financial year and this work has now been completed, putting us in a strong position to bid for funding next year. This will allow implementation of a suite of travel options and help to alleviate some of the traffic problems.

County Councillor Pavia thanked County Councillor Maby for her response and expressed disappointment at the outcome of the business case and asked if she could share correspondence with WG following the meeting to understand the rationale.

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

Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on the administration's plans to further develop early years provision in Chepstow?

The Cabinet Member responded that the childcare sufficiency assessment had been completed by MCC earlier in the year and was considered and agreed by Cabinet on the 2nd March 2022. The study did not identify any significant gaps in childcare in the Chepstow area. The take-up of early education places is monitored termly and in the last summer term was 85% which is when it is at its highest. The main gap is in relation to childminders and this issue is a County wide problem. They are working closely with the Professional Association for Childcare and Early years, an umbrella organisation which specialises in childminders, to try to recruit new childminders and support existing childminders to help retain them.

The roll out of Flying Start childcare for two year olds is likely to increase demand for places, however there are currently surplus places at the Flying Start setting in Chepstow. There is also a day nursery in the Chepstow area that has recently increased their number of registered places and can offer more places to two year olds.

The Cabinet Member confirmed that they would continue to monitor the situation and develop additional childcare places to meet demand if required.

As a supplementary Councillor Pavia asked what proactive steps the administration is taking to pave the way to establish nursery provision in the medium of Welsh Language.

In response the Cabinet Member stated that he is committed to supporting provision in Monmouth and could look to strengthening support for Welsh medium in Chepstow also.

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16. From County Councillor Christopher Edwards to County Councillor Martyn Groucutt, Cabinet Member for Education

Could the Cabinet Member for Education inform council of any proposed future investment that the current administration intends to make in Chepstow School while we await progress with the 21st Century Schools programme?

The Cabinet Member explained that in the last five years the Council has spent over £3m on Chepstow Comprehensive School enhancing the facilities. These developments have been reported previously to Council. Alongside the remodelling and refurbishment work money has been spent of maintenance items such as doors, windows and fire alarms.

Maintenance and improvement works will continue at the school such as phase two of the works for the quadrangle which is scheduled for the upcoming financial year. This funding sits alongside the investment that MonLife has made to the facilities that the school is able to use, and ensures that the building continues to be fit for purpose for pupils attending the school.

The Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme is the new 21st Century Schools initiative and is a more agile programme. We must review and resubmit our programme by March 2024. This is to encourage a smooth transition, removing the stop start actions associated with the current fixed term investment programme.

As a supplementary, Councillor Edwards asked if the Cabinet member agreed that more could be done in relation to transforming more classrooms in Chepstow School to make them a better learning environment as was carried out in previous years, and could he ensure that this is carried out in any current programme of improvements of Chepstow School.

The Cabinet Member has had conversations with the Headteacher and finance officer and they are more than happy with the scale of the investment that the authority has made. Discussions have included what the nature of the provision might look like as we move forward.

17. From County Councillor Christopher Edwards to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

Could the cabinet member inform council of progress with the grant funding bid to Welsh Government in 2022/23 for a safer routes in communities scheme for road safety improvement works for St Lawrence Road (between Kingsmark Lane and Racecourse roundabout), Chepstow.

The Cabinet Member shared the concerns around road safety and explained that the funding bid for improvements to the Welsh Street and St. Lawrence area had been unsuccessful. Officers are now considering how best to deliver the improvements and propose to make a second application for grant funding in the coming financial year. Officers are also looking at what other actions can be taken to support the RLDP application at Bayfield and to ensure that the new development is well connected to the town centre and train station.

As a supplementary Councillor Edwards asked if the Cabinet Member would join him on St. Lawrence road to witness the issues and hopefully move the work up the priority list or allow him to see any feedback from WG on the unsuccessful funding bid.

In response Councillor Maby was keen to talk and work together to aim to improve the future bid and discuss in more detail what other improvements could be made.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of County Council held
on Thursday, 1st December, 2022 at 2.00 pm**

18. Next meeting - 19th January 2023

Noted.

The meeting ended at 6.00 pm

Chair's Report 26th November – 14th December

Saturday 26 th November 12 p.m.	Caerphilly Civic Service Penallta House, Ystrad Mynach
Monday 28 th November 5 p.m.	Abergavenny Rhinos - Unveiling New Training Lights Bailey Park, Abergavenny
Wednesday 7 th December 12 p.m.	Long Service Awards Chair's Office, County Hall, Usk
Wednesday 7 th December 7 p.m.	Emergency Services for South Wales – Christmas Carol Service Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff
Wednesday 14 th December 11 a.m.	MCC Carol Service County Hall, Usk

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SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: CALL-IN OF TUDOR STREET DAY CENTRE

MEETING: Council

DATE: 19th January 2023

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To refer the Individual Cabinet Member Decision taken on 30th November 2022 on Tudor Street Day Centre to full Council, as the formal outcome of the calling in of the decision and the subsequent scrutiny undertaken by the People Scrutiny Committee at the Special Meeting held on 3rd January 2023.
- 1.2 To provide the Council with an overview of the public contributions to the scrutiny process via the Public Open Forum, prior to presentation of the Call-in and the subsequent debate by the committee held on 3rd January 2023 (provided in Appendix 1).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Council considers the discussion held at the People Scrutiny Committee and makes a decision whether to:
 - i) Accept the Individual Cabinet Member Decision; or
 - ii) Refer the Decision to the Cabinet Member(s) for reconsideration (with reasons)

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 A decision was taken on 30th November 2022 to decommission the property on Tudor Street as an accommodation base for day support services for adults with learning disabilities in the north of Monmouthshire. The site has not been in use for service delivery since March 2020 and the decision did not affect the ongoing provision of the service.
- 3.2 The strategic direction for learning disability services has been in place since 2014 and seeks to support people with a learning disability to pursue their individual interests and aspirations within community settings. This had led to a reduction in the number of people accessing Tudor Street Day Centre and a gradual reduction in opening hours before it closed temporarily in 2020. A wider review of the service is underway, and it had been determined that the building on Tudor Street was no longer fit for purpose and could be sold.
- 3.3 The decision was called in for the following reasons:
 - There has been no scrutiny and it was not included on the planner.
 - The building is situated on a flood plain.
 - There has been no consultation with users/groups. The facility is vital for the users/groups, and they have severe special needs.

The People Scrutiny Committee held a debate on the matter on 3rd January 2023, in line with the Call-in Process outlined in the Council's Constitution.

3.4 Monmouthshire's scrutiny process allows for a 15-minute Public Open Forum on every scrutiny agenda, which can be extended at the committee's discretion. It also allows for the submission of written public contributions and videos in advance of the meeting which are circulated to the committee and an opportunity for people to attend in person or remotely and speak at the Public Open Forum. There was significant interest in public participation on this issue and the committee therefore extended its Public Open Forum to enable people who had notified the Council in advance of the meeting of their wish to speak, to do so.

3.5 The committee heard the following key points made by the public:

- a) People stated that prior to March 2020, the centre had offered a central, safe, warm environment for vulnerable people with learning disabilities to socialise with friends and undertake a range of activities, which helped them to learn valuable life skills and gain qualifications. People told the committee that following the pandemic, they had expected the centre to reopen. They spoke of how Tudor Street Day Centre meant much more to them than a physical building. They felt it acted as a hub, a place where carers and service users could have vital respite, which was felt to be lacking in-county and they spoke of the centre being a place where meaningful lasting friendships were formed.
- b) Those in attendance told the committee that the Tudor Street Day Centre being centrally located in Abergavenny town centre, was easily accessible to them and that it had the appropriate facilities, such as a changing bed and disabled toilet facilities that suited many people with learning disabilities, but not those with profound complex needs. Several people told the committee that their relatives had not been users of the day centre prior to its closure, as it couldn't cater for the needs of people with severe disabilities, particularly those needing hydrotherapy, tracking hoists and sensory spaces. They advised they needed to travel out of county to access more specialist provision even when Tudor Street was open.
- c) People told the committee that they felt "abandoned" and "lost" since the closure of the centre, which they felt was at the heart of the community and they advised the committee that it had negatively impacted the mental health of service users and carers. People highlighted the importance to them of having the choice of day services and/or being in the community, explaining that community-based activities alone didn't support the building of friendships in the same way. They suggested that a community base could be used to welcome the wider community, highlighting that people with mental health issues also frequented Tudor Street Day Centre. People reported increased isolation and loneliness during the centre's closure during the pandemic and they explained the difficulties of attending to the needs of people with learning disabilities in community-based facilities such as cafes and supermarkets.
- d) The public told the committee that the Council needed to give greater thought to its decision and to consider how services could be improved, involving service users in shaping the offer. People spoke of the need for dedicated facilities and a central base that could be extended to the wider community, such as the

approach submitted to the committee titled “The Gathering Pitch” (listed as a background paper to this report).

3.6 Appendix 1 provides a more detailed account of the substantial public contributions to the meeting, which were welcomed and appreciated by the committee and the formal outcome of the debate by the People Scrutiny Committee.

3.7 The following key points were also highlighted by the public under the Public Open Forum:

a) People were very disappointed that the decision had been taken to close the day centre in advance of the conclusions being drawn from the overall review of services. They suggested that the lack of detail as to what alternative provision may be offered in place of what was being withdrawn was unhelpful.

b) There was a suggestion that the decision for Tudor Street Day Centre to be re-purposed to support the Council’s policy aims in providing affordable housing within the county prioritised the needs of one vulnerable group of people (homeless people) over the needs of another (people with learning disabilities). It was suggested that the intention to progress the planning application to avoid legislative changes relating to flooding was not in line with the philosophy of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015, nor its aim to ‘involve people in decision-making as equal partners’. The committee was advised that an integrated impact assessment including Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015 was completed as part of the decision taken on 30th November 2022. There was also a suggestion that there was a need for online engagement about the decision.

c) The elected members who had called in the decision raised their concerns about how the decision had been made without any pre-decision scrutiny and they questioned the thoroughness of the integrated impact assessment. They also expressed concern about the consultation process undertaken with service users.

3.8 Relating to the specific matters raised in the calling-in of the decision, it was accepted that the decision should have been scrutinised in advance, with an explanation given as to why the decision had not featured on the Cabinet and Council Forward Planner that the committee had received at its previous meeting. It was also confirmed that the building is not located on a flood plain. It was furthermore accepted that there hadn’t been effective consultation on the decision to close the Tudor Street Day Centre.

3.9 The debate that took place following the Public Open Forum led the committee to confirm its intention to refer the decision for reconsideration, and following a vote, the majority agreed to refer the decision to full council for the following reason:

Much greater clarity is needed on future service provision. Robust engagement needs to be undertaken with service users and thorough pre-decision scrutiny should be conducted prior to any decision-making.

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

4.1 There are no direct considerations from this report.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

5.1 Not applicable.

6. REASONS:

6.1 To refer the decision taken on 30th November 2022 on Tudor Street Day Centre to full Council, following scrutiny undertaken by the People Scrutiny Committee on 3rd January 2023.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

7.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from this report.

8. CONSULTEES:

Head of Policy, Performance and Scrutiny
Chief Officer for People and Governance and Monitoring Officer

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix 1: Report of the People Scrutiny Committee on the Call-in of Tudor Day Centre

'The Gathering Pitch' ~ Submitted to the People Scrutiny Committee

10. AUTHOR:

Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager

11. CONTACT DETAILS:

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Monmouthshire Scrutiny

Report of the Chair of People Scrutiny Committee

Report Subject Matter: Call-in of the Tudor Street Day Centre decision

1.0 Context:

1.1 On 30th November, a decision was made to decommission the property on Tudor Street as an accommodation base for day support services for adults with learning disabilities in the north of Monmouthshire. This decision did not affect the ongoing provision of the service that has been operating throughout Covid. The strategic direction for learning disability services has been in place since 2014, seeking to support people with a learning disability to pursue their individual interests and aspirations within community settings. This had led to a reduction in the number of people accessing Tudor Street Day Centre and a gradual reduction in opening hours before it closed temporarily in 2020. A wider review of the service is underway, and it had been determined that the building on Tudor Street was no longer fit for purpose and could be sold.

1.1 The decision was called in to be scrutinised by the People Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the Monmouthshire County Council Constitution for the following reasons:

- There has been no scrutiny and it was not included on the planner.
- The building is situated on a flood plain.
- There has been no consultation with users/groups. The facility is vital for the users/groups, and they have severe special needs.

A debate on the matter was held Tuesday 3rd January, which included contributions from a number of service users and members of the public.

1.2 Monmouthshire's scrutiny process allows for a 15-minute Public Open Forum on every scrutiny agenda, which can be extended at the committee's discretion. It also allows for the submission of written public contributions and videos in advance of the meeting which are circulated to the committee and an opportunity for people to attend in person or remotely and speak at the Public Open Forum. There was significant interest in public participation on this issue and the scrutiny committee therefore extended its Public Open Forum to enable people who had notified the Council in advance of the meeting of their wish to speak, to do so.

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- 1.3** This report provides a fuller account of the substantial public contributions to the meeting, which were welcomed and appreciated by the committee and the formal outcome of the debate by the People Scrutiny Committee. The draft minutes of the meeting will be available on the Council's via the following link. [Agenda for People Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 3rd January, 2023, 10.30 am \(monmouthshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/agenda-for-people-scrutiny-committee-on-tuesday-3rd-january-2023-10.30-am)

2.0 Contributions to the Public Open Forum

- 2.1** The following points were made by members of the public as part of their contribution to the Public Open Forum at the People Scrutiny Committee on 3rd January 2023. This report provides an account of what was reported at the meeting and does not seek to comment on the accuracy of any statements made. Views have been summarised under headings for reference.

What People suggested Tudor Street Day Centre offered them

- 2.2** People stated that Tudor Street Day Centre offered a central, safe, warm environment for vulnerable people with learning disabilities to socialise with friends and undertake activities such as cooking, crafts, exercise and to hold workshops on sensory activities, art, music, Information Technology, radio presenting and many other activities. Members heard that service users, carers and support staff held events in which the wider community were involved, enriching the lives of service users, providing respite for carers from 24/7 caring responsibilities.
- 2.3** People spoke of how Tudor Street Day Centre meant much more than a physical building to them – it acted as a hub, a place to go to for people from all walks of life to build their confidence, to learn life skills and to achieve qualifications. Examples were given of a people who had produced artwork at the Tudor Day Centre to sell in the community with the assistance of the support worker and how some people with an interest in radio presenting had achieved their goal, working with Able radio station and achieved qualifications. Members heard that the Tudor Street Day Centre was felt to be a place where lasting meaningful friendships were formed between service users and the wider community, who attended their fundraising events.
- 2.4** People told the scrutiny committee that the central location of Tudor Street Day Centre in Abergavenny town was easily accessible to them and that it had the appropriate facilities, such as a changing bed and disabled toilet facilities that suited many people with learning disabilities, but not those with profound complex needs. Some people told the committee that their relatives couldn't use the centre because it didn't cater for the needs of people with severe

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disabilities, particularly those who needed hydrotherapy, tracking hoists and sensory spaces, which are provided in purpose-built facilities, such as the facility located in Cwmbran.

- 2.5** People spoke about how 'My Day My Life', whilst operating at the Tudor Street Day Centre prior to the pandemic had enabled people to make personal plans and choose what activities they would like to do within their day. People highlighted the importance to them of having the choice of day services and/or being in the community, explaining that community-based activities alone didn't support the building of friendships in the same way, because activities such as going to the cinema or going on a bus trip aren't activities that tend to encourage social interaction between people with learning disabilities. They advised they simply wanted to see their friends in a safe, warm environment that had the appropriate facilities for their needs. People explained how the service users and their carers ran a café at the centre and how they regarded the day centre to be at the heart of the community.

How People reported feeling about the Day Centre's closure

- 2.6** Some people told the scrutiny committee that people were "roaming the town centre with their support workers in cold conditions, as they haven't got anywhere to go" apart from supermarkets and cafes. Some people commented on how they felt they had lost the opportunity to participate in activities they previously undertook, in which they were able to gain valuable life skills and qualifications due to the closure of the centre. One person explained how since the closure, they rarely met with friends, unless there was a My Mates function, which take place infrequently. People reported that the closure of the centre had increased their isolation and loneliness and spoke of being "lost without the centre". Another person told the scrutiny committee that "My Day My Life should be supporting their users, not abandoning them in the community in all weathers".
- 2.7** One of the reasons explained to the scrutiny committee as to why people with severe disabilities struggle to access activities based in the community are that the toilet facilities in cafes and shops are inappropriate - people with severe learning disabilities need a changing bed in a toilet facility so that carers can dedicate the necessary time to assist the person. A carer explained the difficulty of changing a person in a community based disabled toilet, where other members of the public may be actively trying to access the toilet or queuing to use the toilet. It was suggested that greater thought needed to be given to people's needs.

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- 2.8** A carer told members that activities in the community provided little stimulation for people with learning disabilities and that the closure of the centre had negatively affected their own mental health. Several carers reported how since the centre had closed during the pandemic, service users felt they had lost their friendships, their learning opportunities and were regressing socially. Carers also highlighted how they missed the respite that the day centre offered full time carers. Some people spoke of their isolation and a person suggested that reopening the centre would have helped people to reintegrate into the community, as well as support the wider community. More than one person told the committee they hadn't had contact with a social worker throughout the pandemic and that they had only been contacted after the decision was made to close the centre. One person stated explicitly that Mardy Park was felt to be an older person's centre and as such, they felt that their own needs were being ignored and that they "were being 'grouped' as adults" - without recognition of the difference in their needs. Some people felt Mardy Park (as an alternative day centre) was difficult to access.
- 2.9** People told members that the permanent closure of Tudor Street Day Centre would "significantly negatively affect service users, carers and support staff". A public submission received by the scrutiny committee referred to the Welsh Covid study, which highlighted that the effects of the lockdowns and the isolation resulting from the pandemic had a more profound impact on people with a learning disability and had increased anxiety and loneliness, leading to a reduction in social activities and relationships. The written submission stated that, "closing services increases loneliness and overlooks the importance of group identity and togetherness".
<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/cedar/covid19-learningdisability/results/policybriefing/covid19dwalesenglish2022.pdf>

What the contributors to the Public Open Forum advised service users need

- 2.10** A person suggested that there was a lack of day centre provision in the north of the county, and another told the scrutiny committee that "it's not appropriate for vulnerable people to be walking around the town, using supermarkets to socialise". The public present told the committee that the Council needed to give greater thought to its decision and to consider how services could be improved, involving service users in shaping the offer. A person suggested the decision had been based upon cost and that it shouldn't have been taken ahead of the conclusion of an overall review of services. They highlighted that the consultation process had provided no detail as to what alternative provision may be offered in place of what was being withdrawn. People felt that if the number of service users had fallen, it was important to ask how the service could be improved and to enable service users to be involved in shaping the offer.

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- 2.11** Whilst the remit of Tudor Street Day Centre was not to provide services for people suffering mental health issues and people weren't being signposted to the centre for mental health support, one person suggested during their presentation that the centre was attended by people suffering mental health issues, as well as people with learning disabilities and that attending the centre helped to reduce their isolation and build their confidence.
- 2.12** People spoke of the need for dedicated facilities and a central base that could be extended to the wider community, such as the approach submitted to the committee by one contributor titled "The Gathering Pitch", which could provide an opportunity for people to come together, share experiences, learn and make friendships.
- 2.13** In terms of people with learning disabilities being able to pay for personal assistants and carers instead of accessing day services, a person highlighted that personal budgets were intended to give people choice, not to replace services. Some people felt that the closure of Tudor Street Day Centre was the withdrawal of a service, despite the continuation of the 'My Day My Life' model in a different way. A contributor suggested that people with low support needs who might benefit from attending a day centre, might not be eligible for direct payments or personal budgets and that whilst some people may choose personalised support, others will prefer welcoming, inclusive and accessible mainstream services.
- 2.14** One person explained how she felt that the 'My Mates' Scheme had led to a reduction in 'My Day My Life' activities at Tudor Street Day Centre and how people who need one to one support are unable to access many of the 'My Mates' activities, that tended to include trips to restaurants, the cinema or pop concerts. It was suggested that these are too expensive for most people to attend on a regular basis and tend to be mainly in the evening, which wouldn't suit some people.
- 2.15** Another member of the public asked what community-based opportunities exist in Monmouthshire, particularly in Abergavenny for people with very complex needs, as they hadn't found any opportunities where there were adequate facilities, such as for changing or hoisting, therefore needing to attend settings outside of the county. The committee heard that individuals with complex needs are extremely vulnerable, needing nursing-trained carers to attend to feeding tubes, to attend to people who may suffer epilepsy or have episodes of agitation. People with complex needs require a spacious purpose-built building that can accommodate tracking hoists, changing beds, toilet facilities, a sensory room and a quiet space, stating that this cannot be

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accommodated at cafes or places in the community that people felt were being suggested as 'alternative places to go'. This person confirmed that for people with profound complex needs, Tudor Street Day Centre wasn't suitable and that there is no such day centre in-county. The lack of in-county respite provision for people with complex needs was also highlighted, requiring people to travel to Ebbw Vale.

- 2.16** It was asked what support was provided for young people leaving special education needs and transitioning into the adult world, which is a particularly difficult transition. Reference was made to consultancy work undertaken by Bob Rhodes, which had led to the creation of 'My Day My Life' for people with learning disabilities and a move away from institutional life to community-based activity choice. A service user suggested that for the small minority of people that are severely disabled and have complex needs, this change was not for the better and that she felt that "care in the community had broken down".
- 2.17** A former staff member suggested that one to one care would be far more costly than operating day services in a single setting and highlighted how the day centre could provide so many more opportunities for different types of care, if fully trained carers were in place. She advocated the need for respite and claimed that the day centre had been a flagship for care in Abergavenny and that if improved, many more people could benefit from using it.

Wider issues raised by the public

- 2.18** There was a suggestion that the decision prioritised the needs of one vulnerable group of people (homeless people) over the needs of another (people with learning disabilities). It was suggested that the intention to progress the planning application to avoid legislative changes relating to flooding was not in line with the philosophy of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015, nor its aim to 'involve people in decision-making as equal partners'. There was a suggestion that there was a need for online engagement about the decision.
- 2.19** Concerns were raised about the consultation process and whether the letter to service users as part of the official consultation process was written in the spirit of the Equalities Act 2010 with regard to accessibility. It was suggested that there was a lack of online engagement about the decision, working against the sense of open and transparent dialogue.

3.0 Key points raised by the 'Call-in Members'

- 3.1** Members who had called in the decision raised their concerns to the People Scrutiny Committee about the how the decision had been made without any

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pre-decision scrutiny. They questioned the quality and robustness of the integrated impact assessment and they expressed concern about the thoroughness of the consultation process undertaken with service users.

4.0 Key points raised by the Committee Members

4.1 Members spoke at length on their views on the matter but highlighted that Tudor Street Day Centre wasn't viewed by the public as just a building or a facility, but as a community, a community that people felt was being taken away from them. A committee member highlighted how day centres provide much more than a building and stated that the needs of people are far more important than the achieving of housing targets or the realising of a financial gain.

5.0 Formal Outcome of the Scrutiny

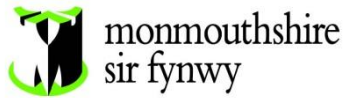
5.1 Relating to the specific matters raised in the calling-in of the decision, it was accepted that the decision should have been scrutinised in advance, with an explanation given as to why the decision had not featured on the Cabinet and Council Forward Planner that the committee had received at its previous meeting. It was also confirmed that the building is not located on a flood plain. It was furthermore accepted that there hadn't been effective consultation on the decision to close the Tudor Street Day Centre.

5.2 The committee agreed to refer the decision for reconsideration, and following a vote, the majority agreed to refer the decision to full council for the following reason:

Much greater clarity is needed on future provision. Robust engagement needs to be undertaken with service users and thorough pre-decision scrutiny should be conducted prior to any decision-making.

5.3 Council is requested to consider the findings contained in this report in assisting them to reach an agreement on whether to refer the decision back to the Cabinet for reconsideration.

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SUBJECT: Community and Corporate Plan

MEETING: County Council

DATE: 19th January 2023

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To seek approval of a new Community and Corporate Plan that sets the direction for the council and county of Monmouthshire, articulating the authority's purpose and priorities alongside the steps we will take to deliver these, the accountable Cabinet member and the measures that will be used to track progress.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Council approve the Community and Corporate Plan.
- 2.2 That Council adopt the six goals in the plan as the Council's Well-being Objectives in accordance with the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.
- 2.3 That Council receive the provisional measures and targets which feature as an appendix to the Community and Corporate Plan and agree that any changes to them, required as a result of the approval of the 2023-24 budget, will be made available to members in the first quarter for 2023-24.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Following the elections in May 2022, the new Cabinet began to articulate the biggest challenges and opportunities facing the county. Starting with a series of collaborative workshops, and drawing on a wide range of evidence, high-level political ambition has been converted into a whole authority strategic plan that sets the direction for the organisation for the period 2022-27.
- 3.2 The plan has been produced against the backdrop of economic uncertainty with the council facing rising energy prices, inflation and escalating borrowing costs alongside increased demands in areas such as children's services, adult social care, homelessness, additional learning needs and home to school transport. The budget settlement for 2023-24 was better than anticipated but is still below inflation and these challenges we face are on a scale not seen before as evidenced by significant in-year budget pressures.

- 3.3 The ambition outlined in the document looks to the long-term and is focused on the well-being of current and future generations. The actions cover the first steps of the journey and will inform the development of the council's medium-term financial plan to make sure that our spending follows clear priorities. The Community and Corporate Plan establishes a clear purpose to become a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life. This is supported by six well-being objectives shown in paragraph 3.7 below.
- 3.4 The objectives were initially endorsed by Cabinet in October and presented at Council later in the month as part of what was positioned as an interim strategy. At the Council meeting members did not challenge the direction of travel set in the plan but there was agreement that councillors wanted to see more details about accountability and how progress would be measured. It was resolved to defer the decision to approve the plan until January when a more substantial document could be brought forward.
- 3.5 The additions made since the last version include:
- The inclusion of two columns to show how actions will be measured and specify the Cabinet Member who is accountable
 - A section on enabling functions including financial planning; workforce; procurement; digital and data and procurement
 - A table showing how the objectives align with the seven National Well-being Goals established by the Well-being of Future Generations Act
 - A table of measures which highlights recent performance and the baseline position for key measures that will be used to track progress
 - The addition of a measurement framework as an appendix to the report, with any revisions required as a result of Council approving the 2023-24 budget to be reported to members in the first quarter of the financial year.
- 3.6 The authority is operating with the expectation that financial settlements over the next five years will be challenging. It is not possible to set precise medium targets for all measures at this stage since what can be achieved will be linked to the resources available for delivery. The intention is for targets to be updated following Council's consideration of the 23-24 budget. Progress can then be tracked, and adjustments made, through regular reports to cabinet members which can be examined by Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.7 The document establishes a clear purpose to become a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life and sets the goals for Monmouthshire to be a:
- **Fair place** to live where the effects of inequality and poverty have been reduced;

- **Green place** to live and work with reduced carbon emissions, making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency;
- **Thriving and ambitious place**, full of hope and enterprise;
- **Safe place** to live where people have a home where they feel secure in;
- **Connected place** where people feel part of a community, are valued and connected to others;
- **Learning place** where everybody has the opportunity to reach their potential.

3.8 These objectives are underpinned by a series of actions that will ensure that the organisation is able to deliver on its ambition and a range of measures to enable progress to be monitored. The Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee will receive reports to evaluate how well the strategy is being implemented and ensure decision-makers are accountability for delivery.

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

4.1 The plan contains commitments to action relating to equalities, social justice, corporate parenting and safeguarding.

4.2 An integrated impact assessment has been completed and accompanies this report. The Community and Corporate Plan applies the ways of working outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations Act. This includes taking a long-term view and developing preventative approaches. The Plan details some activities that require further work which will be subject to individual decisions in accordance with the council's constitution including completing equality and future generations evaluations where appropriate.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

5.1 Every choice we make carries an opportunity cost. Some of these commitments – such as the building of new schools – have already been approved by council as part of an agreed policy position while others are in the early stages of development. Each new proposal brought forward to deliver against these goals will be subject to an individual decision in accordance with the constitution.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

6.1 The Community and Corporate Plan sets out clearly the council's purpose. It contains specific objectives which can be measured over time. A full measurement framework is contained within the plan and targets will be finalised early in the next financial year once the budget has been set by Council in March.

6.2 The actions to deliver the plan will be embedded in the service business plans of individual teams. Headline quantitative measures and progress updates

will be made available to the Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee. A full evaluation of progress will be produced annually.

7. REASONS:

- 7.1 To ensure that high-level political ambition is converted into a clearly articulated strategic plan that sets the direction for the organisation and gives clarity to council staff and partners.
- 7.2 To ensure that resources can be aligned with the organisations priorities and provide a basis for the organisation's work to be evaluated as required by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.
- 7.3 To ensure that the Council has clear Well-being Objectives as required under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 Rising costs will mean that we will not be able to keep doing everything that we have done in the past in exactly the same way. Each of the activities in the Community and Corporate Plan carries some resource implications and the plan has been developed alongside the budget and in knowledge of the financial pressures experienced by the organisation as referred to in paragraph 3.2

9. CONSULTEES:

Cabinet
Strategic Leadership Team

This document was developed through a series of workshops involving councillors from all political parties alongside experts and people from different organisations. The current iteration of the plan has also been shaped by comments received when the previous version was debated at Council in October and subsequent interactions with councillors from all groups, led by the relevant Cabinet Member

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None

11. AUTHOR:

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Taking Monmouthshire Forward

Working together for a fairer,
greener, more successful county.
Community and Corporate Plan 2022-27

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sir fynwy

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Welcome

It is with pride that I introduce the Council's Community and Corporate Plan 2022-2027 - our first major plan since our election in May 2022.

Taking Monmouthshire Forward: working together for a fairer, greener, more successful county draws on all the resources we have to become a zero-carbon county, while also supporting well-being, health and dignity for all.

Monmouthshire is a wonderful, beautiful place to work, to live and to visit. Our people, our greatest asset, have shown resilience to adversity - the pandemic, flooding and now the cost-of-living crisis. More than that, we have kindness and neighbourliness, showing support for each other and for refugees given a safe haven in our county. We know how to work together.

But the challenges we face are great. The impact of climate and nature's crises are visible to us all. We can see and feel the change. Our county is the most economically unequal in Wales. We don't have enough affordable homes. Our population is ageing with many needing the care that we, like all other councils, are struggling to provide.

In developing our strategy, we consulted widely and value the expertise and knowledge of those who contributed. We are grateful for their time and effort.

Our plan does not shy away from what matters to our communities: the big challenges of sustainable transport, homelessness and maintaining key services. We have been open to new ideas and ways of working.

Many years of austerity have made the council a lean organisation and increasing budgetary pressures require fundamental change in how services are delivered. More than ever, we need to work in partnership with town and community councils, the police and fire services, businesses, housing and voluntary organisations and sister authorities.

As well as delivery, our focus will also be on prevention, with joined up services to help prevent people falling into greater hardship or failing to thrive in work or education. Our aim is to protect the most vulnerable and to promote healthier, more active lifestyles.

In delivering change we will work with you, identifying the need and sharing the reasoning, opportunities and options. The decisions we all make now will not only affect us but our children and generations to come.

We will continue to listen to your ideas and concerns, as we roll out the plan, working together to find the best way to address the challenges we face. All need to feel they have a voice and that their rights are protected. Only by collaboration and respect can we meet our challenges.

I am aware that our plan takes Monmouthshire into unknown territory. It needs to. But I am confident that the abundant talent and resourcefulness and the characteristics which held us together during the pandemic will allow us now to make Monmouthshire a welcoming, safe and thriving place for everyone.



Cllr Mary Ann Brocklesby
Leader, Monmouthshire County Council

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Introduction

This Community and Corporate Plan sets out our ambition for the council and county of Monmouthshire. It has been written against a backdrop of national and global uncertainty but we remain hopeful for the future of our place. We are confident in the compassion, creativity and commitment of the people who make this county so special.

This is the first plan produced by the council following the elections in May 2022. It has been developed with councillors from all political parties alongside experts and people from different organisations who came together in the months preceding its publication. Together we identified the challenges and opportunities facing the county and sought to reach consensus on the things we will do to address these.

Our ambition, described in this plan as the things we want to achieve, looks to the long-term and is focused on the well-being of current and future generations.

The challenges this plan sets out to address include climate change, income and health inequalities and access to housing and transport. These are complex issues. We cannot pretend that we have all of the answers. We know we must work together as public services, as businesses and as communities to tackle them. None of these issues can be dealt with alone or in the short term. We need to think far more about some of the solutions and the long-term impact of the decisions we make.

We will continue to work closely with our partners in Welsh Government, the Cardiff Capital Region and the Gwent Public Services Board. Along with the latter we are committed to making the whole of Gwent healthier, fairer and greener for everyone and we will work closely with the Institute of Health Equity at University College London to do this.

The actions in this plan cover the first steps of our journey. We will continue to review our thinking as we finalise a new medium-term financial plan to make sure that our spending follows our priorities. At time of publication the budget for the 2023 – 24 financial year had not been set by council. As a result, it is not possible to set precise targets for all of the measures we will be using to track performance. A report will be presented to Council at a future date to approve these and those targets will be embedded in this report to ensure transparency and to enable us to be held to account for delivery.



Monmouthshire Now

Monmouthshire is a fantastic place to live, work and visit occupying a strategic position between the major centres in south Wales and the south-west of England and the Midlands. Many residents take advantage of good road links to commute out of the area for employment opportunities.

Monmouthshire is a predominantly rural county, covering an area of approximately 880 square kilometres, with a population of 93,000 and meaning a low population density of 1.1 persons per hectare. The dispersed population and the rural nature of the county can present challenges delivering some services. Just over half of the total population live in urban areas.

Our population is ageing with a higher-than-average proportion of older people in the county which is forecast to rise still further. In contrast, the number of under 18s is forecast to decline by 2033. We recognise that our population is made up of many different groups and it's important for us to reflect the diversity of needs and different experiences and backgrounds that make our population what it is.

Monmouthshire is generally a prosperous area offering a high quality of life for its residents. None of our communities are in the most deprived 10% in Wales. However, Monmouthshire has the highest level of income inequality in Wales and these headline figures can mask pockets of deprivation that are all the more stark when seen alongside with areas of relative wealth.

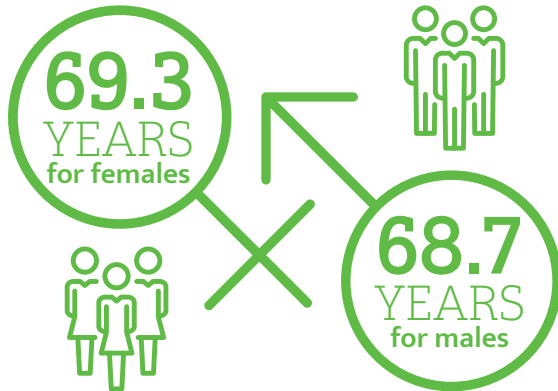
Some key figures of that highlight the position in Monmouthshire are:

- Rising inflation is causing more people to fall into financial difficulties. 23.4% of children are living in poverty and 10% of people are living in households in material deprivation.
- An estimated 720 kilotonnes of carbon is emitted in the county. This is equivalent to 7.5 tonnes per person, significantly above the UK average of 5.6 tonnes
- An employment rate of 78.4%, significantly higher than the rest of Wales. Gross Value Added per head is the seventh highest in Wales and those working in the county now have the third highest earnings in Wales.
- The local authority maintains four secondary schools, 30 primary schools, one special school and one pupil referral unit.
- Over half of Monmouthshire's working age population are qualified to level NVQ4 and above, compared to 38.6% for Wales and 43.6% for the UK.
- When compared to areas with similar demographics Monmouthshire's crime rate is just above average. Over the past two years there have been notable rises in rapes and other sexual offences.
- Monmouthshire has the highest house prices in Wales averaging £373,000, nearly ten times average the earnings. There are currently 4,201 households waiting for social housing in the county, of which 322 are homeless.
- Average health life expectancy in Monmouthshire is 64.3 years for females and 65.7 years for males, both of which are above the average for Wales and the other local authorities in the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board area. However, there are significant differences between the poorest and most affluent areas within our county.
- The county benefits from a wide range of community groups and the council is an active partner in groups such as the Gwent Public Services Board, Cardiff Capital Region as well as benefitting from a wide range of collaborative services.

Our challenges and key information

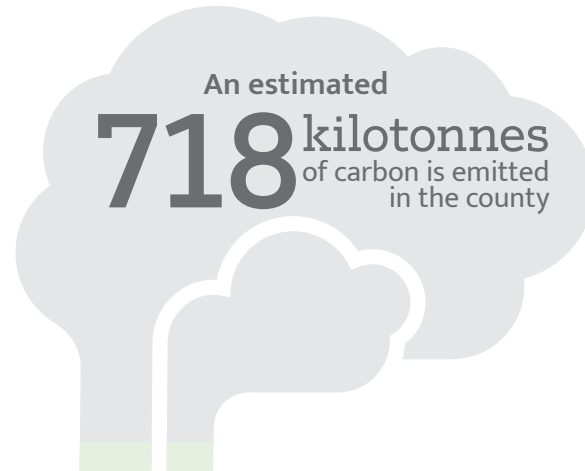
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Average healthy life expectancy in Monmouthshire is:

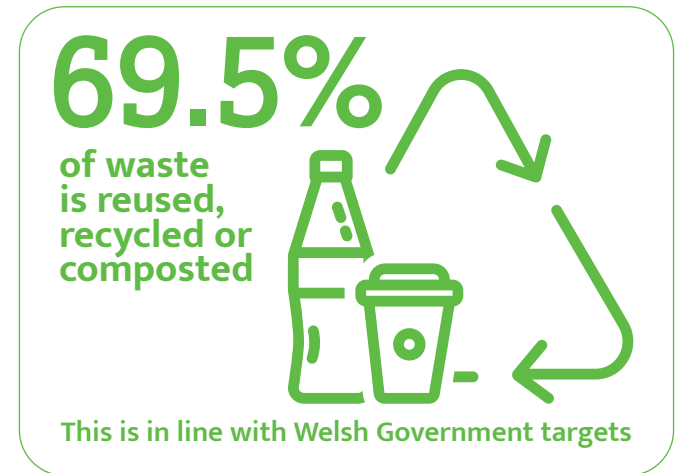
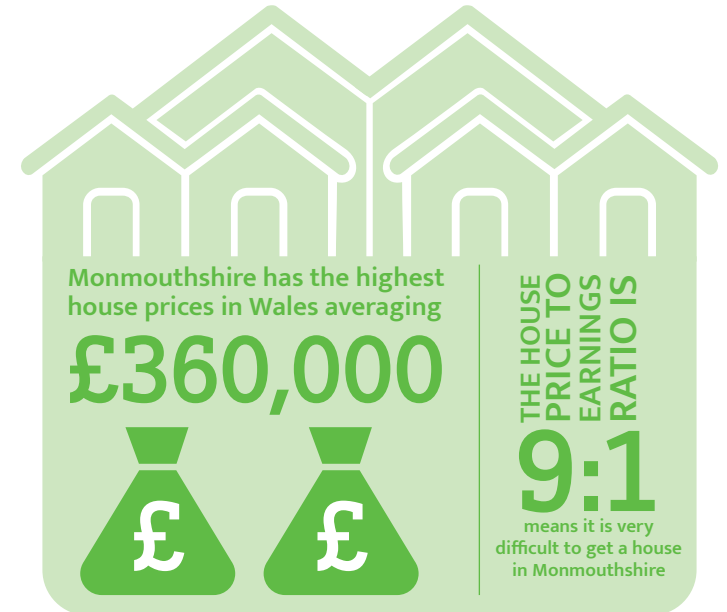



both of which are above the average for Wales

The gap in life expectancy between those in the **most** and **least** deprived areas of the county is:



This is equivalent to **7.5** tonnes per person significantly above the UK average of **5.6** tonnes





The number of people **AGED 65 & OVER** living in the county grew by **26%** in the last **TEN YEARS** with a **34%** increase in those age **90 YEARS** and above

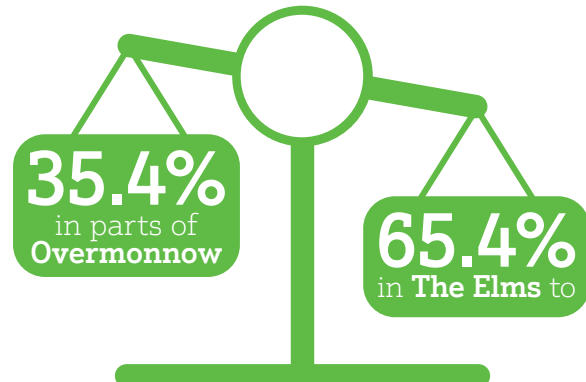
There were falls in the number of children aged **0 to 14 (by 9.3%)** and in the **working age population (by 3.6%)**



there are currently **4,201** households waiting for social housing in the county


322 of these are homeless and housed in temporary accommodation by the council.

There are marked variations in **deprivation between communities** within Monmouthshire. For example, the **percentage of households not deprived** in any dimensions varies from:



35.4% in parts of **Overmonnow**

65.4% in **The Elms** to

MCC income includes:		MCC spending includes:	
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	BUSINESS RATES	EDUCATION	COMMUNITIES AND PLACE
£77.5M	£34.8M	£59.0M	£23.2M
	COUNCIL TAX (MCC element only)	SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH	LEISURE, CULTURE & TOURISM TOURISM
	£62.6M	£57.9M	£4.4M

Our Principles and Values

Our ambition is backed by the principles which will always drive us; Tackling inequality and protecting our environment and adapting to a world being reshaped by climate change. These will be specific programmes of work and also principles that anchor everything we do.

Values matter to us. They set out our expectations of ourselves, each other, as well as the people and the organisations that we work with on your behalf.

Our organisational values are:

Teamwork

Collaboration is at the heart of everything we do. We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved. We will make the best of the ideas, and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

Openness

We are open and honest. People have the chance to be involved and tell us what matters.

Flexibility

We are flexible, enabling delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

Fairness

We provide opportunities for all people and communities to thrive. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently recognising that we will sometimes need to take positive action to overcome some of the innate challenges faced by people with different protected characteristics.

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.

Continued involvement and engagement with Monmouthshire’s community groups, public service partners, service users and residents is essential to understand what matters, and to ensure programmes are bold and ambitious.

Our ambition subsequently outlined in the document looks to the long-term and is focused on the well-being of current and future generations. The actions cover the first steps of the journey and will be reviewed alongside the development of the council’s new medium-term financial plan to make sure that our spending follows clear priorities.

We will use the Marmot Principles to inform our approach to becoming a healthier, more equal and greener county. This means:

- giving every child the best start in life
- enabling all children, young people and adults to maximize their capabilities and have control over their lives
- creating fair employment and good work for all
- ensuring a healthy standard of living for all
- creating and developing sustainable places and communities
- strengthening the role and impact of ill-health prevention
- tackle racism, discrimination and their outcomes
- pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together

There is more about this later in the plan.

Developing the Plan

Our motivation is to make Monmouthshire a fairer, greener place where all our people and communities are empowered, safe and respected. Our organisation, and our county, are facing some big challenges and we need to ensure our that our understanding of well-being in the county remains up-to-date and current to inform our priorities. To meet our ambition we need clear priorities that can be delivered within the confines of a balanced budget and financial plan.

We began by gathering a wide range of information to help us understand the issues that are most important to people. We have developed our understanding of our places and the people who live here through assessments and research.

We then held a series of Cabinet member led collaborative workshops, which reviewed the evidence and involved a range of representatives with an interest in Monmouthshire and expertise including; Council staff, elected members, partners and external experts/ community members with knowledge and lived experience to develop the strategic direction, main outcomes and priorities for the corporate plan.

We have also worked with our partners on the Gwent Public Service Board in becoming a region committed to being a healthier, greener and more equal region. This means putting these things are the centre of developing all of our approaches including education, transport, housing, places and spaces, and the economy.

These actions have informed the way we have set our objectives for Monmouthshire. For each objective we have identified the issues we face, what the evidence is telling us and what we want to achieve to deliver them.

Further information on the process we undertook to develop the plan is in Appendix 2.

Our Objectives

We have established a clear purpose to:

become a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life.

To deliver our purpose the objectives we set ourselves are for Monmouthshire to be a:

- **Fair place to live** where the effects of inequality and poverty have been reduced;
- **Green place to live** and work with reduced carbon emissions, making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency;
- **Thriving and ambitious place**, full of hope and enterprise;
- **Safe place** to live where people have a home and community where they feel secure;
- **Connected place** where people feel part of a community, are valued and connected to others;
- **Learning place** where everybody has the opportunity to reach their potential.



Our Community and Corporate Plan – at a glance

OUR PURPOSE

To become a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life

OUR OBJECTIVES

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Fair place	Green place	Thriving and ambitious place	Safe place	Connected place	Learning place
 <p>to live where the effects of inequality and poverty have been reduced</p>	 <p>to live and work with reduced carbon emissions, making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency</p>	 <p>full of hope and enterprise</p>	 <p>to live where people have a home and community where they feel secure</p>	 <p>where people feel part of a community, are valued and connected to others</p>	 <p>where everybody has the opportunity to reach their potential</p>

OUR VALUES



Teamwork



Openness



Fairness



Flexibility



Kindness

OUR OBJECTIVES

A Fair Place to Live

Nobody should be left behind in Monmouthshire or feel their voice does not count. We will work with our partners and you to improve the ways we tackle poverty and inequality, always seeking to include people with lived experience.

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**The issue we face**

The Covid-19 pandemic was not just a health crisis but an inequality crisis, reinforcing and exacerbating inequalities that already existed. Having started to move into recovery and out of the pandemic, residents have now been faced with another crisis - an economic shock felt all around the UK.

Poverty is experienced by many groups with in-work poverty becoming increasingly prevalent as household struggle with rising inflation and higher living costs. In Wales currently, 28% of people are behind on a bill or payment, with this most likely being council tax, water or energy bills.¹

Within Monmouthshire poverty is dispersed across the county and there are areas of poverty situated amongst affluence. Poverty affects different groups in different ways.

Women are at the centre of the cost-of-living crisis, often due to the strong link between caring responsibilities and financial insecurity. Women who experience intersecting discrimination, including disabled women, ethnic minority women, trans women, and women with no recourse to public funds, are being hit hardest by rising costs. Even before the pandemic and cost of living crisis, women were more likely to be in low-paid jobs, at a higher risk of poverty and food insecurity and had fewer savings and more debts than men. These inequalities have increased during the pandemic.

Monmouthshire has always welcomed refugees and we have seen the arrival of over a hundred families from Ukraine since the outbreak of the war. This has been possible thanks to the generosity of local people who have opened up their homes and provided support. However, there will be challenges providing housing and longer-term support to this group, other refugees and the share of asylum seekers entering the UK who will end up in the county.

Welsh Government defines poverty in three dimensions: access to income; access to services and the ability to participate in social, leisure and cultural activities and decision-making. As a council, we don't have direct control over residents' incomes, but we can, for example, re-direct discretionary fund cost of living payments to those on the lowest incomes and ensure that people get the maximum financial support and benefits that they are entitled to by providing strong, timely advice, thus increasing their incomes. We can also improve access to services, and increase participation in decision-making, as well providing social or leisure opportunities to families. We should also be able to intervene to reduce loneliness and help families thrive.

Monmouthshire has always welcomed refugees and we have seen the arrival of over a hundred families from Ukraine since the outbreak of the war.

¹ Running on empty: why we need reform in the cost-of-living crisis | WCPP

Improved access to advice and benefits for people on low incomes

More than £15 Billion of benefits go unclaimed in the UK each year. Figures are not available locally but based on population size this could mean over £20 million of unclaimed benefits in Monmouthshire. As a result many people are needlessly struggling when support is available to them. We will provide timely, accessible high-quality debt advice on what benefits people are entitled to as well as providing financial support to organisations like Citizens Advice Monmouthshire.

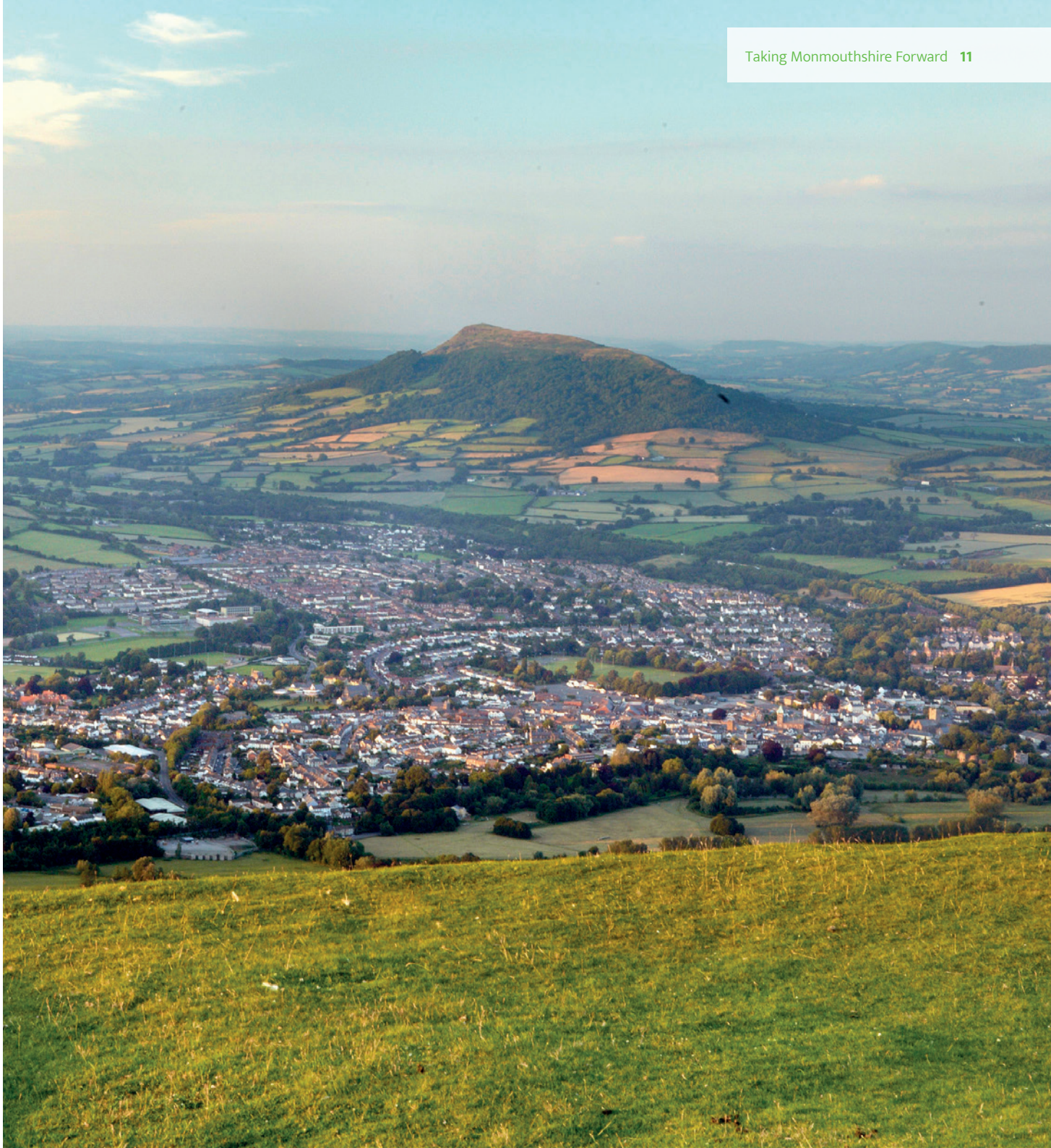
We also see poverty via the three-pronged approach and our interventions and work over the next five years, building on the previous Social Justice Strategy and Poverty Action Plan, will reflect that. Our aims are to increase peoples' access to income, increase their access to services and enable them to more fully participate in society.

What the evidence tells us

More and more people are falling into poverty with inflation going up quicker than incomes. Fuel and energy costs have risen significantly in 2022 and the Resolution Foundation has estimated that to afford the increase in energy bills forecast in January-March 2023, the poorest fifth of households will have to cut back 24% of non-essential spending.

Data shows that 23.4% of children in Monmouthshire live in poverty², 9,500 households earn below 60% of the GB median income and 10% of people are living in households in material deprivation. However, poverty is

² End Child Poverty - Campaigning for an end to child poverty





not simply a lack of income. It is also an inability to participate in experiences and in decision-making, and a lack of ability to access services. Other evidence shows that:

- Across Wales 46% of single parent households are in poverty – twice as high as the overall poverty rate in Wales at 23%.
- 86% of single parents in Wales are women
- The house price to earnings ratio is 9:1 means it is very difficult to get a house in Monmouthshire. There are more than 2,200 people in need on the waiting list for social housing and there is a shortage of private rental properties available

As well as the research evidence cited above, we convened a workshop including community groups, agencies and councillors from all political groups so we could identify gaps, priorities and success stories. The group identified that much excellent work is already

going on at MCC, from the Community Development team, the housing team as well as in our schools. In fact we found that in almost every sphere of the council’s work, poverty and inequality can be reduced if our actions are focused on that. Our challenge, therefore, is to ensure that there is a strategic approach and all our actions lead to a reduction in inequality and poverty in the next five years.

Nobody should be left behind in Monmouthshire or feel their voice does not count. We will work with our partners to improve the ways we tackle poverty and inequality, always seeking to include people with lived experience.

A more detailed table of evidence is contained later in this document. Regular reports will be published showing progress against these to enable the authority to be held to account for delivery.

Nobody should be left behind in Monmouthshire or feel their voice does not count.

Universal Free School Meals for Primary Pupils

The Welsh Government announced in June 2022 all primary schools would have universal free school meals by 2024. A recent study by Sustain showed that every £1 invested in universal school meals now could deliver a return of £1.71 - or £41.3 billion over 20 years - as a result of improved educational attainment, health and wellbeing, and wider economic contribution.

The benefits of free school meals are three-fold:

- Boosts attainment and attendance, and increases a child’s lifetime earnings
- Improves food security and helps families save on food costs
- Improves diet quality and helps combat childhood obesity, saving the NHS money in the long term

Before this funding became available 1,747 pupils in Monmouthshire primary schools had free school meals. The roll-out to further pupils started in September 2022 beginning with reception, year 1 and year 2. This will increase attendance and attainment and reduce stigma. School holiday provision will also be implemented.

What we want to achieve	Some of the actions we will take	How we will measure progress	Who is Accountable
Improved life chances for people regardless of income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement universal free school meals for all primary school children with support in the school holidays for those who need it • Ensure access to advice services so that people get the maximum financial support they are entitled to • Support children, young people and families through provision of free or low-cost activities through MonLife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of children receiving free school meals • Percentage of children living in low-income households • Amount of additional income generated for families • Percentage of people living in households in material deprivation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement
All residents have access to the services and support they need to live a healthy life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners across the Public Services Board to provide mental health support and well-being services • Provide employment support advice to help people find jobs • Ensure targeted support to people who need additional services • Promote healthier lives and increased physical activity through the provision of sports and leisure facilities and access to open spaces under the MonLife brand • Provide pathways to positive lifestyle and exercise choices through referrals to the exercise referral scheme • Work with partners to reduce food insecurity and help people access places to keep warm in winter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of households given financial support by the Housing Gateway • Number of people successfully supported to find jobs • Percentage of care experienced young people who have completed at least 3 months in education, training or employment • Percentage of people eating 5 or more fruit and veg each day • Percentage of people successfully completing the exercise referral scheme at week 16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement
A diverse and inclusive workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become a Level 2 accredited Disability Confident Employer • Work with local employers across the county to encourage take up of the Disability Confident pledge • Ensure that we play our part in delivering the Race Equality Action Plan for Wales; The Disability Action Plan; the LGBTQ+ action and Gender Equality plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability confident level 2 status attained • Difference in average pay between men and women working in the county 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement

What we want to achieve	Some of the actions we will take	How we will measure progress	Who is Accountable
<p>Citizens should be able to participate in all aspects of life including culture, sport and democracy and have the ability to determine their own futures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a participatory budgeting programme to enable all citizens to have greater influence on how we spend money • Launch and establish a citizens’ panel to inform our work • Increase and support the number of people who volunteer • Become an accredited county of sanctuary for those fleeing war and persecution • Provide more opportunities for people to speak and learn Welsh • Support children and young people’s voice by promoting the completion of national surveys. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of people who feel they are able to influence decisions in their local area • County of Sanctuary status attained • Number of Welsh speakers i) in the county and ii) employed by the council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement • Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Accessible Health Services

OUR OBJECTIVES

A Green Place to Live

We will work with others in Monmouthshire and beyond to protect the environment, support nature recovery, reduce our carbon emissions and promote the circular economy.

The issue we face

We are in a climate and a nature emergency. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change confirm that:

- Human activity has already made irreversible climate change inevitable,
- This brings severe consequences that we will need to adapt to, and which we will see increasingly in coming years, and
- If we do not take urgent action to mitigate further climate change, we are on a path towards making the planet unliveable for future generations.

At the same time, the Environment Agency have indicated that the biodiversity crisis joins the climate crisis as an existential risk to our survival, with almost a fifth of UK plants threatened with extinction, and a third of British pollinator species in decline. The UK is now one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. In Wales, the 2019 State of Nature report confirmed that 30% of wildlife is found in fewer places than it was in 1970 with 1 in 6 species being at risk of extinction.

The health of our rivers is a particular area of concern. Phosphate targets for the Usk are being failed at a rate of 88% and the Wye at 68%



What the evidence tells us

The need for nature recovery in our local area is clear. The Greater Gwent State of Nature report identified 34% of species showing a decline in their numbers, and the Wildlife Trusts 'Bugs Matter' survey identified a 40% decline in flying insects in Gwent since 2004.

The health of our rivers is a particular area of concern. Phosphate targets for the Usk are being failed at a rate of 88% and the Wye at 68% - with algal blooms smothering other life in the rivers, especially in hot weather. The condition of rivers has a direct impact on the species that it provides habitat for – and a Cardiff University study showed a substantive decline in otter populations in 2021 for the first time since the 1970s. The health of our rivers is also impacted by litter, in particular plastics, the horrific extent of which can be seen on riverbanks

and beaches, and with microplastics found in fish and other species, including people.

We declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and our Climate Emergency Action Plan recognises the importance of managing green spaces to reduce energy use, absorb carbon and be resilient. When the plan was updated in 2021, the emphasis on nature recovery was strengthened, in recognition of the nature emergency, and an action on addressing water quality was added. We have also recently declared a motion for the rivers and ocean which contains an action plan setting out how we can play our part in realising clean, healthy and productive rivers and oceans, and also how we will work with a wide range of partners and organisations such as Natural Resources Wales and Dŵr Cymru to improve the health of our rivers.

Our workshops made us aware that our aims can only be achieved by working effectively with our residents, businesses and community groups – whether this is in relation to litter, circular economy, re-use, repair and recycling, maximising the use of local produce, sustainable farming practices or the modal shift away from car usage. We need now to build upon the start we have made to address these issues, integrating climate and nature protection into everything that we do, and working with the expertise and energy in our communities, to build a nature-positive response to the challenges we are facing.

A more detailed table of evidence is contained later in this document. Regular reports will be published showing progress against these to enable the authority to be held to account for delivery.



What we want to achieve	Some of the actions we will take	How we will measure progress	Who is Accountable
<p>Nature recovery, improved environmental and river health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that biodiversity and ecosystem resilience is embedded within decision making at all levels • Maintain and expand Nature Isn't Neat approach and increase community and partner engagement and participation • Work with other local councils, partners and landowners to achieve catchment wide improvements to river quality • Work with partners to support landscape scale action to improve ecosystem resilience and tackle key pressures on species and habitats • Work with partners to promote natural flood alleviation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of land covered by Nature isn't Neat • Demonstrate that we are an active participant in Wye and Usk River Catchment Partnership and Living Levels Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment
<p>Sustainable local agriculture and farming practices with public services and residents consuming more local and seasonal produce</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote community access to land for growing food • Support initiatives to help farmers to increase carbon sequestration and adopt sustainable and regenerative farming practices • Work with Welsh Government and The WLGA to capture data on carbon sequestration through sustainable farming scheme • Increase the use of local produce in council services • Promote benefits of local food and reduction in edible food waste to Monmouthshire communities • Work with Food Monmouthshire - the county's sustainable food partnership, suppliers, processors and logistics to support the development of the local supply chain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of land used for allotments or community growing • Quantity of edible food waste in domestic waste stream • New strategies and policies approved by Cabinet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

What we want to achieve	Some of the actions we will take	How we will measure progress	Who is Accountable
<p>Council operations are net zero by 2030 and local communities are supported to reduce their own carbon footprint</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the carbon emissions generated from the council’s properties • Increase renewable energy generation from council land and buildings • Ensure that our procurement and commissioning processes focus on carbon reduction at each stage of the procurement cycle • Reduce carbon emissions from Council fleet vehicles and staff commuting • Improve walking and cycle routes and integrate with the public transport network. Improve local bus network and work with Transport for Wales to improve local rail network • Expand access to electric charging infrastructure, to support switch to low emissions vehicles • Support residents and businesses to reduce waste and maximise use of low carbon energy sources • Support communities to reuse and repair items through initiatives such as reuse shops, Benthys and Repair Cafes • Reduce use of single use items such as plastics in Council operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon emissions (kgCO2e) from the Council’s assets and operations • Carbon emissions per capita for Monmouthshire residents • Local Transport Plan supporting modal shift is produced • Number of bus and rail passengers • Number of active travel routes i) in place ii) in development • Residual household waste produced per person • Percentage of municipal waste sent for recycling, reuse or composting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

OUR OBJECTIVES

A Thriving and Ambitious Place

We will work with national, regional and local partners to increase investment, improve connectivity and enable an economy which is thriving, ambitious and enterprising. It will achieve success through serving the interests of all our people and communities, increasing equality and matching economic activity with a lower carbon footprint.

The issues we face

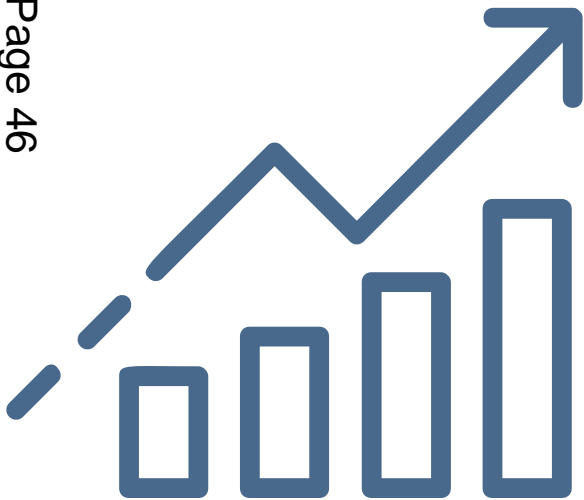
Monmouthshire has significant economic advantages. It is located near growing cities such as Bristol and Cardiff and needs to maximise the gains from this close proximity. Monmouthshire is distinguished by the quality of its towns and landscape and this is the basis upon which it can attract investment, skilled labour and visitors. There are many successful businesses in the County who value their location and their relationship with the County Council and whose growth needs to be accommodated.

The vibrancy of our towns is pivotal to our future success, but they continue to be threatened by economic recession, changing patterns of retail and the aftermath

of Covid. Our towns will need constant and creative re-imagining to retain their role as motors of our county's economy and a visitor attraction. They must also continue to be exciting places for social interaction.

Public transport networks within the county are weak. The bus services that link our towns and the more rural settlements have diminished and struggle to serve the purpose of assisting people into employment and the amenities in our towns. The rail network between the county and its surrounding cities suffers from inadequate frequency and high fares. The result is an over-reliance on car transport and this leads to congestion and contributes to carbon emissions and air pollution.

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The Replacement Local Development Plan

The Replacement Local Development Plan will set out land use proposals for the county, identify how much new development will take place to 2033 and where this will be located.

The plan will the Council's objectives and address the core issues of delivering essential affordable homes at pace and scale, responding to the climate and nature emergency by delivering net zero carbon ready new homes in exemplar places, and ensuring our communities are socially and economically sustainable by attracting and retaining younger people to rebalance our ageing demographic. It will also identify areas to be protected from development and provide policies against which future planning applications will be assessed.

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What the evidence tells us

Monmouthshire has an above average employment rate of 78.4%, significantly higher than the rest of Wales (73.7%) and the UK (75.5%). We have the second highest number of active enterprises per 10,000 population in Wales at 739, just behind Powys. In 2021, 91.6% of enterprises in Monmouthshire employed fewer than 10 people compared to a Wales average of 89.5%. Gross value added per head in Monmouthshire is the seventh highest in Wales.

Around 3,119 people were employed in the tourism sector in 2019 (pre-Covid), circa 8% of the total number of jobs in the county with 2.28M visitors. In 2021, tourism generated an economic impact to our local economy of £183M compared with £245M in 2019.

Sustainable, accessible active travel infrastructure and

public transport remains a key priority to support our communities to access services without a reliance on private vehicles. We have been successful in attracting £4.1M of grant funding for 2022/23 to develop active travel networks across the County and are working with partners such as Transport for Wales and Welsh Government to develop integrated solutions including walking and cycling routes to train stations.

19.5% of the total area of industrial and business sites identified in our most recent Local Development Plan was available for development in 2021. Nevertheless, potential investors continue to refer to a lack of land and a recent Employment Land Review suggests issues with a lack of readily available units for potential businesses to move into and lack of space for existing businesses to expand into. The replacement LDP (RLDP), expected to be adopted in summer 2025, will set out the planning policy framework to enable the provision of approximately 6,240 additional jobs by allocating 38ha of employment land and by including policies to facilitate economic growth. The RLDP will be supported by an Economic Development Strategy, expected to be adopted in summer 2025.

Monmouthshire has an ageing population with a lower proportion of working age people than other areas. The replacement Local Development Plan needs to provide housing that meets the needs of a younger population, with more affordable homes, including more social housing for rent. By working with further and higher education providers to enhance their offer we can encourage more young people to live in Monmouthshire.

There is poor connectivity within Monmouthshire and between our towns and the surrounding cities of Bristol, Bath, Newport and Cardiff. Train and bus services are too infrequent to allow effective connections between the

places where we live and work. We have been successful in attracting £4.1M of grant funding for 2022/23 to develop active travel networks across the County and are working with partners such as Transport for Wales and Welsh Government to develop integrated solutions including walking and cycling routes to train stations. There remains heavy reliance on cars to achieve movement within the county and to the surrounding cities – and this is not sustainable. For some people, agile working from home or from local hubs can reduce the need to travel, but broadband provision is poor in some areas.

There is poor connectivity within Monmouthshire and between our towns and the surrounding cities of Bristol, Bath, Newport and Cardiff.



What we want to achieve	Some of the actions we will take	How we will measure progress	Who is Accountable
<p>Vibrant town centres which bring people together and attract investment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reshape and redevelop town centres so that they balance retail with diverse economic activity • Support the amenities, events and experiences that attract people to our towns • Work with property owners and landlords to minimise town centre vacancies • Ensure town centres are accessible via active travel by developing routes up to 3 miles where the key destinations focuses on travel to; schools, town centres, key employment sites, bus and rail stations. • Maintain a sustainable and accessible public bus network (including community transport) that serves our town centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town centre footfall • Number/percentage of vacant town centre premises • Number of tourists visiting the county and income generated by tourism • Use of data to track levels of Active Travel at identified locations • Number of passenger journeys on Grass Routes buses • Number of people using Monmouthshire towns railway stations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Sustainable Economy • Active Travel actions & measures: Cabinet Member for Inclusive & Active Communities • Passenger Transport & car park actions & measures: Cabinet Member for Climate Change & the Environment
<p>People of all ages and backgrounds have the skills to do well in work or start their own business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop better links with further and higher education • Provide more support for people who wish to start their own businesses in the county • Encourage innovation and clustering in sectors such as food • Reduce labour shortages in sectors such as care and construction • Encourage and promote skills to support the transition towards a low carbon economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of start-up businesses assisted • Number of working age population supported into employment • Gross disposable household income per head • Number of school leavers not in education, employment or training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Sustainable Economy

What we want to achieve	Some of the actions we will take	How we will measure progress	Who is Accountable
<p>Sustainable Transport and Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop active travel routes that encourage people to walk and cycle to towns, schools and local key destinations including ensuring that Replacement Local Development Plan sites are well-connected • Promote the circular economy by growing our network of re-use shops, repair cafes and libraries of things • Invest in additional active travel routes, better bus infrastructure and work with partners to enhance the local railway system • Work with partners to increase the frequency of train services, creating a 'metro' that links Monmouthshire to Bristol, Newport and Cardiff • Work with partners to increase the frequency of the buses that link our towns with neighbouring villages • Develop a county wide digital technology that matches those who need to travel with those who have car spaces • Adopt a Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) for the period 2018-2033, which will make provision for approximately 5,940 homes* (including 1,850 affordable homes) and approximately 38 hectares of employment land (B use classes).' • Maintain and improve key highways infrastructure including roads, pavements and bridges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of active travel routes created or enhanced • Number of rail and bus passengers • Number of car journeys shared • Number of new homes and affordable homes built • Number of bus services at railway stations • Number of electric buses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Inclusive and Active Communities; • Cabinet Member for Sustainable Economy; • Cabinet Member for Climate Change & the Environment • Active Travel actions & measures: Cabinet member for Inclusive & Active Communities • Passenger Transport actions & measures: Cabinet Member for Climate Change & the Environment

OUR OBJECTIVES

A Safe Place to Live

We will work with partners to prevent homelessness, increase the availability of good quality affordable housing and promote approaches to help homeowners to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions

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The issue we face

House prices across the UK have been steadily rising and Monmouthshire is no exception. House prices here are the highest in Wales, and the ratio of workplace-based earnings to house prices is also the highest in Wales, making it extremely hard for those living and working in the county. This problem also results in many people needing to move out of the area, causing knock on negative effects for the local economy and longer-term viability of our communities. These high house prices, paired with limited availability of privately rented properties has led to a significant increase in demand for affordable housing, a demand that we are unable to fulfil due to limited availability of development land, phosphate issues in the north of the county which has led to development being put on hold, and lack of 'ready to go' sites coming forward in the south of the county.

The cost of living, including rising energy prices, increasing inflation and rising interest rates which increase mortgage and borrowing costs risk adding additional financial pressures to households and limit the affordability of housing. This is impacting on households in the county, particularly those on lower incomes.

Carbon emissions from homes are a significant part of the county's carbon footprint. Improving the energy efficiency of homes in Monmouthshire will not only help to reduce our carbon footprint, but it will also help to alleviate fuel poverty, something that is likely to be experienced by more households given the current economic climate. We will ensure that homeowners have access to tailored advice to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions and ensure that eligible

Monmouthshire residents are able to take advantage of funded improvements through national and regional schemes.

Recent changes to Welsh Government policy have also meant that local authorities now hold more responsibility than before in ensuring homelessness becomes rare, brief and unrepeatable, which has resulted in a significant increase in pressure on our Housing Options Team to provide temporary and permanent accommodation to homeless households. There is a limited supply of suitable accommodation available due to accommodation being at capacity, limited homeless placements and decreasing privately rented properties, and demand is continuing to grow.

Rapid Rehousing

Monmouthshire is experiencing unprecedented numbers of people in temporary accommodation as we grapple with a shortage of affordable housing. We will be using a rapid rehousing approach to prevent homelessness reoccurring and reduce the use of temporary accommodation.

Rapid Rehousing is an internationally recognised approach which ensures that anyone experiencing homelessness can move into a settled home as quickly as possible, rather than staying in temporary accommodation for long periods of time.

What the evidence tells us

Average house prices in Monmouthshire are the highest in Wales at £373k . This is significantly higher than the Wales average of £224k and the UK average of £295k . Overall prices rose 35% between 2016 and 2021, with a jump of £23k in average house prices between September 2020 and June 2021 alone, likely due to greater demand for houses in rural areas following increased ability to work from home as a result of the pandemic. The ratio of house prices to earnings is also the highest in Wales with average house prices at around 10 times workplace-based earnings, compared to the Wales average of 6.5 times. Monmouthshire’s high house prices make it extremely difficult to live and work locally, creating problems for young people, leading many to move out of the county.

In addition to high house prices, there are limited privately rented properties available in Monmouthshire. Studies suggest that the rental properties available reduced by almost 50% between 2010 and 2019, with prices increasing by 25% for Monmouthshire as a whole. The private rental market is highly unlikely to be a viable option for those in receipt of Local Housing Allowance or Universal Credit. Our most recent Local Housing Market Assessment found that only 5.75% of privately rented properties in Monmouthshire are affordable to those in receipt of LHA.

Given the limited availability of affordable homes there is no surprise that the demand for social housing has increased. There are currently 4,201 households waiting for social housing, of which 322 are homeless. This is a significant increase on the 2020 figure of 3,500. Our modelling predicts that between 2020-25, over 68% of new households will be priced out of the housing market each year. Alongside this surge in demand there have been limitations in the development of affordable accommodation with our latest Local Development Plan

annual monitoring report noting a shortfall of 302 affordable homes for the period 2011-2021. In the immediate future, it has been estimated that 468 additional affordable homes will be needed per annum up until 2025.

Limited availability of social housing, limited supply of accommodation and rising pressures and costs are all likely to contribute to higher numbers of homeless households in the county. Limitations in development and procurement of affordable homes have naturally led to more homeless households being housed in temporary accommodation. We have seen substantial increases over recent years, especially since the pandemic, with numbers increasing from 18 households at the end of 2019 to 182 in November 2022. The number of households unintentionally homeless and in priority need has increased fivefold from 15 in 2020/21 to 78 in 2021/22.

A prominent issue raised during the workshop was the

Studies suggest that the rental properties available reduced by almost 50% between 2010 and 2019

need for wider preventative work through focusing on earlier intervention which would help to alleviate pressure on housing demand and reduce the need for temporary accommodation. A Rapid Rehousing approach to homelessness is currently being developed to transform the delivery of homeless services.

A more detailed table of evidence is contained later in this document. Regular reports will be published showing progress against these to enable the authority to be held to account for delivery.



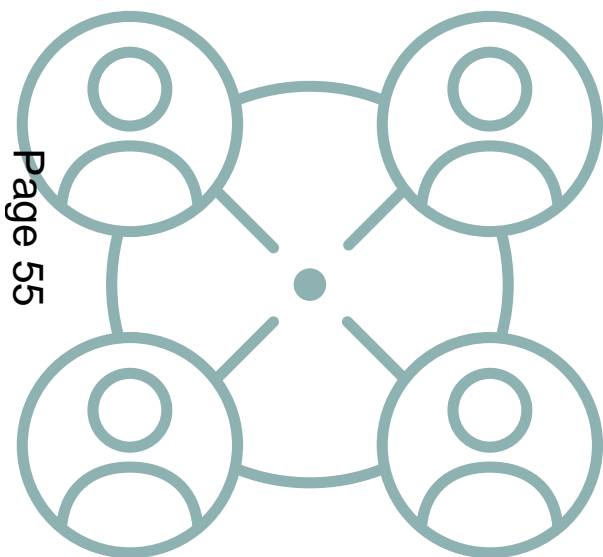
What we want to achieve	Some of the actions we will take	How we will measure progress	Who is Accountable
<p>Increased supply of good quality affordable housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce a replacement local development plan with affordable housing and exemplar well-connected net zero carbon ready developments at its heart • Ensure delivery of affordable homes on existing sites with planning permissions • Work with partners to develop homes for social rent on public sector land and bring empty properties back into use • Put in place processes for the Council to buy accommodation to rent out and acquire homes • Explore new ways of constructing homes, such as modular builds that are being used by other councils and identify sites for permanent and temporary housing • Review and update the shared housing allocations policy • Explore feasibility of and opportunities for co-operative and community housing in Monmouthshire • Continue to explore whether the Council should act as developer in addition to working with registered social landlords to bring forward new homes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of additional units of affordable housing delivered • Ratio of house prices to earnings • Number of property acquisitions for rental/lease • Percentage of social housing allocated to homelessness households • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Inclusive and Active Communities & Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Economy

What we want to achieve	Some of the actions we will take	How we will measure progress	Who is Accountable
<p>Reduce the number of people who become homeless</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a Rapid Rehousing approach to prevent homelessness recurrence and the need for temporary accommodation • Reduce the use of B&B accommodation by acquiring more private leased properties • Eliminate the use of B&B accommodation for households with children and young people • Reduce the use of B&B accommodation to emergency accommodation only and the average time spent in temporary accommodation to under 6 months • Develop a young person’s housing action plan • Work collaboratively with social services to avoid care leavers becoming homeless • Work with partners to review how need and the local housing market is changing and respond accordingly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of homeless households in temporary accommodation • Number of additional/new units of homeless accommodation • Percentage of homeless applicants who are successfully prevented from becoming homeless • Number of young people and households with children in B&B accommodation • Number of care experience people who are homeless • Average time homeless households spend in Band 1 with a homeless duty before moving on to settled/permanent accommodation • Number of households moved from temporary accommodation to private leased properties • No. of homeless households moved from temporary accommodation to settled/permanent social housing • Number of households in band 1 with a homeless duty e.g. waiting for social housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Inclusive and Active Communities
<p>A more energy efficient housing stock with a lower carbon footprint</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure access to sources of advice and support for homeowners and landlords to retrofit homes to alleviate fuel poverty, increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions • Establish our energy efficiency baseline for residential properties across the county • Work with partners to maximise the benefits of Ofgem schemes to reduce fuel poverty • Conduct a feasibility study into a purchase-retrofit-rent out approach to bringing empty properties into use as exemplar social homes • Work as a Council and nationally to ensure planning guidance requires carbon zero/A rating/Passivhaus standards for new homes in Monmouthshire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of homes that have a poor/good energy efficiency rating • Average carbon emissions per household in Monmouthshire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Inclusive and Active Communities

What we want to achieve	Some of the actions we will take	How we will measure progress	Who is Accountable
<p>Communities in which everyone feels safe and respects each other</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with police, partners and communities to tackle anti-social behaviour • Continue to develop our CCTV network and maintain street lighting • Ensure that schools, police, youth and social services work together and focus on prevention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of people feeling safe at home, walking in the local area, and when travelling • Rate of anti-social behaviour incidents per 1,000 population • Number of new preventative referrals made to the youth offending service • The proportion of those referred to the youth offending service who subsequently re-offended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Equalities & Engagement • Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Accessible Health Services

A Connected Place

We want Monmouthshire to be a place where people feel safe, their contributions are valued, they feel part of a community and are connected to others.



The issue we face

The health and social care system is facing significant challenges and statutory services are struggling to cope with the volume and complexity of demand. Budgets are contracting and recruiting and retaining key staff is becoming more challenging. This means that people cannot always access the support they need. Modelling shows that the number of those most likely to require publicly funded services will increase relative to the number of economically active people who are able to provide tax revenue.

We recognise that well-being is about far more than treating people when they get sick. There are many factors that can have an impact on our health from the environment, housing, what we do for work, how much we earn, our lifestyles, transport and community cohesion. These wider determinants of health, sometimes called the social determinants, can impact in either a positive or negative way on physical and mental health.

My Mates

My Mates is a group of 345 members who are self-directing and shaping the way people with a learning disability live their best life.

The focus is on non-paid friendships and the creation of close personal relationships that value and promote choice, well-being, education, and independence.

The group have held daily get togethers including: a Christmas ball, Bowling, Nightclubbing, Pubs, Coffee Shops and restaurants.



What the evidence tells us

Over the past ten years the growth in life expectancy in the UK has stalled following five decades of improvement, this has not been seen in other developed nations. Increasing healthy life expectancy, through increased physical activity and healthier diets could help people to have more years of good health, reducing the demand for social care and health services. At a county level, Monmouthshire residents experience better health than those of neighbouring parts of Wales, but this can often hide inequalities at a local level with the gap in life expectancy between those living in the most and least affluent parts of the county being more than seven years. The area also has an ageing population with 12.1% of the population aged 75 or over which is the highest in the Cardiff Capital Region area.

We recognise the importance of working closely with partners to develop enhanced community and primary care through local Neighbourhood Care networks or NCNs.

The number of people providing unpaid care is on the increase across the UK. Research shows that carers are providing tens of billions of pounds of unpaid care in the UK. These people are vital and without their efforts the health and social care system would become overwhelmed. Research shows that without carers

Research shows that care leavers, also called care experienced young people, often have much poorer outcomes in adult life than their peers. They are more likely to not be education employment or training and they are more also likely to be homeless . Our Corporate Parenting Strategy and Panel are key opportunities to promote and further the needs and interests of this group.

At our engagement workshops participants stressed the importance of partnership working with statutory bodies and the third sector, the importance of clear communication, good support for carers and making more use of assistive technology and digital solutions.

Other evidence shows that:

- Average healthy life expectancy in Monmouthshire is 64.3 for females and 65.7 for males, both are above the average for Wales and the other local authorities in the Aneurin Bevan Health Board area.
- The gap in life expectancy between those in the most and least deprived areas of the county is 7.4 years for females and 7.8 years for males
- 87% of adults receiving care and support are happy with the services they receive compared to 89% in the previous two years
- The rural nature of Monmouthshire means a large proportion of people will have difficult accessing services with 27% of wards in the bottom decile according to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation
- 23.4% of children are living in poverty and that access to preventative and early help services targeted at those needing them the most is integral to our ambition to help children get the best start in life
- The numbers of children who are looked after by the Local Authority has risen in recent years and remains at just above the Welsh average at 120 per 10,000 population . There is an even male/female split in the year ending March 2022
- The local authority supports an increasing number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.
- Last year there were 60 care leavers between the ages of 16 and 25 who were connecting with the LA for advice and support

A more detailed table of evidence is contained later in this document. Regular reports will be published showing progress against these to enable the authority to be held to account for delivery.

At a county level, Monmouthshire residents experience better health than those of neighbouring parts of Wales



What we want to achieve	Some of the actions we will take	How we will measure progress	Who is Accountable
<p>High quality social care which enables people to live their lives on their terms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to enable people to stay in their own homes and communities wherever possible • Provide early help and preventative services that reduces the likelihood of children and families requiring long-term support • Reduce avoidable hospital admissions and continue to support effective discharge from hospital by facilitating further opportunities for integration between health and social care including increased in-reach into hospital settings. • Expand the number of not-for profit placements for children who are looked after • Increase in county placement options and work with partners to ensure that care will be provided without profit • Continue to ensure that information, advice and assistance is available to provide timely access to social care • Provide a high-quality residential care facility for people with dementia • Expand the availability of carers for those who wish to receive direct payments to arrange their own care and support needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of assessments completed within statutory timescales • Number of children supported to remain living with their family • Number of children who are rehabilitated home after a period of being looked after • Number of children who remain at home following a period on the Child Protection Register • Percentage of families who do not need long term support after Building Stronger Families intervention • Percentage of placements with in-house foster carers • Number of new in-house foster carers recruited • Number of patients waiting for discharge from hospital for social care reasons • Percentage of adult service users who have had the right information or advice when they needed it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Accessible Health Services

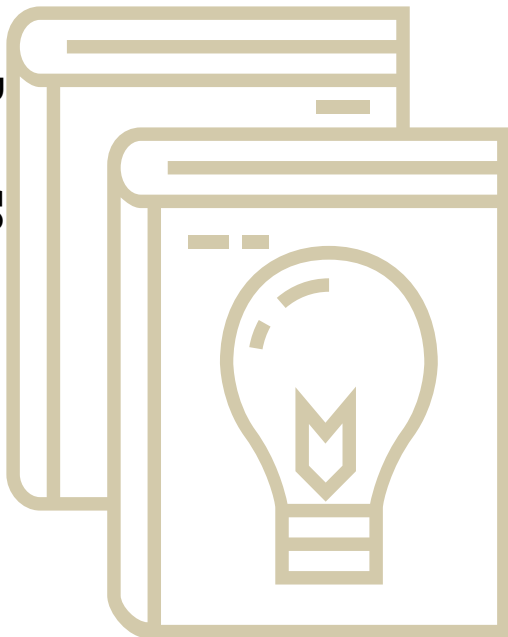
What we want to achieve	Some of the actions we will take	How we will measure progress	Who is Accountable
<p>A healthy and active Monmouthshire where loneliness and isolation are reduced, well-being is promoted, and people are safeguarded</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with public sector partners across Gwent to improve the social determinants of health inequality such as; income; health and access to green space • Provide direct care which is flexible and supports people to achieve their personal outcomes • Maintain and develop early help and preventative services for children and families • Promote whole school approaches to support the mental well-being of children and young people • Work in partnership with carers to provide a range of services that are responsive to their needs • Provide a varied range of activities in a safe environment for children, young people and adults to participate in physical activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy life expectancy at birth • Difference in healthy life-expectancy between men and women • Percentage of adult service users who are happy with the care and support they have had • Percentage of people who have had a positive outcome following a period of reablement • Percentage of families reporting a positive outcome following a building stronger families team intervention • Number of carers and young carers supported by the carers team • Number of people attending i) MonGames ii) Food and Fun iii) Active Play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Accessible Health Services
<p>A professional and passionate social care workforce</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote social care as a career of choice and find innovative ways of growing recruitment of the best people • Encourage diversity and inclusion within the workforce with representation of more people from different ethnic minorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of job vacancies in social care workforce • Percentage of the workforce from ethnic minority backgrounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Accessible Health Services

A Learning Place

Monmouthshire will be a place where everybody experiences the best possible start in life and has the opportunity to learn; developing the skills and knowledge they will need throughout life to reach their potential.



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The issue we face

The pandemic had a detrimental effect on schools and pupils, with learning moved online or hybrid and many students struggling to adapt to the changes. Since then, schools have reopened, however there is still work to be done to effectively ‘catch up’ on learning that was missed or delayed. The pandemic also widened the gap for vulnerable and disadvantaged learners, especially those with limited access to IT equipment, leading to increased absences and disengagement with schoolwork. Learners with additional needs were also at a disadvantage during the pandemic due to limited access to support. The

mental health and well-being of pupils was consequently affected, with many experiencing heightened feelings of anxiety, loneliness and depression.

The current economic climate we find ourselves in will mean that the cost of sending children to school will increase, putting a strain on many families and posing a risk to mental well-being, meaning those feelings of anxiety are likely to continue, for both pupils and parents. As costs increase and budgets tighten, schools will be under pressure to deliver high quality performance with limited resources, putting a strain on both pupils and teachers.

Getting Children Back to School

Pupils have suffered an unprecedented disruption to their learning over the past few years as a result of the pandemic. It is vital that we support schools to secure high levels of attendance and minimise levels of persistent absence. We also need to reduce the numbers of home educated pupils through engagement with families and schools to minimise any potential barriers to school experiences.



What the evidence tells us

Monmouthshire's adult population generally are more qualified, on average, than other counties in Wales. Over half of Monmouthshire's working age population, or 52.6%, are qualified to level NVQ4 and above, compared to 38.6% for Wales and 43.6% for the UK. A much smaller percentage of the population hold no qualifications compared to Wales and the UK; 3.1% of working age adult have no qualifications compared to 8.3% and 6.6% for Wales and the UK, respectively. However, Monmouthshire has the third lowest number of people attending community learning activities in Wales. Continued learning as adults not only contributes to development and increases opportunities, but it can also benefit mental well-being.

Across Wales, the number of pupils persistently absent increased during the pandemic and has remained high at around 10%, compared to less than 3% pre-pandemic. In addition, the attendance gap between pupils eligible for

free school meals and those not was exacerbated by the pandemic, increasing from 6% to 16%. Persistent absence in primary-aged pupils has increased to 5%, compared to 1.6% before the pandemic. Research has found that the pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on the mental health and emotional well-being of children and young people, with many reporting increased feelings of depression.

Something we learned in our workshop was that the strain on mental well-being has continued. The rising costs are causing stress not only to parents who are having to spend more on uniforms and school supplies but also to schools who are facing increased energy and travel costs. Pupils' anxiety levels are also higher now than before the pandemic, stressing the importance of the health and well-being education that will be included in the new curriculum. Another important point made clear in the workshops was that some pupils do not have

access to necessary equipment to access often used platforms, however students felt sure that schools would support them. It is vital that we work closely with schools to bridge the widened gap for disadvantaged learners and to ensure all pupils are able to maximise their potential.

A more detailed table of evidence is contained later in this document. Regular reports will be published showing progress against these to enable the authority to be held to account for delivery.

Monmouthshire's adult population generally are more qualified, on average, than other counties in Wales.

What we want to achieve	Some of the actions we will take	How we will measure progress	Who is Accountable
<p>Improved school attendance and reduced levels of exclusion which remove barriers to learning for vulnerable pupils</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an approach to inclusion that recognises the challenges brought about by the pandemic • Develop holistic approaches to attendance management focusing on early identification of need to address all barriers to school attendance' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels of attendance • Number of exclusions • Engagement of schools in professional learning and resources around Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) • Percentage of young people experiencing an improvement in attendance through the Re-Engage programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Education
<p>The benefits of the new curriculum in Wales are maximised through excellent teaching and learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a consistent and uniform approach to ensure that excellent teaching and learning is the bedrock of all classroom interactions • Develop a broader 14-19 offer including more collaboration between comprehensive schools and tertiary partners • Maximise opportunities to hear the voice of the learner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range of courses available to reflect the needs and interests for 14-19 year olds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Education
<p>A truly inclusive educational system that recognises learners starting points, strengths and educational needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that our provision meets the needs of a wide range of learners including vulnerable groups and those with additional learning needs • Universal provision effectively supports all learners to achieve their potential • Develop a broader educational offer to include both academic and vocational pathways and engage partners from public and private sectors • Develop more support, such as coaching and mentoring for pupils • Ensure those at financial disadvantage have access to IT equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress of vulnerable learners is good. • A good range of appropriate provision to meet the needs of vulnerable learners • Additional Learning Provision (ALP) meets the needs of vulnerable learners in the county and is of good quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Education

What we want to achieve	Some of the actions we will take	How we will measure progress	Who is Accountable
<p>A county where people can develop their well-being; be it emotional, mental or physical</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the affordability and accessibility of adult education courses • Continue to provide a wide range of outdoor experiences and cultural attractions for residents and visitors • Promote healthier lives and increased physical activity through the provision of sports and leisure facilities and open spaces under the MonLife brand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of adult learners enrolled • Percentage of people participating in sporting activities three or more times a week • Percentage of people who attend or participate in arts culture or heritage activities three or more times a year by local authority • Number of schools successfully engaging with the statutory framework for whole school approaches to mental health and wellbeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Education • Cabinet Member for Inclusive and Active Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue our programme of school modernisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a new, carbon neutral, 3 – 19 school in Abergavenny • Increase Welsh medium primary school provision including a newly refurbished school on the site of Deri View and the opening of a seedling provision in Monmouth • Develop a strategic review of all schools and their catchments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All measured by attainment of key milestones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Education

Our Council

We want to be a council that works effectively for you and gives the best value for money

We need to ensure the Council remains relevant and viable for the next generation, while continuing to meet the needs of residents, visitors and businesses in the here-and-now. To support the delivery of our goals, we have to make sure that all aspects of the council are working efficiently, effectively and in line with the sustainable development principle set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

Financial Planning

Councils in more affluent areas receive less central government funding than those in poorer areas and as a result, are required to raise more from local sources like Council Tax. As a result, Monmouthshire County Council receives the lowest level of central government grant funding of any local authority in Wales. We have always delivered services within budget while maintaining a prudent level of financial reserves. We've done this by being as efficient as possible, pursuing innovative approaches and acting with a commercial mindset. Graph/spend graphic

This plan has been produced against the backdrop of economic uncertainty. We face rising energy costs, inflation and escalating borrowing costs alongside increased demand pressures in areas such as children's services, adult social care, homelessness, additional learning needs and home to school transport.

Demands on us have grown which means we will need to adjust our practice and do things differently. We will enact our plan with a financially responsible approach so that we deliver the best services within our means as a county. Based on assumptions we have modelled, and pressures in our service area we have identified an unprecedented £23m budget shortfall that needs to be addressed for the 2023/24 financial year. We will develop a Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) that allows a balanced budget to be set that delivers on our agreed corporate priorities.

Workforce

We have a good track record of innovation but our challenges are on a scale we have not seen before. We are fortunate to have a passionate and dedicated workforce who deliver a wide range of services and are always open to new ways of working.

Many services are seeing an increase in demand. The workforce capacity to meet this and deliver the required services is limited in some areas, which can also indirectly put increasing pressure on other service areas. We will develop a people strategy to facilitate the organisation to deliver the workforce it needs to meet current and future demands, especially given recruitment and national skill challenges.

Assets

We have a diverse land and property portfolio, and we need to actively consider how our assets will meet our needs now and in the future. We will develop a new Asset management strategy that aligns to meet our needs and the objectives set out in this plan, this includes, our placemaking agenda, supporting town centre regeneration, carbon reduction plans and future workplace requirements. This will also take account of key challenges including flooding, affordable housing and accommodation for homeless people.

Digital & Data

In the coming years, the council will need to adjust its delivery to meet many challenges and opportunities. At the heart of this will need to be digital, information and data to deliver services and meet customers' needs in ways which were unimaginable ten or fifteen years ago. There is a need to keep pace with the latest practice in these field, build on existing networks in place and ensure that capacity is in place to progress at the pace required and that our residents expect.

Stakeholders and partnership working

The things we want to do also require collaboration. We deliver the commitments in the plan alongside may partners such as the Welsh Government, Cardiff Capital Region, Gwent Public Services Board and community and town councils. We will also continue to lean into the expertise and enthusiasm of the many volunteers and community groups that make this county so special.

Procurement

Our new socially responsible procurement strategy will be vital in making sure our budgets are used effectively to deliver our priorities, reduce carbon, while delivering community benefits and social value. We will strive to maintain quality and promote equality across our services and will begin to use gender responsive budgeting to ensure an equitable use of our resources

Participation and Engagement

The contemporary policy challenges that we need to meet, working with our communities, are complex and evolving. We need to ensure that our understanding the county remains up-to-date and current to inform our priorities. We will develop a public participation strategy focussed on involvement and engagement with Monmouthshire's community groups, public service partners, service users and residents to understand what matters, how well we are currently doing and to ensure programmes are bold and ambitious.

Our approach will continue to be people focused and in line with our purpose, principles and priorities to ensure that Monmouthshire continues to be a place that you are proud to call home.

Customer Services

We aspire to be a council that is council responsive to the needs of residents, businesses and visitors. During the first 12 months of this plan we will review our customer service channels (online, phone and in person) to ensure that all enquiries get a prompt response and are dealt with by the most appropriate person.

Monitoring and evaluating our plan

The Community and Corporate Plan sits at the heart of our performance management framework. This ensures there is a shared understanding of what needs to be achieved and makes sure that it happens. All other plans will be built from the Community and Corporate Plan. These include the high-level enabling strategies that form the council’s policy framework and the strategic plans that provide the detail that brings this strategy to life.

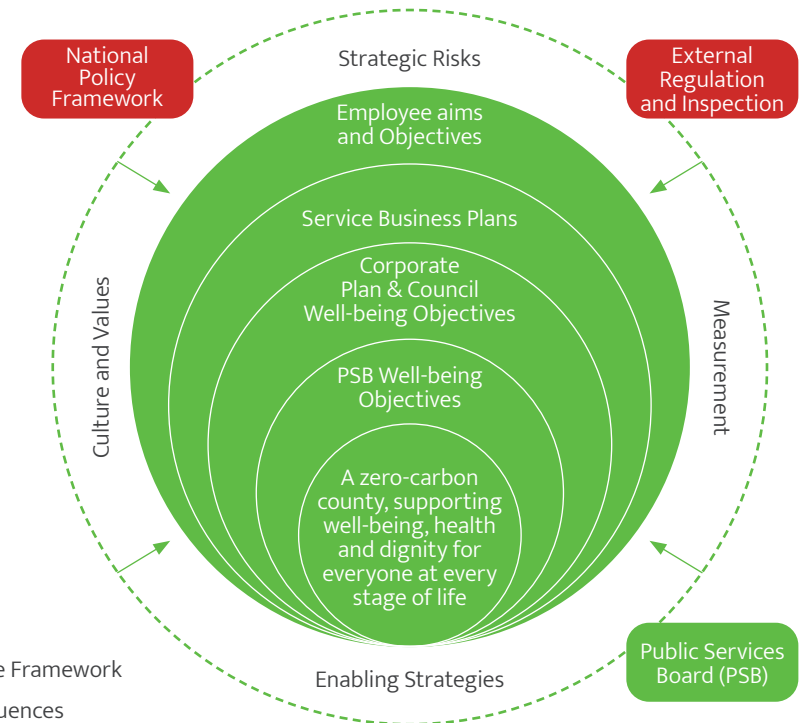
We are a partner in the Public Service Board, which is responsible for setting well-being objectives for Gwent and the county. The council’s own well-being objectives are set by Council and form the backbone of the Community and Corporate Plan. We produce an annual report self-assessing our progress against the objectives. Each of our teams has a service business plan that aligns to deliver these objectives. We have a range of performance measures that we use to keep track of our progress. Our risk management policy enables us to manage strategic risks to our delivery. Our employee aims and objectives show the contributions that individual colleagues make to these objectives and delivering our vision in accordance with our values.

Underpinning our performance management framework is a suite of measures that enable us to understand how well processes are working and more importantly to track progress against the things that matter.

Each objective identifies some of the measures we will use to evaluate our progress. The Measurement framework provided in appendix 3. Provides the mechanisms we will use to monitor these.

When we are dealing with complex issues it isn’t always easy to measure progress quarterly or annually in a single number. In the plan we’ve highlighted some of the more accessible metrics and milestones but behind all major programmes of activity we have a separate project plan or service business plans that describe the specific actions we will be working on to deliver the objectives. We will use these alongside a range of other evidence to self-assess our progress through an annual self-assessment report. This will clearly identify How well are we doing, how do we know? (The evidence we have used) and what and how can we do better?

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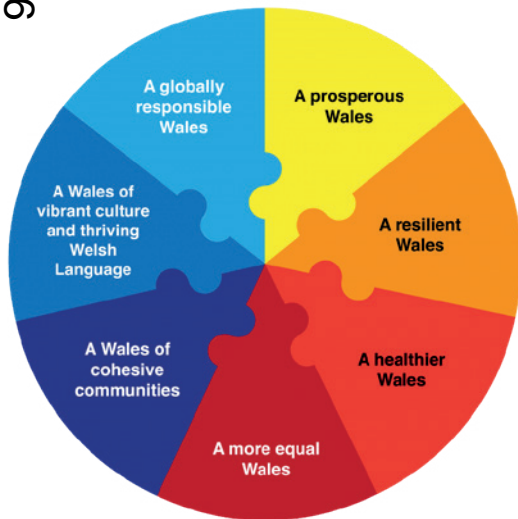


Appendix - National Policy

The Well-Being of Future Generations Act

The Well-being of Future Generations Act is the fundamental legislation that requires us to carry out sustainable development, this should ensure that present needs are met without compromising future generations in meeting their own needs. When carrying out sustainable development, we have to publish well-being objectives which are designed to maximise our contribution to achieving each of the seven national wellbeing goals and take all reasonable steps to meet the objectives. The seven wellbeing goals are shown in the diagram below while our own well-being goals are incorporated within this plan.

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The contribution our local objectives make towards the seven national objectives has been assessed and is shown in the table below

Contribution of Council Well-being Objectives to National Well-being Goals

MCC Well-being Objectives	Prosperous Wales	Resilient Wales	Healthier Wales	More equal Wales	Wales of cohesive communities	Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language	Globally responsible Wales
Fair place to live 	✓		✓	✓		✓	
Green place to live 		✓	✓		✓		✓
Thriving and ambitious place 	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Safe place to live 		✓		✓	✓		✓
Connected place 			✓	✓	✓		
Learning place 	✓		✓	✓		✓	

In planning our services and taking action to meet our well-being objectives we must consider, but also demonstrate that we have applied, the following sustainable governance principles in our decision-making:

Balancing short term needs with long term needs

Through the plan the priorities and actions agreed are forward looking and aim to have a positive long-term impact. The focus on reducing carbon emissions and the health of biodiversity and the environment is incredibly important in fighting the effects of climate change which will be around for many years to come. Increasing the energy efficiency of homes is also important to alleviating fuel poverty in the short-term but also has a positive long-term contribution in the form of reduced carbon emissions

Using an integrated approach, balancing social, economic and environmental needs.

The Council works closely with business, communities and partners to deliver its goals. The seven wellbeing goals are central to the Council's goals and run throughout everything that we do. The table above highlights which of the objectives impacts on each of the seven national wellbeing goals. How what we want to achieve in the community and corporate plan integrate with each other is set out below. The Council will work together with other partners to help deliver many aspects of the objectives.

Involving others and considering their views.

A range of information has been used to inform the development of the plan and workshops held with a range of those with an interest in the County. Monmouthshire aims to involve community members wherever possible. For example working with landlords and property owners to minimise town centre vacancies and setting out plans to maximise opportunities to hear the voices of learners in schools to ensure that the new curriculum is working for them.

Working in collaboration with others.

Collaboration is important to Monmouthshire County Council and can be seen within every goal. The council looks to work with public service partners across Gwent to improve social determinants of health; work with partners to ensure that all homes have good digital connectivity; work with partners to ensure people are able to stay in their own homes and communities wherever possible; and to create better links with further and higher education.

Putting resources into preventing problems

The plan has a strong focus on prevention, with resources going into preventing problems occurring or getting worse. There is a focus in social care services on trying to prevent crisis and that avoidable hospital admissions are reduced and also setting out to maintain and develop early and preventative services for children and families.

The table below illustrates how what we want to achieve in the plan integrates with other commitments.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (“the Act”) provides for a new and reformed legislative framework for local government elections, democracy, governance and performance. The Act requires each council in Wales to keep under review the extent to which it is meeting the ‘performance requirements’, that is the extent to which it is exercising its functions effectively; it is using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively; its governance is effective for securing these.

The mechanism for a council uses to keep its performance under review is self-assessment, with a duty to publish a report setting out the conclusions of the self-assessment once every financial year. Self-assessment will be complemented by a panel performance assessment once in an electoral cycle, providing an opportunity to seek external insights (other than from auditors, regulators or inspectors) on how the council is meeting the performance requirements.

Equality and diversity

All the current decisions made by the council and its cabinet are assessed using an Integrated Impact Assessment which ensures equality and sustainable development are considered fully in the decisions we take.

The council has a long-standing commitment to equality and diversity. We have a Strategic Equality Plan, produced under the Equality Act 2010, which sets the council’s objectives to ensure we deliver better outcomes for people with protected characteristics. Annual monitoring reports provide updates on progress on the action plans in the Strategic Equality Plan and evidence good practice being carried out across the council departments. These can be found [here](#).

Socio-Economic Duty

The Socio-economic Duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage when taking key decisions. Almost any decision the Council makes has some socio-economic impact. This is because of the nature of our responsibilities and the extent to which some groups, communities and vulnerable people rely on public services. Our aim is to properly understand this impact so that we can identify how we can maximise our support, where possible, and try to minimise any negative impact on people in greatest need.

The Welsh Language

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, and accompanying Welsh Language standards, place a legal duty on councils to treat Welsh and English equally, to promote the Welsh Language and provide services to the public through the medium of Welsh. We have a Welsh Language Strategy for 2022-2027, which identifies a vision of how the language will look in Monmouthshire in five years and is accompanied by targets to help achieve it. The annual monitoring reports reflect our progress against our Welsh language commitments under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards. These can be found [here](#).

Appendix - Developing the Plan

Identifying the evidence

We began by gathering a wide range of information to understand the issues that are most important to people. We have developed our understanding of our places and the people who live here through a range of assessments and research including: The well-being assessment, population needs assessment, and research for the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP). We also utilised a range of existing sources of information and knowledge including our whole authority self-assessment, cabinet priorities and engagement feedback.

Some of the key issues we identified include:

Economic

Monmouthshire has a competitive economy with excellent potential for growth. There is, however, a low rate of business start-ups compared to the capital region and Wales as a whole.

- The house price to earnings ratio in the county makes it difficult for young people and future generations to live and work locally.

Social

- There are significant income inequalities within communities, with wealth sitting alongside relative poverty on a scale not seen in other parts of Wales.
- We have an ageing population; while this has many advantages, it will create additional pressure on health and social care.
- There are significant differences in life expectancy, and action is required to address health inequalities and ensure that a range of programmes are in place to increase the opportunities people have to live healthy lives
- There are good levels of educational attainment in the county but some groups, such as those eligible for free school meals and vulnerable children, are not achieving at the same level as the wider population and the gap is not narrowing.

Culture

- The pandemic has reduced visits to cultural attractions that play an important role in well-being, such as museums and theatres, which will affect their viability.
- Monmouthshire enjoys high levels of social capital. Large numbers of people volunteer which helps build connections and is a major contributor to well-being.

Environment

- The rural nature of Monmouthshire means that transport is a significant contributor to the county's carbon emissions, with some areas also experiencing poor air quality.
- The effects of climate change are becoming apparent in Monmouthshire, particularly flooding, which has impacted many communities in recent years.

Responding to the evidence

As an organisation we are outward-looking, and focussed on building relationships with formal and informal community groups enabling the council to progress its priorities in collaboration, where appropriate. As part of this we have held a series of Cabinet member led collaborative workshops cabinet member led workshops which reviewed the evidence and involved a range of representatives with an interest in Monmouthshire and expertise to help including; Council staff, elected members, partners and external experts/ community members with knowledge and lived experience to develop the strategic direction, main outcomes and priorities for the corporate plan. In broad terms these workshops focused on:

- A strong, fair and local Economy
- Health and Social Care
- Climate Change and Environment
- Excellent education for life
- Homelessness and housing
- Tackling Inequalities and Poverty

The contemporary policy challenges that we need to meet, working with our communities, are complex and evolving. The plan has been produced against the backdrop of economic uncertainty with the council facing rising energy prices, inflation and escalating borrowing costs alongside increased demands in children's services, adult social care, homelessness, additional learning needs and home to school transport. These challenges are on a scale we have not seen before.

We will also continue to look at future trends to make sure we consider the things that will affect how we work in the longer-term and are able to capitalise on the benefits of emerging technology. These include in areas such as transitioning to net zero, tackling the

determinants of health inequality, making sure our children do well, and social care reform.

Recognising the inequality that exists in our communities the Gwent Public Service Board has agreed to become a 'Marmot' region with the intent to implement this approach to undertake evidence-based action to reduce inequalities in Gwent. This will re-focus and accelerate progress towards reducing the root causes of health and related inequalities across Gwent. As part of this, the PSB is using the eight Marmot Principles as the framework for action to reduce inequalities through its Well-being Plan.

- giving every child the best start in life
- enabling all children, young people and adults to maximize their capabilities and have control over their lives
- creating fair employment and good work for all
- ensuring a healthy standard of living for all
- creating and developing sustainable places and communities
- strengthening the role and impact of ill-health prevention
- tackle racism, discrimination and their outcomes
- pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together

As a partner on the Public Service Board we are working with our partners across Gwent and the vastly experienced support of Professor Marmot and the University College London Institute of Health Equity Team to develop actions in response to the challenges faced across Gwent. This work is informing the development of the PSBs Gwent well-being plan and the action we need to take locally in Monmouthshire in our Community and Corporate Plan.

An important part of this approach is working together as public services and as communities, to build on the assets we have and develop the solutions to the long-term challenges we face.

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Appendix - Measurement Framework

Each objective in the Community and Corporate Plan will be monitored using a mix of measures and milestones to evaluate our progress and enable the Cabinet to be held to account for delivery.

There are two tables below.






- The first covers the things that the council can have a direct and measurable effect on. The measures are a mix of input, process, output and outcome measures. These are the areas where we will be targeting specific and measurable improvements.
- The second shows the things that we want to track because they will inform our work. They include things like the house price to earnings ratio and healthy life expectancy. We want to see positive movement in these measures but they are things where our input is only part of a much bigger picture and so we are not able to set targets against them.


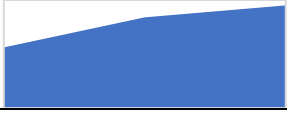




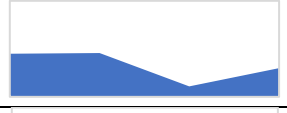


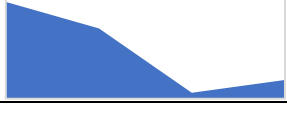

The columns show i) the trend over the past three periods ii) the current or latest figure and iii) a target for each indicator.






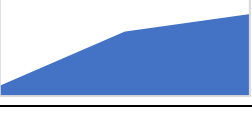



At time of publication it is not possible to set specific targets for all measures. This is because we first set our priorities (The Community and Corporate Plan being presented to Council in January), then we agree our budget to establish how much we can spend on delivery (Council sets the budget in March) and finally we set specific targets when we have clarity the resources we have available. As a result, some targets have not yet been set and others show a greater than/less than figure rather than a specific value. Most of the targets here have been set for a twelve-month period, these values will be adjusted over the lifetime of the plan.





We will also looking behind some of these numbers to disaggregate them. Many of the headline measures refer to 'people' but we know that populations are made up of many groups - including those with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act in 2010. These groups will be affected by services in different ways and we may need to introduce particular actions or mitigations as we strive for greater equity.

Table 1: Measures we have a direct effect on

Measure	Trend	Current	Target
A fair place to live			
Did we do it? Milestone			
Disability confident level 2 status attained			
County of Sanctuary status attained			
How did we do? Measures			
Number of children receiving free school meals	Data currently being collated	1747	To be set at a later date
Number of households given financial support by the Housing Gateway		54	To be set at a later date
The percentage of care leavers who have completed at least 3 consecutive months of employment, education or training in the 12 months since leaving care	Trend data not available	73.3	75
Number of working age population supported into employment		100	To be set at a later date
Percentage of people successfully completing the exercise referral scheme at week 16	Trend data not available	83	50
Percentage of people who feel they are able to influence decisions in their local area	Trend data not available	33	>33
Number of Welsh speakers employed by the council		308	405 ¹
Percentage of the population who can speak Welsh		18.4	>18.4
A green place to live			
Did we do it? Milestone			
Local Transport Plan supporting modal shift is produced			
New strategies and policies approved by Cabinet			
How did we do? Measures			
Number of active travel routes in development		16	18
Area of land used for allotments or community growing	Data currently being collated	Data currently being collated	To be set at a later date
Food waste captured from the waste stream and sent to Anaerobic Digestion (tonnes)		5,062	>5,062

Measure	Trend	Current	Target
Carbon emissions (kgCO ₂ e) from the Council's assets and operations excluding supply chain and land-based emissions		14,432	<14,432
Percentage of municipal waste sent for recycling, reuse or composting		69.5	70
Capacity (Mw) of renewable energy equipment installed		6.522	>6.522
kWh per annum of renewable energy generated		5,218,265	>5,218,265
Residual household waste produced per person (kg)		130	<130
Carbon emissions per capita for Monmouthshire residents (tonnes)		7.5	<7.5
A thriving and ambitious place			
Did we do it? Milestones			
County wide digital technology that matches those who need to travel with those who have car spaces is developed			
How did we do? Measures			
Number of tourists visiting the county (millions)		1.5m	>1.5
Average hourly town centre footfall		288	>288
Percentage of vacant town centre premises		8.8	<8.8
Number of passenger journeys on Grass Routes		7,979	To be set at a later date
Number of car journeys shared	New measure	New measure	To be set at a later date
Number of electric buses		3	4

Measure	Trend	Current	Target
Percentage of year 11 school leavers not in education, employment or training		2	To be set at a later date
Number of businesses assisted	Trend data not available	88	75
Number of working age population supported into employment		100	To be set at a later date
A safe place to live			
Did we do it? Milestone			
Replacement Local Development Plan produced			
The use of B&B accommodation is eliminated for households with children and young people			
Rapid Rehousing Approach introduced			
How did we do? Measures			
Number of additional units of affordable housing delivered		91	72
Percentage of social housing allocated to homelessness		46.7	55
Number of property acquisitions for rental/lease	Data currently being collated	Data currently being collated	To be set at a later date
Percentage of homeless applicants who are successfully prevented from becoming homeless		50	60
Number of young people and households with children in B&B accommodation	New Measure	34	30
Number of homeless households in temporary accommodation		186	177
Average time homeless households spend in Band 1 with a homeless duty before moving on to settled/permanent accommodation (months)		8.8	8
Number of homeless households moved to settled/permanent social housing		148	163
Percentage of homes that have an energy efficiency rating of C or above		49.2	>49.2

Measure	Trend	Current	Target
Number of new preventative referrals made to the youth offending service		59	To be set at a later date
The proportion of those referred to the youth offending service who subsequently re-offended		18.6	<18.6
A connected place where people care			
Did we do it? Milestone			
Development of a Mental Health action plan			
How did we do? Measures			
Percentage of families reporting a positive outcome following a Building Stronger Families team intervention	Trend data not available	84	85
Number of new in-house foster carers recruited		5	5
Percentage of placements with in-house foster carers		40.4	>40.4
Percentage of adult service users who have had the right information or advice when they needed it		77.4	>80
Percentage of assessments completed within statutory timescales		91.2	90
The percentage of packages of reablement completed during the year that mitigated the need for support		50.8	55
Number of patients waiting for discharge from hospital for social care reasons	Trend data not available	15	Measure reintroduced – target to be set at a later date
Percentage of adult service users who are happy with the care and support they have had		86.9	90
Number of people attending MonGames		4,131	4,200
Number of job vacancies in social care workforce		42	<42
A learning place			
Did we do it? Milestone			




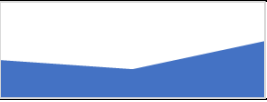










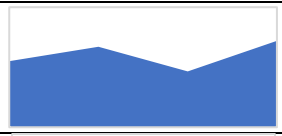

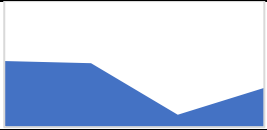
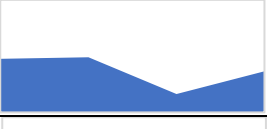


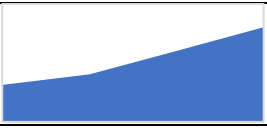
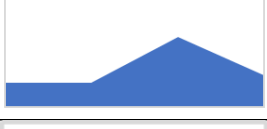


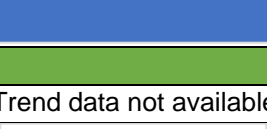
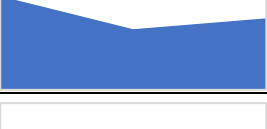
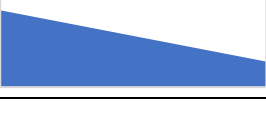
Measure	Trend	Current	Target
A new carbon neutral, 3-19 school is opened in Abergavenny			
A newly refurbished Welsh-medium primary school is opened			
A new Welsh-medium seedling provision is opened in Monmouth			
A strategic review of school catchments is completed and recommendations are made to Cabinet			
Range of courses available to reflect the needs and interests for 14-19 year olds			
Progress of vulnerable learners is good			
There is a good range of appropriate provision to meet the needs of vulnerable learners			
Engagement of schools in professional learning and resources around Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA)			
Additional Learning Provision (ALP) meets the needs of vulnerable learners in the county and is of good quality			
How did we do? Measures			
Pupil attendance primary level (percentage)		91.8	Target to be set at a later date
Pupil attendance at secondary level (percentage)		88.4	Target to be set at a later date
Rate of fixed term exclusions (5 days or less)		32.8	To be set at a later date
Percentage of young people experiencing an improvement in attendance through the Re-Engage programme	Data currently being collated	Data currently being collated	To be set at a later date
Number of Estyn inspections recognising positive progress towards the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales	Data currently being collated	Data currently being collated	To be set at a later date
Percentage of people participating in sporting activities three or more times a week		42	>42
Percentage of people who attend or participate in arts culture or heritage activities three or more times a year		76	>76
Number of adult learners enrolled		663	To be set at a later date

Table 2: Measures we will track

We want to see positive movement in these measures but they are things where our input is only part of a much bigger picture and so we are not able to set targets against them.

Measure	Trend	Current
A Fair Place		
Percentage of people who feel they are able to influence decisions in their local area		33
Difference in average pay between men and women working in the county		85.4
Percentage of people living in households in material deprivation		7
Percentage of children living in relative low-income families		17.4
Percentage of people eating 5 or more fruit and veg each day		37
Amount of additional income generated for families (£)	Trend data not available	660,977
A Green Place		
Average level of nitrogen dioxide pollution in the air (µg/m3)		6
Percentage of journeys by walking, cycling or public transport	Trend data not available	New Measure
Number of bus passengers	Data currently being collated	Data currently being collated
Number of rail passengers		625,374
A Thriving Place		
Employment rate (female)		72.7
Employment rate (male)		84.4
Gross Value Added per head of population (£)		21,458
Number of buses to/from town centres	Data currently being collated	Data currently being collated

Number of bus passengers (as above)	Data currently being collated	Data currently being collated
Number of rail passengers (as above)		625,374
Number of people using Monmouthshire towns railway stations	Trend data not available	605,468 ²
Number of bus services at railway stations	Trend data not available	0
Income generated by tourism (£m)		182.79
Gross disposable household income per head (£)		22,321
A Safe Place		
Percentage of people agreeing that they belong to the area; that people from different backgrounds get on well together; and that people treat each other with respect		68
Number of properties (homes and businesses) at medium or high risk of flooding	Trend data not available	1,505
Number of homeless households in band 1 with a homeless duty e.g. waiting for social housing		401
Rate of anti-social behaviour incidents per 1,000 population		13.89
Median house prices compared to median workplace-based earnings		10.38
Average carbon emissions per households in Monmouthshire		3.4
Percentage of people feeling safe at home, walking in the local area, and when travelling		75
Connected Place		
Percentage of people who volunteer	Trend data not available	32
Percentage of people who are lonely		13
Percentage of people satisfied with their ability to get to/ access the facilities and services they need		86

Percentage of people satisfied with local area as a place to live		9
Percentage of children supported to remain living with their family		59.8
Number of children who are rehabilitated at home after a period of being looked after		19
Number of carers and young carers supported by the carers team	Trend data not available	237
Percentage of the workforce from ethnic minority backgrounds	Data currently being collated	Data currently being collated
Healthy life expectancy at birth (women)		69.3
Healthy life expectancy at birth (men)		68.74
Learning Place		
Percentage of adults with qualifications at Level 4 and above of the National Qualifications Framework		52.6

¹ Five Year Target in line with the commitment in the Council's Welsh Language Strategy

² This figure does not include Chepstow.

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Integrated Impact Assessment document

(incorporating Equalities, Future Generations, Welsh Language and Socio Economic Duty)

<p>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Hannah Carter</p> <p>Phone no: E-mail: HannahCarter@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>To seek endorsement of a new Corporate and Community Plan that sets the direction for the council and county of Monmouthshire, articulating the authority's purpose, principles and priorities alongside some of the steps we will take to deliver these.</p>
<p>Name of Service area</p> <p>All Services</p>	<p>Date: 19/12/22</p>

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	<p>Many of our services are focused around improving the well-being of both the younger and older generation. The strategic goal 'Learning place where everybody has the opportunity to reach their potential' ensures that children and young people have access to an excellent standard of education; 'Connected place where people feel part of a community, are valued and connected to others' focuses on the well-being of older residents, ensuring a high quality of care and that the issues that they face, such as loneliness, are reduced.</p>	<p>No negative impact identified at this stage. It will be important to ensure that the impacts of any future changes are disaggregated to consider their effects on different groups</p>	<p>This plan sets long-term goals and actions of the Council. Some actions may require specific decisions from council or Cabinet in future. Any changes around positive or negative impacts will be updated accordingly at that point.</p>
Disability	<p>The goal 'a fairer place to live' ensures that the Council is taking steps to become a Disability Confident employer, whilst 'everybody has the opportunity to learn and grow' will strive to create an inclusive educational system, ensuring that the additional needs of learners with disabilities are being met.</p>	<p>As above.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
Gender reassignment	<p>Monmouthshire County Council strives to ensure equality and fairness across the service, and our goals and associated activity will promote diversity and inclusion and aim to bring benefit to everyone.</p>	<p>As above.</p>	<p>As above.</p>

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?
Marriage or civil partnership	Monmouthshire County Council strives to ensure equality and fairness across the service, and our goals and associated activity will promote diversity and inclusion and aim to bring benefit to everyone.	As above.	As above.
Pregnancy or maternity	Monmouthshire County Council strives to ensure equality and fairness across the service, and our goals and associated activity will promote diversity and inclusion and aim to bring benefit to everyone.	As above.	As above.
Race	Monmouthshire County Council strive to ensure equality and fairness across the service and are committed to delivering the Race Equality Action Plan for Wales.	As above.	As above.
Religion or Belief	Monmouthshire County Council strives to ensure equality and fairness across the service, and our goals and associated activity will promote diversity and inclusion and aim to bring benefit to everyone.	As above.	As above.
Sex	Monmouthshire County Council strive to ensure equality and fairness across the service, and will begin to use gender-responsive budget to ensure an equitable use of resources.	As above.	As above.
Sexual Orientation	Monmouthshire County Council strives to ensure equality and fairness across the service, and our goals and associated activity will promote diversity and inclusion and aim to bring benefit to everyone.	As above.	As above.

2. The Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice

The Socio-economic Duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage when taking key decisions This duty aligns with our commitment as an authority to Social Justice.

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice	<p>Addressing and tackling rising economic and social inequality is incredibly important to Monmouthshire County Council. This determination is embedded within many of the goals in the community and corporate plan, namely, ‘a fairer place to live’, which ensures improved life changes regardless of income and an inclusive and diverse workforce; ‘safe place to live’ which sets out to reduce homelessness and increase affordable housing; and ‘putting people at the heart of care and community’ which ensures everyone feels safe and respected.</p>	<p>No negative impact identified at this stage. However we need to be mindful that the current economic climate is likely to see more people struggling financially and the impacts of all new policies needs to take this into account.</p>	<p>Moving forward, the council should remain vigilant of the wider economic context and should be prepared and able to make changes quickly and effectively in the current fast-paced and ever-changing economy.</p>

3. Policy making and the Welsh language.

How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:	Describe the positive impacts of this proposal	Describe the negative impacts of this proposal	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts
<p>Policy Making</p> <p>Effects on the use of the Welsh language,</p> <p>Promoting Welsh language</p> <p>Treating the Welsh language no less favourably</p>	<p>The use and the promotion of the Welsh language within Monmouthshire and the council itself is crucial. The Council continues to abide by the legal framework set out by the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards, part of which requires the Council to set out a 5-year Welsh Language Strategy, the most recent of which was published in 2022. This strategy sets out how the Council aim to promote, facilitate and grow the Welsh language over the following five years. An objective from this strategy has been incorporated here within 'everybody has the opportunity to learn and grow' which aims to increase the number of students who receive their education in the medium of Welsh.</p>	<p>No negative impact identified at this stage.</p>	<p>This plan sets long-the long-term goals and actions of the Council. Some actions may require specific decisions from council or Cabinet in future. Any changes around positive or negative impacts will be updated accordingly at that point.</p>
<p>Operational</p> <p>Recruitment & Training of workforce</p>	<p>Monmouthshire County Council is dedicated to recruiting and retaining a strong, resilient and adaptable workforce. Training is offered consistently to ensure that all staff are able to expand and grow their learning.</p>	<p>There are no specific negative impacts as a result of the plan. However, recruiting fluent Welsh speaking staff has proved challenging</p>	<p>Ensure that more customer facing roles are designated as 'Welsh essential' and target recruitment campaigns accordingly</p>
<p>Service delivery</p>	<p>The Welsh Language standards are applied as allocated to Monmouthshire</p>	<p>As above.</p>	<p>As above.</p>

Use of Welsh language in service delivery	County Council. The language is promoted through the application of the Welsh Language Standards, the website, correspondence and celebration of Welsh language events throughout the year. The plan contains a specific commitment to increase the number of people speaking and learning Welsh in line with our 5 year Welsh language strategy		
Promoting use of the language			




4. 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?
A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	The goal which will have the biggest impact here is 'a thriving and ambitious place' that aims to redevelop town centres and facilitate investment to attract more people to the towns. This goal also aims to support people who are looking to start their own business and additionally to create better links with higher education.	This plan sets long-term goals and actions of the Council. Some actions may require specific decisions from council or Cabinet in future. Any changes around positive or negative impacts will be updated accordingly at that point.
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	The greatest impact on this well-being goal will be from 'a green place to live and work', which has a particular focus on river health which has been a prominent issue in Monmouthshire. The goal also focuses on sustainable agriculture and reducing the carbon footprint of the county. The goal, 'thriving and ambitious place' goals commits to promote the	As above.

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?
	circular economy by growing our network of re-use shops, repair cafes and libraries of things	
<p>A healthier Wales People’s physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>The learning Place goals aims to promote healthy lifestyles and increased physical activity through MonLife. ‘A fairer place to live’ also ensures that residents have access to the services and support needed to live a healthy lifestyle, including mental health support. The plan embeds the work on health inequalities as part of the Gwent-wide approach to becoming a Marmot Region.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>The goal, ‘connected place’ ensures that loneliness and isolation is reduced, which is especially important in an ageing and rural county like Monmouthshire. ‘Safe place to live’ looks to increase th sustainability of communities through energy efficient housing. The priority ‘a thriving, well-connected and far local economy’ aims to reshape and redevelop town centres to attract more people to Monmouthshire’s towns.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
<p>A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing</p>	<p>‘A thriving, connected and fair local economy’ looks to increase th local generation of renewable energy, promoting both active travel and the circular economy, all of which reduce the negative impact on the environment. The goal, ‘safe and secure homes’ also ensures that new houses that are build will be more energy efficient, thus reducing carbon emissions.</p>	<p>As above.</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?
<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>Monmouthshire aims to increase Welsh medium primary school provision including a newly refurbished school on the site of Deri View and also the opening of a seedling provision in Monmouth. Healthy lifestyles and increased physical activity is promoted through MonLife.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
<p>A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances</p>	<p>Addressing rising inequality is one of the two biggest priorities facing the council and the emphasis placed on addressing this issue is seen throughout the plan. 'A fairer place to live' aims to improve the life chances of people, regardless of income. 'Safe place to live' aims to increase the number of affordable homes and to also improve the efficiency of homes, thus alleviating fuel poverty for some.</p>	<p>Moving forward, the council should remain vigilant of the wider economic context and should be prepared and able to make changes quickly and effectively in the current fast-paced and ever-changing economy.</p>

5. 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>Though this plan will soon be updated, the priorities and actions are forward looking and aim to have a positive long-term impact. The focus on reducing carbon emissions and the health of biodiversity and the environment is incredibly important in fighting the effects of climate change which will be around for many years to come. Increase the energy efficiency of homes is also important to alleviating fuel poverty in the short-run but also has a positive long-term contribution in the form of reduced carbon emissions.</p>	<p>This plan sets long-term goals and actions of the Council. Some actions may require specific decisions from council or Cabinet in future. Any changes around positive or negative impacts will be updated accordingly at that point.</p>
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>Collaboration is clearly important to Monmouthshire County Council and can be seen within every goal. The council looks to work with public service partners across Gwent to improve social determinants of health; work with partners to ensure that all homes have good digital connectivity; work with partners to ensure people are able to stay in their own homes and communities wherever possible; and to create better links with further and higher education.</p>	<p>This delivery of the plan is subject to further scrutiny. Collaboration with committees to improve the plan is essential and will help inform any future changes.</p>
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>Monmouthshire aims to involve community members wherever possible. The priority, 'a thriving, connected and fair local economy' sets out an aim to work with landlords and property owners to minimise town centre vacancies. 'a learning place and grow' sets out plans to maximise opportunities to hear the voices of learners in schools to ensure that the new curriculum is working for them.</p>	<p>This plan is subject to further scrutiny. Involvement is key to improving this plan; any future changes will be informed by involvement with committee and cabinet members.</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 goal, 'Connected place where people feel part of a community putting people at the heart of care and communities' ensures that social care services are able to prevent crisis and that avoidable hospital admissions are reduced. This goal also sets out to maintain and develop early and preventative services for children and families.</p>	<p>This plan sets long-term goals and actions of the Council. Some actions may require specific decisions from council or Cabinet in future. Any changes around positive or negative impacts will be updated accordingly at that point.</p>
 <p>Integration</p> <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>The Council works closely with business, communities and partners to deliver its goals and to ensure that the potential negative impact on other bodies is mitigated. The seven wellbeing goals are central to the Council's goals and run throughout everything that they do. The plan contains a table highlighting which of the objectives impacts on each of the seven national wellbeing goals. The Council will work together with other partners to help deliver many aspects of the objectives.</p>	<p>This plan sets long-term goals and actions of the Council. Some actions may require specific decisions from council or Cabinet in future. Any changes around positive or negative impacts will be updated accordingly at that point.</p>

6. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: 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?
Safeguarding	Early intervention and prevention approaches will reduce the number of young people at risk of harm. Safeguarding is central to the authority's work and this is highlighted within the corporate plan.	No negative impact identified at this stage.	This plan sets long-term goals and actions of the Council. Some actions may require specific decisions from council or Cabinet in future. Any changes around positive or negative impacts will be updated accordingly at that point.
Corporate Parenting	Reviewing all existing placements of looked after children will ensure that those children are receiving high quality and effective care. This is also important in assessing value for money.	As above.	As above.

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

- Equalities dashboard link. [Equality data dashboard for EQIA's 2020.xlsx](#)
- Well being assessment: [Well-being Assessment](#)
- Key measures – contained in appendix to this plan

8. 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 plan contributes positively to all seven well-being goals, whilst also considering the five ways of working in all aspects of the actions set out. The plan also takes into account the wider economic and social context, recognising and striving to help those in need as a result. It is clear that there will be a need for the plan to adjust and evolve given the turbulence and volatility of the current economic climate. Though this plan sets out short-term goals, it is forward looking and the actions set out here will have a positive impact in the longer term.

9. 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
A full corporate and community plan, including measures and targets, will be published in early 2023, setting out longer-term goals and actions.	Feb 2023	

10. 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
0.1	Cabinet	October 2022	
0.2	Council	November 2022	
0.3	Council	January 2023	

SUBJECT:	DIARY OF MEETINGS FOR 2023/24
MEETING:	County Council
DATE:	19th January 2023
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	N/A

1. **PURPOSE:**
To approve the diary of meetings for 2023/2024.
2. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**
That the diary of meetings for 2023/2024, as attached, be approved.
3. **KEY ISSUES:**
 - 3.1 Some Committees set their own dates during the year eg SAC, Appointment of LEA Governors Committee, Corporate Parenting Panel and these will be added to the diary in due course.
 - 3.2 The diary includes, for information only, dates of meetings for political groups and outside bodies that are not agreed by Council and are subject to change by the organising bodies.
 - 3.3 As per previous years, as far as is practicable meetings have not been scheduled during school holidays as requested by Councillors. There is an inevitable need to hold some meetings during school holidays so that the diary does not become too congested and avoids clashes with other meetings and priorities, but these have been kept to a minimum.
4. **REASONS:**
The Council calendar needs to be approved annually to ensure appropriate governance arrangements are in place for the year and enables Members and officers to forward plan effectively.
5. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**
None as a direct result of this report.
6. **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:**
There are no sustainable development or equality impacts arising from this report.
7. **SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS**
There are no safeguarding or corporate parenting implications associated with this report.
8. **CONSULTEES:**
Democratic Services Committee
Scrutiny Manager
SLT

Monitoring Officer

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.

10. AUTHOR:

John Pearson, Local Democracy Manager

CONTACT DETAILS:

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E-mail: johnpearson@monmouthshire.gov.uk

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

1 MAY 2023 - 10 MAY 2024

MAY, 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Bank Holiday	2 2.00 pm Planning Committee	3 5.00 pm Cabinet	4	5
8 Bank Holiday	9	10 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	11	12
15 Page 98	16	17 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	18 2.00 pm AGM, County Council	19
22	23	24 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	25 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Place Scrutiny Committee	26
29 School Holiday Start Bank Holiday	30	31 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting		

JUNE, 2023				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Scrutiny Chairs Meeting	2 School Holiday End
5 9.00 am Planning Site Visits	6 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - People Scrutiny Committee 2.00 pm Planning Committee	7 5.00 pm Cabinet	8 2.00 pm Governance and Audit Committee	9
12 10.00 am Standards Committee 2.00 pm Democratic Services Committee	13 10.00 am Licensing and Regulatory Committee	14 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 3.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	15 9.00 am Children and Young People Appointment of Local Authority Governors Committee 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee	16
19 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Public Services Scrutiny Committee	20 11.00 am Corporate Parenting Panel	21 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	22 12.30 pm Welsh Church Fund 2.00 pm County Council	23
26 10.00 am Joint Advisory Group	27	28 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	29	30

JULY, 2023				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 9.00 am Planning Site Visits 2.00 pm Wye Valley AONB Joint Advisory Committee	4 2.00 pm Planning Committee	5 5.00 pm Cabinet	6 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Place Scrutiny Committee	7
10	11	12 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	13 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Scrutiny Chairs Meeting 2.00 pm Governance and Audit Committee	14
17 11.00 am Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust	18 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - People Scrutiny Committee	19 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	20 9.00 am Children and Young People Appointment of Local Authority Governors Committee 2.00 pm County Council	21
24 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Public Services Scrutiny Committee	25 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Licensing and Regulatory Committee	26 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm Cabinet	27	28
31 9.00 am Planning Site Visits				

AUGUST, 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 2.00 pm Planning Committee	2 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	3	4
7	8	9 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	10	11
14 Page 10 of 21	15	16 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	17	18
	22	23 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	24	25
28	29	30 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	31	

SEPTEMBER, 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4	5 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Licensing and Regulatory Committee	6 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Cabinet	7 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Governance and Audit Committee	8
11 9.00 am Planning Site Visits	12 2.00 pm Planning Committee	13 3.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	14 12.30 pm Welsh Church Fund 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - County Council	15
18	19	20 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	21 9.00 am Children and Young People Appointment of Local Authority Governors Committee 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Scrutiny Chairs Meeting	22
25 10.00 am Joint Advisory Group	26	27 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	28 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Place Scrutiny Committee	29

OCTOBER, 2023				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 9.00 am Planning Site Visits	3 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning Committee	4 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Cabinet	5 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - People Scrutiny Committee	6
9 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Standards Committee 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Democratic Services Committee	10	11 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	12 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee	13
16 11.00 am Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust	17 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Licensing and Regulatory Committee	18 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	19 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Scrutiny Chairs Meeting 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Governance and Audit Committee	20
23 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Public Services Scrutiny Committee	24 11.00 am Corporate Parenting Panel	25 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	26 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - County Council	27
30 School Holiday Start	31			

NOVEMBER, 2023				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	2	3 School Holiday End
6 9.00 am Planning Site Visits 2.00 pm Wye Valley AONB Joint Advisory Committee	7 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning Committee	8 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Cabinet	9 9.00 am Children and Young People Appointment of Local Authority Governors Committee 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Place Scrutiny Committee	10
13 10.00 am Joint Advisory Group	14 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - People Scrutiny Committee	15 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	16	17
	21	22 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	23 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Governance and Audit Committee	24
27	28 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Licensing and Regulatory Committee	29 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	30 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Scrutiny Chairs Meeting	

DECEMBER, 2023				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4 9.00 am Planning Site Visits	5 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning Committee	6 3.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)	7 12.30 pm Welsh Church Fund 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - County Council	8
11 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Public Services Scrutiny Committee	12	13 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Cabinet	14 9.00 am Children and Young People Appointment of Local Authority Governors Committee 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Place Scrutiny Committee	15
18	19 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - People Scrutiny Committee	20 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	21	22
25 Bank Holiday	26 Bank Holiday	27 Bank Holiday 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	28	29

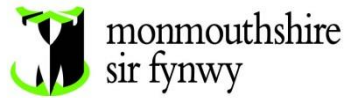
JANUARY, 2024				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Bank Holiday	2	3 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	4	5
8 9.00 am Planning Site Visits	9 2.00 pm Planning Committee	10	11 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Governance and Audit Committee	12
15 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Public Services Scrutiny Committee	16 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Licensing and Regulatory Committee	17 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Cabinet	18 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - County Council	19
22 10.00 am Joint Advisory Group 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Democratic Services Committee	23 11.00 am Corporate Parenting Panel	24 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	25 9.00 am Children and Young People Appointment of Local Authority Governors Committee 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Scrutiny Chairs Meeting	26
29 11.00 am Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust	30	31 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting		

FEBRUARY, 2024				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Place Scrutiny Committee	2
5 9.00 am Planning Site Visits	6 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - People Scrutiny Committee 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning Committee	7 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	8	9
12 School Holiday Start	13	14 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	15	16 School Holiday End
19 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Public Services Scrutiny Committee	20	21 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Cabinet	22 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Scrutiny Chairs Meeting	23
26 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Standards Committee	27 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Licensing and Regulatory Committee	28 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	29 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Governance and Audit Committee	

MARCH, 2024				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4 9.00 am Planning Site Visits 2.00 pm Wye Valley AONB Joint Advisory Committee	5 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning Committee	6 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Cabinet	7 12.30 pm Welsh Church Fund 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - County Council	8
11	12 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - People Scrutiny Committee	13 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 3.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	14 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Place Scrutiny Committee	15
18	19	20 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	21 9.00 am Children and Young People Appointment of Local Authority Governors Committee 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee	22
25 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Public Services Scrutiny Committee	26	27 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	28	29 Bank Holiday

APRIL, 2024				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Bank Holiday	2 Bank Holiday	3 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	4	5
8 9.00 am Planning Site Visits	9 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Licensing and Regulatory Committee 11.00 am Corporate Parenting Panel 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning Committee	10 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Cabinet	11 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Scrutiny Chairs Meeting 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Governance and Audit Committee	12
15 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Democratic Services Committee Page 109	16	17 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	18 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - County Council	19
22 10.00 am Joint Advisory Group	23	24 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	25 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Place Scrutiny Committee	26
29	30 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - People Scrutiny Committee			

MAY, 2024				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	2 9.00 am Children and Young People Appointment of Local Authority Governors Committee	3 9.00 am Planning Site Visits
6 Bank Holiday	7 2.00 pm Planning Committee	8 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	9	10



SUBJECT: Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme –
Abergavenny 3-19 School Name

MEETING: Council

DATE: 19th January 2023

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: Cantref, Castle, Croseonen, Grofield, Landsdown,
Mardy, Priory, Llanelly Hill, Llanover, Goetre Wharf, Llanwenarth Ultra, Llanfoist

1. PURPOSE:

The purpose of the report is to allow Council to agree the name of the new 3-19 School in Abergavenny currently under construction on the King Henry VIII School Site.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Members:

- 2.1 Note the results of the opinion poll run with the pupils from both schools and the wider community
- 2.2 Decide the name of the new school from the choices of
Deri View School 3-19 School;
King Henry VIII 3-19 School; or
Abergavenny Learning Community

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 In June 2022 Members agreed to include within the Council's capital programme funding the creation of a new 3-19 School on the King Henry VIII School site and as a result cease to maintain Deri View Primary and King Henry VIII Comprehensive School.
- 3.2 The new school will provide education for children and young people from the ages of 3-19. The development will also include Flying Start provision and wraparound childcare.
- 3.3 The pupils attending the school from the ages of 3 -11 will be those that reside in the current Deri View catchment area whilst the pupils in the from the ages of 12 –19 will be those who reside in the current King Henry VIII School catchment area.
- 3.4 The existing schools; King Henry VIII Comprehensive and Deri View Primary, will cease to exist from 31st August 2023 and the new school will be established from 1st September 2023. The two schools will remain on their existing sites until the new building is ready for occupation in September 2024.
- 3.6 The name of King Henry VIII school dates back to 1542. It was established by Letters Patent with the school being named after its benefactor, King Henry VIII who appointed the first Headteacher. There are several bursaries attached to the school's name.

3.7 Deri View School was established following the closure of St David's Junior School and Llwynu Infant School and opened in 2005. The name Deri View was the preferred name of pupils attending the school at the time and later agreed on by County Council.

3.8 Should Members decide upon a name for the new school that does not include King Henry VIII, there is a requirement to seek permission from Welsh Government, the Secretary of State for Wales and then ultimately His Majesty, King Charles III.

4. **OPTIONS APPRAISAL:**

4.1 In determining the name of the new school, the following options were proposed for consideration

Option 1: Keep King Henry VIII School name

Option 2: Keep Deri View School name

Option 3: Call the school Abergavenny Learning Community

4.2 With the support of Abergavenny Town Council an opinion poll was undertaken, which ran for 2 weeks from November 28th 2022 until December 11th 2022. The poll was available online, and a ballot box was placed outside the Market Hall in Abergavenny town centre.

4.3 The purpose of the poll was not to decide the name of the new school but to gauge the strength and depth of feeling amongst the pupils currently attending both schools affected by the proposal and the wider community of Abergavenny.

4.3 The poll asked

'Abergavenny Town Council & Monmouthshire County Council would like members of the Abergavenny community to help decide the name of our new 3-19 school

Please tick one of the three options below

King Henry VIII 3-19 School

Deri View 3-19 School

The Abergavenny Learning Centre'

4.4 The results of the poll were as follows:

Number of Votes Cast	4487
King Henry VIII 3-19 School	4069
Deri View 3-19 School	177
The Abergavenny Learning Centre	228
Logged in but did not vote	13

5. REASONS:

The Council is establishing a new school in Abergavenny as part of its Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme in conjunction with Welsh Government. The school will be established following the closure of Deri View and King Henry VIII Schools.

The agreement of the new name will be important part in establishing the culture of the new school. When Council makes its decision this will allow the next stage of planning for the new school to begin in earnest.

6 RESOURCE IMPLCATIONS:

There are no resource implications in relation to this decision

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

As the report deals solely with agreeing a school name, a Future Generations and Equality Impact Assessment is not considered appropriate in this instance.

8 CONSULTEES:

SLT
Cabinet

9 BACKGROUND PAPERS:

County Council report June 2022

10 AUTHOR:

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SUBJECT: APPOINTMENTS
MEETING: Council
DATE: 19th January 2023
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek Council ratification or appointment for Council Committees, roles and external bodies.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Council approve the following:
- a. Councillors Armand Watts and Penny Jones be appointed to the regional scrutiny function for the Gwent Public Service Board (PSB);
 - b. Councillor Ian Chandler be ratified as the MCC LGBTQI+ Champion;
 - c. Mr Richard Stow be appointed to serve for a further 4-year term as an Independent Member of the MCC Standards Committee;
 - d. Mr Rhodri Guest is appointed to the MCC Governance and Audit Committee.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Appendix 1 is a report prepared by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council which was presented to the Gwent PSB on 29th September 2022. The report outlines the need for a regional scrutiny committee to scrutinise the work of the Gwent PSB. It was accepted with a view to commencing in early 2023.
- 3.2 The appended report requires 2 members be appointed by each local authority in accordance with the Local Authorities (Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2013, reflecting as far as is practicable the political balance of that Authority. Up to now, scrutiny has been undertaken within each Local Authority.
- 3.3 The matter was briefly discussed at the Public Services Scrutiny Committee and the proposal of Councillors Armand Watts and Penny Jones reflect both the political balance requirement and were considered most appropriate as the Chair and Vice Chair of MCC's Committee that is tasked with the scrutiny of local activities under the Gwent well-being plan 2023-2028.
- 3.4 Councillor Ian Chandler has agreed to fulfil a new role for MCC as the LGBTQI+ Champion. This paper seeks to ratify that position simply so there is parity with the Armed Forces Champion role that is contained within the annual Appointment to Outside Bodies report and in accordance with the local choice functions within the Constitution.

- 3.5 Mr Richard Stow has been an Independent Member of the Standards Committee since 19th January 2017 and is currently the Chair. His contribution both to MCC's Committee and to the pan-Wales review of the ethical standards framework, and support to the Monitoring Officer, is of significant value and highly respected.
- 3.6 The regulations relating to Independent Members require an initial term of 6 years and, if the Member is willing, offers the possibility of a second term of 4 years. A second term is strongly recommended.
- 3.7 The Local Government and Elections Act 2021 changed the name and construct of the Audit Committee to Governance and Audit Committee, with an increase for MCC from one lay Member to 4.
- 3.8 Three of those lay Members were appointed following an appropriate process and subsequently ratified by Council a year ago. This is the fourth such appointment having followed that same process and Mr Rhodri Guest was the successful applicant. His ratification by Council is strongly recommended.

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

- 4.1 The appointments outlined above have a definable benefit to the criteria of the Future Generations and Equality legislation. Specifically so in the appointment of Councillor Chandler as the Champion for people who would fall within the criteria set out by the legislation regarding protected criteria, and more broadly through the involvement of wider scrutiny functions across the region and also the appointment of lay Members to MCC's governance framework.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6. REASONS

- 6.1 To fulfil:
- a. the legislative requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and to ensure effective scrutiny arrangements are in place;
 - b. greater representation of residents of the County;
 - c. the legislative requirements of the Local Government Act 2000 pertaining to Standards Committees;
 - d. the legislative requirements of the Local Government and Elections Act 2021 pertaining to Governance and Audit Committees.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Co-opted Members are permitted to claim expenses for their work in accordance with the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales criteria.

8. CONSULTEES

Public Services Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet
Governance and Audit Committee
Cllr Chandler

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 Appendix 1: Report to the Gwent Public Services Board 29.9.22- Development of a Regional Scrutiny Committee
- 9.2 [Guidance on the scrutiny of public services boards | GOV.WALES.](#)
- 9.3 <https://www.gov.wales/independent-remuneration-panel-wales-annual-report-2022-2023>

10. AUTHORS

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11. CONTACT DETAILS

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SUBJECT: Establishment of a Regional PSB Scrutiny Committee

Report written and submitted by: GSWAG Sub Group (led by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council)

Author: Sarah King, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Consultees: Gwent PSB Partners (following June 22 GPSB meeting), GSWAG Partners and Local Authority Scrutiny Officers). This paper builds on the paper brought to Gwent PSB meeting on June 2022.

1	Areas Affected
1.1	The full Gwent PSB will be impacted by the establishment of a Regional Scrutiny Committee and all areas of Gwent represented.
2	Purpose of Report
2.1	The purpose of the report is to outline progress on the establishment of a Regional PSB Scrutiny Committee, and seek approval of recommendations to progress approach.
3	Background
3.1	The PSB has agreed to establish regional scrutiny arrangements to review and scrutinise the work of the Gwent PSB.
3.2	In June 22, the PSB received a paper outlining a series of recommendations for consideration for establishing regional scrutiny (appendix 1), taking into account the precedent already set by established arrangements of other joint committees such as: CCRCD / CJC; Regional Partnership Board; Cardiff and the Vale Partnership Board; and Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
3.3	The PSB discussed the recommendations and agreed further work was required between meetings where partner organisations would establish an appropriate pathway and consider practicalities to operate the arrangements.
4	Recommendation to the PSB
4.1	<u>Recommendation 1 – Operating Organisation</u> That Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council is identified as the lead organisation to facilitate committee support, with each other statutory partner organisation to identify a liaison Single Point of Conduct (SPOC) to interact with lead organisation.

	<p>Action: Subject to approval of recommendations, BGCBC will begin planning the implementation for regional scrutiny in-line with Terms of Reference and noted meeting arrangements outlined in June 2022 paper.</p> <p>Action: Each statutory partner organisation identifies a SPOC to liaise with lead organisation.</p>
4.2	<p><u>Recommendation 2 – Resourcing Committee Support</u></p> <p>That each statutory partner organisation (excluding the lead organisation, BGCBC, who will provide support in-kind) provides a nominal financial contribution to support the development and operation of the scrutiny committee.</p> <p>It is anticipated the costs will be £15,000 and should be shared equally by the seven remaining organisations (i.e. Caerphilly County Borough Council, Monmouthshire County Council, Newport City Council, Torfaen County Borough Council, South Wales Fire and Rescue, Natural Resources Wales, and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board). The cost is based on existing models in place for CCRCD scrutiny processes, hosted by RCTCBC.</p> <p>Action: Each statutory partner organisation raises a Purchase Order for £2,140 to BGCBC for invoicing, this will cover the costs for calendar year 2023.</p> <p>Costs for operating the scrutiny committee will be monitored by BGCBC as the lead organisation and can be considered for fairness and sustainability as part of an initial evaluation of regional scrutiny arrangements after one year of operation (see recommendation 6).</p>
4.3	<p><u>Recommendation 3 – Identifying Membership</u></p> <p>Two local authority elected member are identified by each of the five local authorities, and an additional one representative from the following partner organisations (<i>note these cannot be officers of the organisations</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fire and Rescue Authority • Third Sector • Health Board Member • NRW <p>This will lead to 14 elected official participating in regional scrutiny processes for Gwent PSB, and should be based on general principles set by existing regional processes already in place i.e.: The Committee should have an equal number of elected members from each appointing local authority, none of which are executive or cabinet members; and that each local authority and statutory partner organisation will determine and nominate its representative(s) in accordance with its own arrangements. The term of office of the nominated elected members shall be a matter for each nominating local authority.</p> <p>Action: Each partner organisation to identify their nominated elected representative(s) by no later than the end of December 2022.</p>

4.4	<p>Recommendation 4: Timeframe for Regional Scrutiny</p> <p>Regional Scrutiny to commence from 2023, with:</p> <p><i>Initial Six Months (Jan to June 2023)</i> Training for identified members from each organisation in January /February 2023, this session will outline roles and responsibilities, go over the remit of the committee via the appended Terms of Reference (proposed to PSB in June 22 paper), and deal with any emerging considerations and issues.</p> <p>This will place members of the committee in good stead, for an initial formal meeting of the committee in March/April (subject to PSB date confirmation) to scrutinise the final draft well-being plan, and allow the committee to report back any observations or recommendations to Gwent PSB before the plan is considered for agreement in-line with the legal timeframe.</p> <p>During this initial period a draft forward work programme aligned to the work of the Gwent PSB will be developed to be considered by the committee at their first meeting.</p> <p><i>Following Six Months (July to December 2023)</i> Regional Scrutiny will follow a forward work programme, with meetings being aligned to the Gwent PSB meeting cycle to allow for effective interaction between the committee and PSB. This would see meetings 4 weeks before each scheduled formal Regional PSB Meeting (quarterly).</p> <p><i>Action: BGCBC to draft timeframe and liaise with SPOCs from each organisation to avoid clashes with individual partner organisation programmes.</i></p>
4.5	<p>Recommendation 5 – Agree Draft Terms of Reference</p> <p>Agree the Draft Terms of Reference for the Regional PSB Scrutiny Committee, to include other key recommendations from June meeting (appendix 2) i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voting: One vote per organisation (regardless of number of members). • Chairs and Vice Chairs to be identified at the first meeting of the Committee. BGCBC to make formal nomination for Chair to aid the inception of the process as the lead organisation. • Meeting arrangements as previously included e.g. key issues for hybrid meetings, with physical location for all meeting being General Offices, Ebbw Vale, Blaenau Gwent. • Quorum status of each local authority area to be represented, and at least one-third of the overall number e.g. 5 members.
4.6	<p>Recommendation 6 – Evaluation Approach</p> <p>Agree that the arrangements set out for implementing and operating the Regional Scrutiny Committee are reviewed after one calendar year of operation to include key areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectiveness of approach • Expected tenure of lead organisation • Financial contributions and sustainability

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Membership participation• Effectiveness of approach and interaction between PSB and Committee• Any other relevant factors that were identified in the initial year of operation. <p>Action: BGCBC to draft paper on evaluation of scrutiny processes for final calendar quarter of 2023 for Gwent PSB consideration and approval.</p>

Report Date: Sept 2022

*Appendix 2 - Draft Terms of Reference – Regional PSB Scrutiny Committee***DRAFT Terms of Reference – Regional PSB Scrutiny Committee**

The Regional PSB Scrutiny Committee will have the strategic oversight of the PSB and will hold the Regional PSB and Partners to account for the delivery of the Well-being Plan and supporting projects.

The Regional PSB Scrutiny Committee will:

- Perform the Overview and Scrutiny function for the Regional PSB on behalf of the five local Authorities of Gwent.
- Develop a forward work programme reflecting its functions.
- Review, scrutinise and challenge the performance, decisions made or actions taken by the Board;
- Review and scrutinise the Board’s governance arrangements and function;
- Review and scrutinise the performance of the PSB projects including delivery and outcomes
- Make reports or recommendations to the Board regarding its functions or governance arrangements;
- Promote public engagement and participation;
- Consider matters relating to the Board as Welsh Ministers may refer to it and report to the Welsh Ministers accordingly; and
- Carry out other functions in relation to the Board that are imposed on it by the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. c).
- Review or scrutinise the progress of any joint project.
- Refer any matter to the Regional Gwent PSB which is relevant to its functions:
 - The matter relates to one of the functions of the authority and is relevant to the functions of the Regional scrutiny committee; and
 - It effects the electoral area of the member or it effects any person who lives or works there.

When considering whether to refer a matter to the Regional Scrutiny Committee a member should first consider if it falls within the remit of a single overview and scrutiny committee within the member’s local authority, and if that is the case the member should raise the matter there. ***Members should only refer a matter to a Joint scrutiny committee if it falls clearly within the responsibilities and terms of reference of the Regional Scrutiny Committee and if there is no scrutiny of the issue in the local authority to which the member belongs.***

It is acknowledged that the establishment of a Regional Scrutiny Committee shall not serve to exclude a local authority’s right to carry out its own individual Scrutiny of any decision of the Regional Gwent PSB.

In addition to these functions the Regional Scrutiny Committee’s lines of Inquiry can include (but not be limited to), the following:

- The effectiveness of the Wellbeing Assessment;
- The effectiveness of the Wellbeing Plan;

- The effectiveness of performance measurement arrangements;
- The level of commitment from individual partners to the work of the Regional Gwent Public Services Board;
- The effectiveness of the Regional Gwent Public Services Board in communicating its work, objectives and outcomes to its stakeholders; and,
- The effectiveness of the Regional Gwent Public Services Board in addressing the issue of pooled funding to tackle priorities

The WBFG act allows for scrutiny of the PSB as a 'collaborative body', not the individual partners comprising the PSB. Paragraph 180 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.' This includes any person that has accepted an invitation to participate in the activity of the Regional Gwent PSB. The Regional Scrutiny Committee will therefore scrutinise the work of the Regional Gwent PSB and **not** the individual activities of partners.



Subject: COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2023/24

Meeting: Council

Date: 19th January 2023

Divisions/Wards Affected: All

1. PURPOSE:

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- present arrangements for the implementation of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and to approve it for 2023/24
- agree to adopt the amendments to the Regulations, proposed by Welsh Government, as detailed in point 3.7
- affirm that annual uprating amendments will be carried out each year without a requirement to adopt the whole Council Tax Reduction Scheme

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 To note the making of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations ("the Prescribed Requirements Regulations") 2013 by the Welsh Government on 26 November 2013.

2.2 To adopt the provisions within the Regulations above ("the Prescribed Requirements Regulations") and any 'annual uprating regulations' in respect of its Scheme for the financial year 2023/24 including the discretionary elements previously approved as the Council's local scheme from 1st April 2022.

3. KEY ISSUES:

3.1 On 17th January 2019 Council adopted the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2019/20, in accordance with the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013.

3.2 The Regulations approved by the Assembly are available as follows:

The Default Scheme

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2013/3035/contents/made>

The Prescribed Scheme

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2013/3029/contents/made>

The National Assembly are set to approve the Amendment Regulations incorporating the uprated benefits from April 2023 at a plenary session on 19th January 2023. The draft regulations are here:

[SL \(6\)297 - The Council Tax Reduction Schemes \(Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme\) \(Wales\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2023 \(senedd.wales\)](#)

- 3.3 A failure to adopt a 'local' scheme by 31 January 2023 will result in the Default Scheme being imposed on the Council.
- 3.4 The Welsh Government's regulations for 2023/24 ensure claimants can continue to receive a reduction up to 100% of their Council Tax bill dependent upon their income and household circumstances.
- 3.5 Annual uprating regulations to increase benefits and personal allowances from April 2023 within the Council Tax Reduction Scheme has been considered by a plenary session of the Senedd of the National Assembly for Wales on 19th January 2023.
- 3.6 In addition to the annual uprating of allowances, there are a couple of other amendments to the 2013 CTRS Regulations. These make provision for the treatment of some other types of payments and ensure the 2013 Regulations remain up to date and fit for purpose.
- 3.7 These amendments allow for the following:
 - **People from Ukraine** – the amendment is designed to support Ukraine nationals because of the refugee crisis caused by the Russia-Ukrainian war. The amendment to the regulations ensures that any Ukrainian national who has been granted leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom under or outside the immigration rules or who has a right of abode is not treated as not being habitually resident in Great Britain. This means that people in this group will be eligible to be included in the CTRS and will be eligible for a discount if they meet the other CTRS requirements.
 - **People from Ukraine: protection for hosts for the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.** This amendment seeks to ensure that no applicant living in Wales hosting a person from Ukraine under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme is negatively impacted. The amendment to the regulations makes provision that any Ukrainian national who has been granted leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom or who has a right of abode is to be treated as dependent on the applicant host for the purpose of calculating entitlement to a council tax discount. This has the effect of preserving the level of entitlement of the host applicant.
 - The 2013 CTRS Regulations currently provide an exception for European Economic Area (EEA) citizens. EEA citizens are now subject to immigration control (and therefore a class of persons who must not be included in an authority's scheme). This amendment will mirror the English regulations. The proposed amendments to the 2013 CTRS Regulations to remove the exception for EEA citizens who are now subject to immigration control.

4. Background

- 4.1 It was reported to Council on 28th January 2013 that the Welfare Reform Act 2013 included provisions to abolish Council Tax Benefit on 31 March 2013. From 1st April 2013, the responsibility for arranging support towards paying Council Tax and the associated funding transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to local authorities in England, and to the Scottish and Welsh Governments. The UK Government's policy intention was to reduce expenditure on Council Tax and therefore to implement a 10 per cent funding cut.

- 4.2 The report to Council on 28th January 2013 referred to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme Regulations 2012 and the amending regulations 2013. Those regulations were for implementation during the 2013/14 financial year only and Council resolved to adopt a new scheme for subsequent years in accordance with new regulations approved by the Welsh Government.
- 4.3 The regulations for Council Tax Reduction include provision for support up to 100% of council tax. As noted, when presenting this issue in January, the regulations control the implementation of reduction schemes across the whole of Wales and are designed to ensure that each local authority consistently provides support for Welsh taxpayers.

5. The Reduction Scheme and discretionary areas

- 5.1 Although a national scheme has been approved, within the Prescribed Requirements Regulations there is limited discretion given to the Council to apply additional discretionary elements that are more generous than the national scheme and which provide for additional administrative flexibility. Council approved the discretionary areas to be applied (listed below in 5.2) following public consultation. It is not proposed to change them in any way therefore no further consultation is required at this stage.
- 5.2 It is recommended to adopt the Scheme in the Prescribed Requirement Regulations as noted in paragraph 3.2. and to exercise the previously approved discretions as follows:
- The ability to increase the standard extended reduction period of 4 weeks given to persons after they return to work where they have previously been receiving a council tax reduction that is to end because of their return to work - it is not recommended to increase the standard extended reduction period.
 - Discretion to increase the amount of War Disablement Pensions and War Widows Pensions (including Armed Forces Independent Payments and Guaranteed Income Payment) which is to be disregarded when calculating income of the claimant - it is recommended to disregard the whole amount of War Disablement Pensions and War Widows Pensions.
 - The ability to backdate the application of council tax reduction regarding late claims prior to the new standard period of three months before the claim - it is not recommended to increase the backdated period.
 - To provide above the minimum level of information to customers to ensure they are appropriately notified of their award in accordance with legislation - it is recommended that we maintain the current standard provision.

Council approved these discretions on 17th January 2019.

- 5.3 There are no additional monies available from the Welsh Government to fund discretionary elements but they are allowed for within our existing budget.
- 5.4 Changes to pensions, benefits and allowances normally take effect every April and sometimes during the year. The scheme has to reflect the changes to benefits in order to adjust calculations of entitlement. This is part of normal Benefits administration. We are advised that the Council need to approve the annual uprating regulations each year without formal adoption of the whole scheme.
- 5.5 As the uprating of benefits is not an area of discretion the Council is not able to consult on it.

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

- 6.1 There are no implications for sustainable development.
- 6.2 The scheme to be applied for 2023/24 does not contain any significant changes from the scheme that is currently operational.
- 6.3 The Welsh Government has undertaken a detailed 'regulatory' impact assessment, which includes equality impact assessment, and we understand that the findings reported were in line with their expectations.
- 6.4 Our Sustainability Community Officer has confirmed that under these circumstances there is no requirement to complete a Future Generations Evaluation.

7. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

This is not applicable as there are no changes to the scheme that is currently in place. The report has been presented as the uprating regulations are effectively amendments to the main scheme, for which we need to obtain overall approval.

8. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The scheme is largely prescribed by Welsh Government. Previous annual reports have reaffirmed the minimal discretions that the Authority can apply. These discretions have been found to be resilient and fair.

9. REASONS

- 9.1 To agree the council tax reduction scheme for the forthcoming financial year as required by legislation.
- 9.2 To affirm the annual uprating prescribed by the Welsh Government.

10. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 From 2014/15 onwards the Council Tax Reduction Scheme was funded through the Revenue Support Grant (RSG). The Council therefore needs to manage the cost of the Scheme within its annual budget.
- 10.2 Any additional costs for growth in caseload and/or increases in entitlement attributable to a rise in the overall level of Council Tax have to be managed and are built into our budget proposals for 2023/24.
- 10.3 The impact of Covid 19 on work and incomes resulted in a significant increase in CTRS caseload and a subsequent pressure on the CTRS budget. In 2020/21, funding was provided by Welsh Government to mitigate this budget pressure. Since then, case load has gradually returned to pre pandemic levels with current data indicating that there are approximately 5,600 active CTRS claims.
- 10.4 The provisional budget allocation, for 2023/24, of £7,801,607 is based on a 5.95% increase in Council Tax which is currently being used for budget modelling purposes. Any subsequent changes in the council tax increase will be reflected in the final budget proposal report.

11. CONSULTEES:

Cabinet
Strategic Leadership Team
Chief Officer for Resources
Head of Legal

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None

13. AUTHORS:

Ruth Donovan – Assistant Head of Finance: Revenues, Systems and Exchequer

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