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Neuadd y Sir
Y Rhadyr
Brynbuga

Dydd Mawrth, 22 Chwefror 2022

Dear Cyngorwyr,

CABINET

Gofynnir i chi fynychu cyfarfod **Cabinet** a gynhelir yn **Neuadd y Sir, Brynbuga- Cyfarfod o Bell** ar **Dydd Mercher, 2ail Mawrth, 2022**, am **3.00 pm**.

AGENDA

1. Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb
2. Datganiadau o Fuddiant
3. I ystyried yr adroddiadau canlynol (copïau ynghlwm):
 - i. **GWASANAETH CYFLAWNI ADDYSG (GCA) -** 1 - 54
Rhanbarth/wardiau a effeithir: Pob un

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Diben: Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn gofyn i Aelodau i gytuno ar Gynllun Busnes GCA ar gyfer 2022-2025.

Awdur: Debbie Hartevelde (Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr, GCA)

-
Manylion Cyswllt:

-
Edward Pryce (Cyfarwyddwr Cynorthwyol, GCA)
E-bost: ed.pryce@sewaleseas.org.uk
 - ii. **MONITRO REFENIW A CHYFALAF 2021/22 DATGANIAD O'R** 55 - 112
RHAGOLYGNON - MIS 9
Rhanbarth/wardiau a effeithir: Pob un

Pwrpas: Darparu rhagolygon wedi'u diweddarau i Aelodau ar y sefyllfa referniw a chyfalaf ar ddiwedd y flwyddyn ariannol gyfredol.

Bydd yr adroddiad hwn hefyd yn cael ei ystyried gan y Pwyllgorau Dethol fel rhan o'u cyfrifoldebau i,

- asesu a yw cyllidebau yn cael eu monitro yn effeithiol,
- monitro a yw'r cyllidebau yn cael eu gwario yn unol gyda'r gyllideb a gytunir a'r fframwaith polisi
- herio pa mor rhesymol yw unrhyw orwariant neu danwariant, a

- monitro a yw'r enillion a ragwelwyd yn cael eu sicrhau neu'r cynnydd sy'n cael ei wneud o ran yr hyn sydd wedi eu cynnig.

Darparu diweddariad ar effaith ariannol Covid-19 ar y Cyngor.

Awduron:

Peter Davies, Prif swyddog Adnoddau (Swyddog Adran 151)

E-bost: peterdavies@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Jonathan Davies, Pennaeth Cyllid Cynorthwyol Dros Dro (Dirprwy Swyddog Adran 151)

E- bost: jonathandavies2@monmouthshire.gov.uk

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iii. **Cyllideb Refeniw a Chyfalaf 2022/23 Cynigion Terfynol yn dilyn y craffu a'r ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus**

113 -
308

Rhanbarth/wardiau a effeithir: Pob un

Pwrpas: Diweddaru'r Cabinet ar yr ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad ar y cynigion cyllideb drafft a gyhoeddwyd ar 19eg Ionawr ynglŷn â'r cyllidebau Cyfalaf a Refeniw ar gyfer 2022/23.

Diweddaru Aelodau ar y goblygiadau sydd yn deillio o gyhoeddiad y Setliad Llywodraeth Leol Cychwynol ynghyd â manylion am y Setliad Terfynol sydd i'w gadarnhau cyn hir.

Gwneud argymhellion i'r Cyngor ar y cyllidebau Cyfalaf a Refeniw a lefel y Dreth Gyngor ar gyfer 2022/23.

Derbyn cyfrifiadau Dangosydd Darbodus y Swyddog Ariannol Cyfrifol ar gyfer cyllid cyfalaf.

Derbyn adroddiad statudol y Swyddog Ariannol Cyfrifol ar y broses gyllideb a digonolrwydd yr arian wrth gefn.

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Awduron:

Peter Davies – Dirprwy Brif Weithredwr, Prif Swyddog Adnoddau (Swyddog A151)

Jonathan Davies –Pennaeth Cyllid Cynorthwyol (Dros Dro) (Dirprwy Swyddog A151)

Manylion Cyswllt:

E-bost: peterdavies@monmouthshire.gov.uk

E-bost: jonathandavies2@monmouthshire.gov.uk

- iv. **CRONFA BUDDSODDI TAI – Cytundeb Cyllideb ar gyfer £5.21m o Brifddinas-Ranbarth Caerdydd** 309 - 328
- Rhanbarth/wardiau a effeithir: Pob un
- Pwrpas: 1.1 Pwrpas yr adroddiad hwn yw gofyn am gymeradwyaeth y Cabinet fel bod Cyngor Sir Fynwy yn medru cytuno ar gytundeb cyllid ar y cyd gyda Vistry Group am £5.21 miliwn ar gyfer Cronfa Buddsoddi Tai gan Brifddinas-Ranbarth Caerdydd.
- Awduron: Craig O'Connor – Pennaeth Cynllunio
Denzil Turbervill – Cyfreithiwr Masnachol
- Manylion Cyswllt: craiggoconnor@monmouthshire.gov.uk
- v. **DIWEDDARIAD AR BAPUR GWYN CODI'R GWASTAD A'R CANLLAW CYN-CYHOEDDI AR GYFER Y GRONFA FFYNIANT GYFFREDIN GAN LYWODRAETH Y DU** 329 - 350
- Rhanbarth/wardiau a effeithir: Pob un
- Pwrpas: Derbyn diweddariad ar y Gronfa Codi'r Gwastad, Papur Gwyn Codi'r Gwastad a'r Canllaw Cyn-cyhoeddi ar gyfer y Gronfa Ffyniant Gyffredin – oll gan Lywodraeth y DU .
- Awdur: Frances O'Brien, Prif Swyddog Menter
- Manylion Cyswllt: francesobrien@monmouthshire.gov.uk
- vi. **NEWIDIADAU ARFAETHEDIG I'R FFORMIWLA ANGHENION DYSGU YCHWANEGOL** 351 - 386
- Rhanbarth/wardiau a effeithir: Pob un
- Pwrpas: Yn gofyn am gymeradwyaeth y Cabinet i ddiwygio'r fformiwla cyllido ar gyfer dirprwy cyllid i ysgolion er mwyn cefnogi ag Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol (ADY).
- Awdur: Nikki Wellington - Rheolwr Gwasanaethau Cymorth Plant a Phobl Ifanc
- Manylion Cyswllt: nicolawellington@monmouthshire.gov.uk
- vii. **ASESIAD O DDIGONOLRWYDD GOFAL PLANT 2022-27** 387 - 516
- Rhanbarth/wardiau a effeithir: Pob un
- Pwrpas: Hysbysu Aelodau o'r sefyllfa bresennol ynglŷn â gofal plant yn Sir Fynwy.
- Ymgymryd â'n dyletswyddau statudol i gwblhau Asesiad o

Ddigonolrwydd Gofal Plant bob pum mlynedd.

Nodi unrhyw fylchau o ran darpariaeth gofal plant neu rwystrau sydd yn atal teuluoedd rhag cael mynediad at ofal plant ac yn datblygu cynllun gweithredu er mwyn mynd i'r afael gyda'r materion yma.

Awdur: Sue Hall – Rheolwr Blynnyddoedd Cynnar

-
Manylion Cyswllt: susanhall@monmouthshire.gov.uk

- viii. **CYFLEUSTERAU CHWARAE AWYR AGORED A MEYSYDD
CHWARAE YSGOL CAS-GWENT A'R GANOLFAN HAMDDEN** 517 -
562
Rhanbarth/wardiau a effeithir: Pob un Ward yng Nghas-gwent

Pwrpas: Yn gofyn am gymeradwyaeth y Cabinet er mwyn symud ymlaen i wneud cais llawn a derbyn grantiau Datblygu Chwaraeon Cymru a Chymdeithas Pêl-droed Cymru ar gyfer cyllid er mwyn uwchraddio'r cyfleusterau chwarae awyr agored a'r meysydd yn Ysgol Gyfun Cas-gwent a'r Ganolfan Hamdden a'n derbyn diweddariad ar fuddsoddiad pellach yng nghyfleusterau'r Ganolfan Hamdden.

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Awduron: Ian Saunders, Prif Swyddog Gweithredol MonLife
Nicholas John, Rheolwr Gwasanaeth Hamdden

-
Manylion Cyswllt: iansaunders@monmouthshire.gov.uk
nicholasjohn@monmouthshire.gov.uk

- ix. **TROSOLWG O'R CYNNYDD A'R CYLLID AR GYFER TEITHIOL
LLESOL** 563 -
620
Rhanbarth/wardiau a effeithir: Pob un

Pwrpas: Diweddau'r Cabinet ar y cynnydd a wneir ar Deithio Llesol a throsolwg o'r cyllid cyffredinol.

-
Awduron: Ian Saunders - Prif Swyddog Gweithredol, MonLife
Paul Sullivan - Rheolwr Ieuenctid, Chwaraeon a
Theithio Llesol

-
Manylion Cyswllt: iansaunders@monmouthshire.gov.uk
paulsullivan@monmouthshire.gov.uk

- x. **MAES CHWARAE CASTLE DELL, CAS-GWENT** 621 -
640
Rhanbarth/wardiau a effeithir: Pob un Ward yng Nghas-gwent

Pwrpas: Yn gofyn am gymeradwyaeth y Cabinet i gyflwyno cais i Raglen Pobl a Llefydd y Loteri Fawr ar gyfer cyllid er mwyn uwchraddio maes chwarae plant yn Castle Dell, Cas-gwent.

Awdur: Mike Moran, Cydlynnydd Seilwaith Cymunedol

Manylion Cyswllt: mikemoran@monmouthshire.gov.uk

xi. **PARC VELO Y FENNI**

Division/Wards Affected: Abergavenny and Llanfoist Wards

641 -
660

Purpose: To receive an update on the Abergavenny Velo Park project and to commit S106 capital resources to the project in 2022/23.

Author: Mike Moran, Community Infrastructure Coordinator

Contact Details: mikemoran@monmouthshire.gov.uk

xii. **2022/23 EDUCATION AND WELSH CHURCH TRUST FUNDS INVESTMENT AND FUND STRATEGIES**

Rhanbarth/wardiau a effeithir: Pob un

661 -
702

Pwrpas: Pwrpas yr adroddiad hwn y cyflwyno strategaeth Buddsoddi a Chyllid ar gyfer Cronfeydd Ymddiriedolaeth 2022/23 i'w gymeradwyo gan y Cabinet gan mai'r Awdurdod yw'r unig ymddiriedolwyr ar gyfer mabwysiadu a chymeradwyo dyraniad grant 2022/23 i fuddiolwyr yr Awdurdod o Gronfa'r Eglwys yng Nghymru.

Awduron: Dave Jarrett – Uwch Gyfrifydd, Cymorth Busnes
Nicola Wellington – Rheolwr Cyllid Plant a Phobl Ifanc

Manylion Cyswllt: davejarrett@monmouthshire.gov.uk

xiii. **GWEITHGOR CRONFA'R EGLWYS YNG NGHYMRU**

Rhanbarth/wardiau a effeithir: Pob un

703 -
716

Pwrpas: Pwrpas yr adroddiad hwn yw gwneud argymhellion i'r Cabinet ar gyfer yr Atodlen o Geisiadau ar gyfer Cyfarfod Gweithgor Cronfa'r Eglwys yng Nghymru ar 27ain Ionawr 2022.

Awdur: David Jarrett – Uwch Gyfrifydd – Cyllid Canolog, Cymorth Buses

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Manylion Cyswllt: davejarrett@monmouthshire.gov.uk

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Yours sincerely,

Paul Matthews
Chief Executive

PORTFFOLIOS CABINET

Cynghorydd Sir	Maes Cyfrifoldeb	Ward
Richard John	<p>Arweinydd Swyddog Arweiniol – Paul Matthews, Matthew Gatehouse</p> <p>Strategaeth a Chyfeiriad yr Awdurdod cyfan Adolygu a Gwerthuso Perfformiad yr Awdurdod cyfan Cyd-gabinet Prifddinas-Ranbarth Caerdydd a Datblygu Rhanbarthol Gweithio Rhanbarthol Cysylltiadau â'r Llywodraeth Arweinydd ar Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol, Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru a'r Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus</p>	Llanfihangel Troddi
Sara Jones	<p>Aelod Cabinet dros yr Economi, Dirprwy Arweinydd Swyddog Arweiniol – Frances O'Brien</p> <p>Cadernid a Thwf Economaidd Creu Lleuedd ac Adfywio Buddsoddiad a Stiwardiaeth Canol Trefi Rheoli Datblygu a Rheoli Adeiladau Cysylltiadau Cyhoeddus / Cyfathrebu / Marchnata Sgiliau a Chyflogaeth Cysylltedd Band Eang Cymunedol</p>	Llanofor
Robert Greenland	<p>Aelod Cabinet dros Lywodraethiant a Chynllunio Strategol, Dirprwy Arweinydd Swyddogion Arweiniol – Frances O'Brien, Matthew Phillips, Matthew Gatehouse</p> <p>Cynllun Datblygu Lleol a Chynllun Datblygu Strategol Gwneud Penderfyniadau y Cyngor a'r Pwyllgor Gweithredol Adolygu'r Cyfansoddiad a Gweithredu Newid Y Gyfraith, Moeseg a Safonau Hyrwyddo Democratiaeth a Chyswllt â Dinasyddion Hybiau Cymunedol a Chanolfan Gyswllt Gwasanaeth a Phrofiad Cwsmeriaid yr Awdurdod cyfan</p>	Devauden

Philip Murphy	<p>Aelod Cabinet dros Adnoddau Swyddogion Arweiniol – Peter Davies, Frances O’Brien, Matthew Phillips, Jane Rodgers</p> <p>Cyllid Digidol a Thechnoleg Gwybodaeth (yn cynnwys SRS) Adnoddau Dynol, Cyflogres, Iechyd a Diogelwch Cynllunio Argyfwng Caffael Strategol Tir ac Adeiladau (yn cynnwys – Stad, Mynwentydd, Rhandiroedd, Ffermydd) Rheoli Fflyd Cludiant Ysgol a Chymunedol (yn cynnwys comisiynu a chyflenwi) Cynnal a Chadw Eiddo Rheoli Cyfleusterau (yn cynnwys Glanhau Adeiladau ac Arlwyo)</p>	Caerwent
Paul Pavia	<p>Aelod Cabinet dros Addysg Swyddogion Arweiniol – Will McLean, Ian Saunders</p> <p>Addysg Blynyddoedd Cynnar Addysg Statudol Pob Oed Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol / Cynhwysiant Hawl /Cynnig Ôl 16 Safonau a Gwella Ysgolion (yn cynnwys comisiynu Gwasanaeth Cyflawni Addysg) Dysgu Cymunedol Rhaglen Ysgolion 21ain Ganrif Gwasanaeth Ieuentid / Gwasanaeth Addysg Awyr Agored / Cynllun Gwobr Dug Caeredin</p>	Larkfield
Lisa Dymock	<p>Aelod Cabinet dros Lesiant Cymunedol a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol Swyddogion Arweiniol – Frances O’Brien, Ian Saunders, Jane Rodgers, Matt Gatehouse</p> <p>Anghydraddoldeb Cymunedol (Iechyd, Incwm, Maeth, Anfantais, Gwahaniaethu, Ynysigrwydd) Hybu’r Gymraeg Strategaeth Tai, Cyflenwi / Atal Digartrefedd Safonau Masnach / Iechyd yr Amgylchedd / Lles Anifeiliaid / Iechyd Cyhoeddus / Trwyddedu Diogelwch Cymunedol (yn cynnwys cyswllt â’r Heddlu) Gwasanaeth Cofrestryddion Gweithgaredd Corfforol (yn cynnwys Canolfannau Hamdden, Chwaraeon, Teithio Llesol, Chwarae) Cefn Gwlad, Bioamrywiaeth, Hawliau Tramwy Cyhoeddus</p>	The Elms

	Gwybodaeth Ymwelwyr / Amgueddfeydd / Theatr / Atyniadau	
Penny Jones	<p>Aelod Cabinet dros Ofal Cymdeithas, Diogelu ac Iechyd Swyddog Arweiniol – Jane Rodgers</p> <p>Gwasanaethau Plant Maethu a Mabwysiadu Gwasanaeth Troseddu Ieuenctid Gwasanaethau Oedolion Diogelu Awdurdod Cyfan (Plant ac Oedolion) Anabledau Iechyd Meddwl</p>	Rhaglan
Jane Pratt	<p>Aelod Cabinet dros Seilwaith a Gwasanaethau Cymdogaeth – Jane Pratt Swyddog Arweiniol– Frances O’Brien, Matthew Gatehouse</p> <p>Arweinydd yr Awdurdod cyfan ar Newid Hinsawdd/ Datgarboneiddio Trafnidiaeth Integredig Strategol (yn cynnwys cynllunio trafndiaeth) Trafnidiaeth Gyhoeddus Priffyrdd – Gweithgareddau Sirol / Awdurdod Cefnffyrdd De Cymru (SWTRA) Casglu Gwastraff / Ailgylchu / Glanhau Strydoedd / Goleuo Strydoedd Cynnal a Chadw Tiroedd, Parciau, Gofodau Agored a Chyfleusterau Cyhoeddus Lliniaru a Rheoli Llifogydd ac Adferiad</p>	Rhiw Llanelli

Nodau a Gwerthoedd Cyngor Sir Fynwy

Ein diben

Adeiladu Cymunedau Cynaliadwy a Chydnerth

Amcanion y gweithiwn tuag atynt

- Rhoi'r dechrau gorau posibl mewn bywyd i bobl
- Sir lewyrchus a chysylltiedig
- Cynyddu i'r eithaf botensial yr amgylchedd naturiol ac adeiledig
- Llesiant gydol oes
- Cyngor gyda ffocws ar y dyfodol

Ein Gwerthoedd

Bod yn agored. Rydym yn agored ac yn onest. Mae pobl yn cael cyfle i gymryd rhan mewn penderfyniadau sy'n effeithio arnynt, dweud beth sy'n bwysig iddynt a gwneud pethau drostynt eu hunain/eu cymunedau. Os na allwn wneud rhywbeth i helpu, byddwn yn dweud hynny; os bydd yn cymryd peth amser i gael yr ateb, byddwn yn esbonio pam; os na allwn ateb yn syth, byddwn yn ceisio eich cysylltu gyda'r bobl a all helpu - mae adeiladu ymddiriedaeth ac ymgysylltu yn sylfaen allweddol.

Tegwch. Darparwn gyfleoedd teg, i helpu pobl a chymunedau i ffynnu. Os nad yw rhywbeth yn ymddangos yn deg, byddwn yn gwrando ac yn esbonio pam. Byddwn bob amser yn ceisio trin pawb yn deg ac yn gyson. Ni allwn wneud pawb yn hapus bob amser, ond byddwn yn ymrwmo i wrando ac esbonio pam y gwnaethom weithredu fel y gwnaethom.

Hyblygrwydd. Byddwn yn parhau i newid a bod yn hyblyg i alluogi cyflwyno'r gwasanaethau mwyaf effeithlon ac effeithiol. Mae hyn yn golygu ymrwymiad gwirioneddol i weithio gyda phawb i groesawu ffyrdd newydd o weithio.

Gwaith Tîm. Byddwn yn gweithio gyda chi a'n partneriaid i gefnogi ac ysbrydoli pawb i gymryd rhan fel y gallwn gyflawni pethau gwych gyda'n gilydd. Nid ydym yn gweld ein hunain fel 'trefnwyr' neu ddatrysyr problemau, ond gwnawn y gorau o syniadau, asedau ac adnoddau sydd ar gael i wneud yn siŵr ein bod yn gwneud y pethau sy'n cael yr effaith mwyaf cadarnhaol ar ein pobl a lleoedd.

Caredigrwydd – Byddwn yn dangos caredigrwydd i bawb yr ydym yn gweithio gyda nhw, gan roi pwysigrwydd perthnasoedd a'r cysylltiadau sydd gennym â'n gilydd wrth wraidd pob rhyngweithio.



SUBJECT: EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE (EAS) BUSINESS PLAN (2022-2025)

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 2 March 2022

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE:

1.1. This report seeks agreement from members for the EAS Business Plan 2022-2025.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1. It is recommended that Cabinet approve the EAS Business Plan 2022-2025.

3. KEY ISSUES:

3.1. The EAS delivers, through an agreed Business Plan, a wide range of school improvement services to all schools (all key stages, including all through schools and special schools), pupil referral units and funded non-maintained nursery settings on behalf of each LA. This plan supports the role LAs have in delivering their statutory function, addressing their individual improvement priorities and promoting improved pupil outcomes.

3.2. As an organisation we have reviewed how we have written the Business Plan and communicated this to our partners. We decided it was timely to review and adapt this process and to make it more accessible to a wider audience. We have used a new approach to help us articulate the changes and impact we want to make as the regional school improvement service for South East Wales and the connections and actions needed that will allow that change and impact to be successfully achieved. This Business Plan spans a three-year period and will receive annual reviews each year.

3.3. However, this plan also considers how schools and educational settings continue to face the challenges of the pandemic. The evidence suggests that the pandemic has affected some groups of learners more than others:

- Vulnerable or disadvantaged learners, and learners with ALN
- Those learners whose circumstances have changed during the pandemic
- Learners in early years education are at a critical stage for language, social, emotional, physical and cognitive development. Pupils risk missing key developmental milestones, which could impact on their emotional wellbeing, communication and learning development.

- Learners in post-16 and transition and those moving into post-16 provision These learners may have experienced particular pressures and uncertainty, and their confidence may be affected.
 - Specific challenges for Welsh immersion learners in English-speaking households, and learners transitioning from Year 6 to Year 7.
- 3.4. The EAS will remain sensitive and responsive to the needs of the workforce and will continue to be a highly supportive, reflective, and responsive organisation.
- 3.5. The EAS will build upon what has worked well during this period, particularly the aspects of our role that have been successful within the virtual environment. The support that the EAS will offer will fully align to the expectations set by local authorities, Welsh Government (WG) and links to emerging research. The pandemic has reminded us that positive change is and has been possible. Schools, settings and the EAS have seized opportunities to explore innovative ways of working and delivering meaningful learning experiences through a creative blended learning approach. These experiences should be built upon to avoid a 'snap back,' keeping the positive learning that has been developed during this time.
- 3.6. The EAS has rigorous processes for self-evaluation. Below is a strategic summary of the progress that has been made towards the priorities identified in the previous Business Plan, this has been systematically shared through our governance groups. Additional information focussed on each local authority has been shared on a termly basis with our partners and a summary can be found in Appendix 1 of this plan. Our next steps and priorities for 2022-2023 are also captured in Section 2 of the Business Plan.
- 3.7. We will continue to research, refine, respond and reflect to school needs. Our established networks will continue to be the mechanism of communicating with schools and settings. The Supporting our Schools website will continue to be the 'go to place' for all resources and guidance materials.
- 3.8. The EAS understands the need to over communicate with clarity to provide reassurance regarding advice, guidance, support and expectations. As a result, the EAS will work with local authorities to minimise any unnecessary bureaucracy for schools and settings to ensure they are able to focus on their important priorities and their support for learners.
- 3.9. The timing, delivery and focus of the support will be carefully considered in respect of the challenges that are likely to continue.
- 3.10. The draft business plan was created following feedback provided in a broad range of 'Visioning Sessions'. These virtual and physical meetings were offered to a range of stakeholder groups including, headteachers, governors and elected member. Feedback has been incorporated within the plan.
- 3.11. In addition the specific list of consultees are noted below.
- EAS staff

- Directors of Education (within South East Wales) and Diocesan Directors
- Regional Joint Executive Group
- EAS Company Board
- EAS Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
- Individual local authority education scrutiny committees
- All Headteachers from within the region
- All Chairs of Governors from within the region
- School Councils from within the region
- All school based Professional Learning Leads
- EAS Supporting School Trade Union Group (SSTU Group)

3.12. The submission deadline for this report was 11 February 2022. This is before the scheduled completion date for the final business plan, which will incorporate feedback from all consultees, but the final version will be shared with the committee as soon as it is available.

3.13. The final version of the Business Plan will be supported by a range of supporting documents:

- Detailed Business Plan 2022–2023
- Regional Grant Mapping Overview 2022–2023 (to follow once detailed received from WG)
- Regional Self-Evaluation Report (Executive Summary)
- EAS Risk Register (Executive Summary)
- Regional Professional Learning Offer 2022–2023
- Local Authority Strategic Education Plans

Our Approach

3.14. This approach begins with asking why we are doing what we do in the EAS (our vision). This reinforces the need to articulate, with our local authority partners, our ‘Statement of Intent’. This clearly describes what we are aiming to achieve as a collective partnership.

South East Wales Statement of Intent 2025

3.15. ‘The five local authorities and the EAS are a mature and successful partnership that work collectively to deliver the highest standard of education for children and young people across the region. Through working in a trusting and transparent way we are able to both deliver national agendas but also local priorities; we do this through an honest tripartite relationship with schools. Our focus is the successful emergence from the most acute period of COVID response, supporting learners and ensuring that our schools are prepared for the national reform agenda. The success of our endeavours will see children and young people in Gwent as capable, confident and independent learners ready for the next period of their lives.’

3.16. In working towards the South East Wales Statement of Intent, a strong commitment of partnership working is critical. It is important to recognise that each local authority, school and educational setting will have their own strategic priorities that support the realisation of the regional vision. These will be documented in respective local authority Strategic Plans and School Development Plans.

Local Authority Priorities

3.17. These are the local authority strategic priorities as provided at the time of the completion of the Final EAS Business Plan (2022-2025). Please note that local authority planning annual planning cycles may be different from the EAS financial year cycle, so may change mid-Business Plan year. Individual LA Priorities are included in the Final version of the EAS Business Plan.

EAS Vision 2025: What are we aiming to achieve?

3.18. 'Supporting and enabling schools and education settings to thrive as effective learning organisation, learning from each other and the wider educational community.'

3.19. In working towards the EAS Vision, it is critical that the EAS Business Plan reflects regional and local needs.

3.20. Wales has an ambition that all schools develop as learning organisations, in keeping with Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) principles. Schools that are learning organisations are able to adapt more quickly and explore new approaches, with a means to improving learning and outcomes for all their learners.

EAS Vision 2025: What will the EAS do to achieve our vision?

3.21. All schools will be able to access a universal offer of professional learning support in each of the following areas: School Improvement, Leadership and Teaching, Curriculum for Wales, Health Wellbeing and Equity and School Governors which are intrinsically linked. As well as a holistic professional learning offer, this will include a set number of days to work with their School Improvement Partner (SIP) and a professional dialogue with the EAS and LA to agree and or amend improvement priorities and support requirements as part of an annual professional discussion.

3.22. In addition to the universal offer, schools will be able to access specific and targeted support as determined through ongoing professional discussion with their SIP and in line with their school improvement priorities. This professional learning support may be related to a task and finish activity, an option for further work with their SIP or an option for peer working.

3.23. Bespoke support will also be available for schools who require more intensive support. This could include more support from the SIP or the use of a Learning Network School to School Partnership. These activities are explained in detail in the full Business Plan.

School Improvement: Bespoke support to schools and settings which is aligned to their needs. Create and facilitate collaborative networks of professional practice.		
Leadership and teaching Provide professional learning and support for the development of	Curriculum for Wales Provide professional learning and support for Curriculum for Wales.	Health, Wellbeing and Equity Provide professional learning and support to improve health and wellbeing, with a particular

leadership and teaching across the entire workforce.		focus on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.
Governors: Provide a broad range of professional learning and support for Governors.		

What are the foundations that enable activities to take place?

3.24. The EAS needs to have the following elements in place to enable the activities above. These are the foundations of the organisation:

- We are passionately committed to Wales, helping our staff, schools and education settings succeed.
- We support and value the wellbeing and professional learning of staff.
- We are an agile, timely and responsive organisation.
- We communicate clearly.
- We are sensitive, flexible, and empathetic to system needs.
- The way we work is informed, drawing on research from a global perspective.
- We welcome challenge and review and draw on expertise to improve our delivery.
- We have effective systems and processes for self-evaluation, risk, and financial management.
- We operate a clear and effective governance model.
- We have positive relationships with a wide range of partners.
- We adhere to all legislative requirements.
- Our work is well-planned and managed to deliver the best for our schools and education settings.

What will be the impact?

3.25. If schools and educational settings have the capacity to secure improvement and engage with the support available from the EAS this is the expected impact

- The support provided by the EAS has enabled leaders, governors and education practitioners to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours to positively impact practice, providing improved learner outcomes.
- Professional learning has been effective and appropriate to need.
- Professional learning has been effective and appropriate to need.
- The broad range of collaborative networks and activity have supported the development of a self-improving system.

How will we capture our work and share information with our partners?

3.26. There are many ways of capturing and sharing what the EAS does which are exemplified in this model as outputs.

- EAS Website
- Regional policies and processes
- Case studies
- Regional meeting minutes
- External research and review

- Impact capture reports
- Supporting Our Schools Site
- Partnership documentation
- Professional learning resources and guidance

How will we capture our work and share information with our partners?

3.27. There are many ways of capturing and sharing what the EAS does which are exemplified in this model as outputs. The progress on the implementation and impact of the Business Plan will be reported to the Joint Executive Group and Company Board. These reports, as in previous years, will be suitable for scrutiny activity at local authority and national level. In addition, the progress made towards the implementation of key actions will be reported at each meeting of the Joint Executive Group and Company Board. This approach will be aligned to the national changes in the accountability system.

Risks

3.28. In writing this plan we have made the following assumptions. If these are not in place, then they become a risk to the successful delivery of this plan. The EAS risk register will be reviewed and refined following the agreement of the final EAS Business Plan. These are:

- Operate with integrity, honesty and objectivity.
- Partners understand our role in the education system.
- Professional learning has a positive impact on practice and behaviour.
- We are one part of the much wider system.
- Schools / education settings positively engage with us.
- Schools / education settings use funding effectively.
- We have the capacity and resources to undertake our activity effectively.
- When the conditions in a school / education setting can secure improvement, readiness for support results in positive change.
- Our partners provide us with timely and appropriate information.
- We work with schools / education settings to ensure priorities for improvement are based on robust, accurate self-evaluation.

3.29. These risks are mitigated through the identification of priorities as seen in the priority areas above and within the detailed within the EAS Business Plan, Monmouthshire LA Plans and the Education Strategic Plan.

3.30. Monmouthshire LA will have its own risks linked to the delivery of the strategic objectives within their corporate plans.

4. REASONS:

4.1. The South East Wales Consortium is required to submit to the Welsh Government a three-year business plan that will be updated annually. This meets the requirements set out in the Welsh

Government's National Model for Regional Working. The business plan addresses all aspects in support of improvements across the schools and settings in Monmouthshire.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1. Section 4 of the Business Plan details the EAS activities for 2022-2023 and Section 5 details the governance and financial arrangements. Indicative LA Core Contributions have been added into this section. The EAS is subject to a robust governance model that is underpinned by the Articles of Association and a Collaboration and Members Agreement (CAMA). These governance documents essentially link the five Local Authorities to the EAS both operationally and through the commissioning of regional school improvement services.
- 5.2. The EAS is funded on an annual basis from three sources: Local authority core contributions, regional school improvement grants and a service level agreement for governor support services. A spending plan accompanies this Business Plan which is intrinsically linked to all actions contained within it. A detailed overview of the regional distribution of all grants is available for all schools to view and compare allocations and rates of delegation through the regional grant monitoring tool. As recipients of public funding, it is important that budgets are allocated and spent wisely. The EAS will continually strive to provide value for money through the optimal use of resources to achieve intended outcomes.
- 5.3. The delegation rate to schools increased to 95.5% in 2021/22, whilst the EAS staff profile has reduced by 53.1% since 2012.
- 5.3. The local authority's indicative core contribution for 2022/23 are as follows: Monmouthshire LA's contribution for 2022/23 is £403,815 compared with £405,844 in 2021/22, £414,127 in 2020/21 and £420,218 in 2019/20.
- 5.4. At the time of writing this report, there is uncertainty with regards to the regional grant funding from WG for 2022/2023. As a result of the pandemic, it is likely that there will continue to be reductions in the regional grant profile. When the grant position has been confirmed the EAS detailed delivery plan will be updated accordingly.

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

- 6.1. High Quality education is a fundamental pre-requisite of ensuring future local and national prosperity through the provision of an informed and well-educated workforce and society. The Local Authority's statutory role to monitor and evaluate school performance and the quality of provision, coupled with its statutory powers of intervention in schools causing concern is fundamental to ensuring that all schools provide high quality education provision.

7. CONSULTEES:

- 7.1. The Business Plan has been through a consultation process. The Consultees are noted below:

- EAS staff
- Directors of Education (within South East Wales) and Diocesan Directors
- Regional Joint Executive Group
- EAS Company Board
- CYP Select Committee
- EAS Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
- Individual local authority education scrutiny committees
- All Headteachers from within the region
- All Chairs of Governors from within the region
- School Councils from within the region
- All school based Professional Learning Leads
- EAS Supporting School Trade Union Group (SSTU Group)

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

8.1 Education Achievement Service: Regional Business Plan 2022-2025 (Final)

9. **AUTHOR:** Debbie Hartevelde (Managing Director EAS)

Presenting: Edward Pryce (Assistant Director, EAS)

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EAS

Education Achievement Service
for South East Wales
Gwasanaeth Cyflawni Addysg
i Dde Ddwyrain Cymru



Education Achievement Service

Regional Business Plan

April 2022 - March 2025

(Including Annual Plan 2022-2023)



This version of the EAS Business Plan 2022-2025 will be presented for agreement to the Regional Joint Executive Group and then to each LA Cabinet / Executive. The plan will also be submitted to Welsh Government.

Cllr J Wilkins Chair of Education Achievement Service Company Board	
Cllr J Collins Chair of Joint Executive Group	
Ms D Hartevelde Managing Director, Education Achievement Service	
Mrs K Cole Lead Director on behalf of South East Wales Directors Group	

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Foreword

The Educational Achievement Service (EAS) is the school improvement service of the five local authorities in South East Wales: Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen.

The EAS is owned by the five Councils and operates within a robust governance structure which is populated by representative Elected Members from each Council.

The EAS has been in operation since September 2012 and has undergone many changes during this period. Through the commissioning of an annual Business Plan the EAS delivers key school improvement support to all schools and educational settings across the South East Wales region.

The EAS endeavours to work in partnership local authorities, schools and settings and wider stakeholders, ensuring that service delivery remains of a consistently high standard and meets the needs of the system. The service welcomes external expertise and challenge to support continued improvement and will remain agile and responsive to regional need.

Section 1: Regional Context

The number of pupils of compulsory school age within the region in 2021 was

73,324

This represents **19.3%** of all pupils in Wales.

There are **237** maintained schools in the region (which includes 4 pupil referral units), **15.8%** of all maintained schools in Wales.

(EAS figure correct from September 2021, Wales figure from Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC), 2021)

There are **21** Welsh medium primary schools, **3** Welsh medium secondary, **17** Roman Catholic and **11** Church in Wales schools within the region.

Based on local authority reported numbers (March 2021), **847** children in the region are looked after (LAC) by a local authority and attend a school in the region.

An additional **54** Looked After Children are educated in schools in England.

(This data is no longer collected in PLASC)

The percentage of pupils of compulsory school age who are eligible for free school meals (FSM) is **24.8%**.

This level of eligibility is the second highest of the four regional consortia with Central South Consortium highest with **25.1%**

(PLASC, 2021)

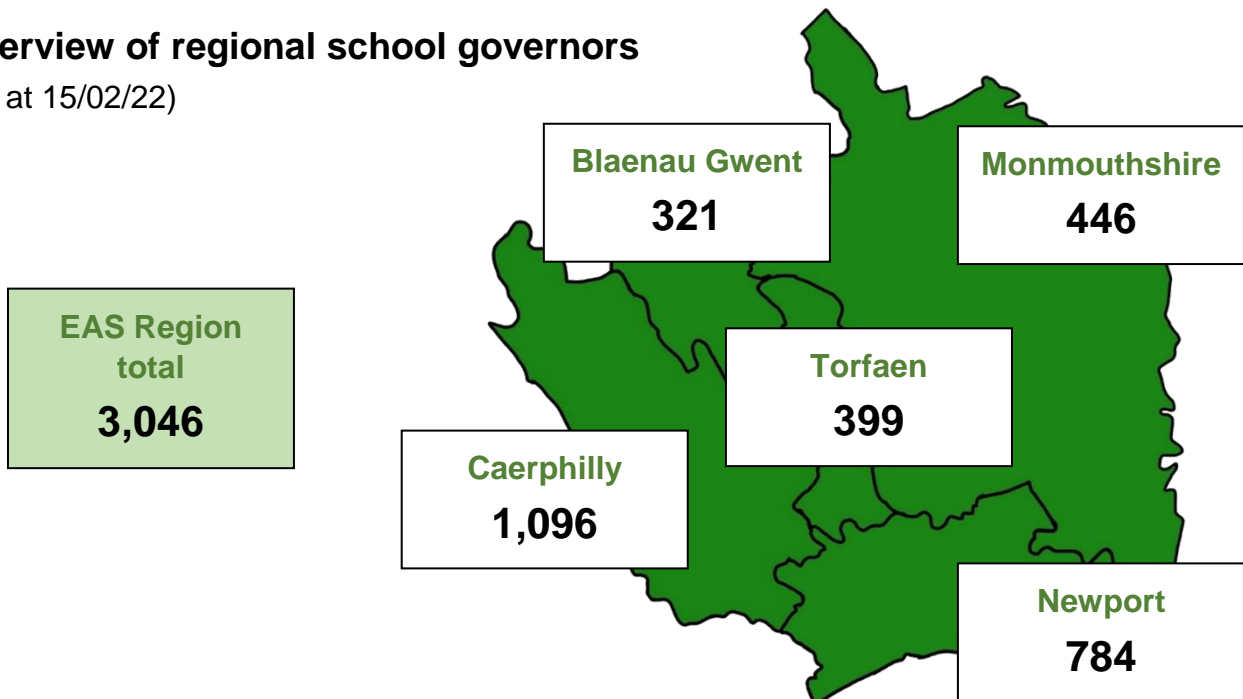
In the region, **10%** of people aged three and over say that they can speak Welsh compared to the Wales average of 19%

(2011 Census, ONS)

The percentage of pupils aged 5 or over from an ethnic minority background is **11.8%**

Overview of regional school governors

(As at 15/02/22)



Overview of school numbers in the region

January 2022



Blaenau Gwent	Caerphilly	Monmouthshire
---------------	------------	---------------

31.4% FSM	24.9% FSM	16.6% FSM
School numbers	School numbers	School numbers
(January 2022)	(January 2022)	(January 2022)

3	Non-maintained nursery settings
19	Primary (1 Welsh medium, 3 Roman Catholic, 1 Church in Wales)
2	Secondary
2	Special
2	3-16

14	Non-maintained nursery settings
63	Primary (11 Welsh medium, 1 Roman Catholic)
6	Infant
4	Junior
11	Secondary (1 Welsh medium)
1	Special
1	Pupil referral unit
1	3-18

26	Non-maintained nursery settings
30	Primary (2 Welsh medium, 2 Roman Catholic, 6 Church in Wales)
4	Secondary
1	Pupil referral service

Regional school / PRU staffing	
Teaching staff	Support staff
661	626

Regional school / PRU staffing	
Teaching staff	Support staff
502	552

Regional school / PRU staffing	
Teaching staff	Support staff
1,580	1,416

Newport		Torfaen		EAS Region	
23.1% FSM	School numbers (January 2022)	30.0% FSM	School numbers (January 2022)	24.8% FSM	School numbers (January 2022)
23	Non-maintained nursery settings	15	Non-maintained nursery settings	81	Non-maintained nursery settings
1	Nursery			1	Nursery
44	Primary (4 Welsh medium, 6 Roman Catholic, 2 Church in Wales)	25	Primary (3 Welsh medium, 3 Roman Catholic, 2 Church in Wales)	181	Primary (21 Welsh medium, 15 Roman Catholic, 11 Church in Wales)
9	Secondary (1 Welsh medium, 1 Roman Catholic)	6	Secondary (1 Welsh medium, 1 Roman Catholic)	6	Infant
2	Special	1	Special	4	Junior
1	Pupil referral unit	1	Pupil referral service	32	Secondary (3 Welsh medium, 2 Roman Catholic)
Regional school / PRU staffing		Regional school / PRU staffing		6	Special
Teaching staff	Support staff	Teaching staff	Support staff	2	Pupil referral service
1,508	1,346	761	739	2	Pupil referral unit
				2	3-16
				1	3-18
				Regional school / PRU staffing	
				Teaching staff	Support staff
				5,012	4,679

Section 2: Introduction

As an organisation we have reviewed how we have written the Business Plan and communicated this to our partners. We decided it was timely to review and adapt this process and to make it more accessible to a wider audience. We have used a new approach to help us articulate the changes and impact we want to make as the regional school improvement service for South East Wales and the connections and actions needed that will allow that change and impact to be successfully achieved. This Business Plan spans a three-year period and will receive annual reviews each year.

The plan also considers how schools and educational settings continue to face the challenges of the pandemic. The evidence suggests that the pandemic has affected some groups of learners more than others:

- Vulnerable or disadvantaged learners, and learners with ALN
- Those learners whose circumstances have changed during the pandemic
- Learners in early years education are at a critical stage for language, social, emotional, physical and cognitive development. Learners risk missing key developmental milestones, which could impact on their emotional wellbeing, communication and learning development.
- Learners in post-16 and transition and those moving into post-16 provision These learners may have experienced pressures and uncertainty, and their confidence may be affected.
- Specific challenges for Welsh immersion learners in English-speaking households, and learners transitioning from Year 6 to Year 7.

The EAS will remain sensitive and responsive to the needs of the workforce and will continue to be a highly supportive, reflective, and responsive organisation.

The EAS will build upon what has worked well during this period, particularly the aspects of our role that have been successful within the virtual environment. The support that the EAS will offer will fully align to the expectations set by local authorities, Welsh Government (WG) and links to emerging research. The pandemic has reminded us that positive change is and has been possible. Schools, settings and the EAS have seized opportunities to explore innovative ways of working and delivering meaningful learning experiences through a creative blended learning approach. These experiences should be built upon to avoid a 'snap back,' keeping the positive learning that has been developed during this time.

Self-Evaluation: Strategic summary of progress 2020-2021

The EAS has robust processes for self-evaluation. Below is a strategic summary of the progress that has been made towards the priorities identified in the previous Business Plan, this has been systematically shared through our governance groups. Additional information focussed on each local authority has been shared on a termly basis with our partners and a summary can be found in Appendix 1 of this plan. Our next steps and priorities for 2022-2023 are also captured below.

We have implemented the priorities within the previous Business Plan with sensitivity, empathy and flexibility, whilst recognising that many schools and settings have continued to face pandemic related challenges.

School Improvement: Bespoke support to schools and educational settings that is aligned to need. Creating and facilitating collaborative networks of professional practice.

- Working with schools and local authorities, a regional model of support has been developed and implemented, focusing on accurate self-evaluation using a broad range of characteristics, aligned to school improvement priorities. All local authorities have started their professional discussions with schools.
- Feedback from Headteachers thus far has been largely positive to date with over 90% agreeing or strongly agreeing that all attendees in the professional discussion were positively engaged in supporting the school through the professional discussion process. 93% either agreed or strongly agreed that all partners contributed effectively to discussion. Just over 87% felt that the quality of the professional discussion has been beneficial with almost 67% strongly agreeing this point.
- There is a clear regional strategy to improve the quality of distance and blended learning experiences for learners. There has been good engagement in the regional strategy and many opportunities have been provided for schools to share and to develop more effective teaching across and within schools and settings.
- Multi Agency meetings for six secondary schools in Special Measures have continued. Two Schools in Special Measures have been removed from this category most recently. There is a growing bank of case studies evidencing examples of school improvement and turnaround leadership.
- Working with local authority partners a broader range of evaluation strategies that do not focus solely on end of key stage outcomes but looks at a wider range of school improvement information have been identified, more work is required in this area.
- Over 100 School Improvement Partners (SIPs) from both within and beyond the region are current serving Headteachers who are contributing to the self-improving system and the Schools as Learning Organisations agenda. This is an increase on the previous year.
- Team Around the School Meetings (TAS Meetings) are gradually replacing Schools Causing Concern Meetings in each of the local authorities. These meetings between the school, LA and EAS continue to monitor the progress of the school and the support it receives, provide opportunities for problem solving and developing actions to support improvement, as well as challenging under performance where appropriate. The focus of these meetings is centred on ensuring support is appropriate and assessing the bespoke needs of each school.
- The Regional Team Around the School process will continue with a focus on highlighting and sharing effective practice for those schools who require more intensive levels of support. Consideration of the use of case studies in relation to aspects such as a focus on turnaround leadership will underpin the brief for this group.
- The quality and impact of the provision for professional learning for educational practitioners and governors is good and those schools that have engaged are able to evidence the impact of this.

- Governing Body meetings moved online from the end of March 2020. In the subsequent 18 months over 1800 meetings were clerked, an average of 31 each week in term time.
- We have connected with more governors than ever across the region, offering a virtual PL programme from Summer 2020. Since then, we have delivered over 130 virtual events for governors, with over 2000 individual attendances.
- A comprehensive professional learning programme for elected members that supports the regional and national priorities around evaluation and quality assurance including distance and blended learning has been delivered. Attendance has been varied across each local authority.

Leadership and Teaching: Professional learning and support for the development of leadership and teaching across the entire workforce.

- Nearly all lead PL schools have successfully completed the National Professional Enquiry Project focus for 20/21 in areas of assessment and progression, re-imaging schooling, inclusion, pedagogy and learning. All lead Curriculum for Wales Professional Learning schools are now ready to consolidate and extend their research and enquiry work across their cluster to continue their implementation of the Curriculum for Wales.
- Good progress and engagement in the national Coaching and Mentoring Facilitator Coach provision continues with approximately 138 trained facilitator coaches across the region.
- Good progress has been made facilitating the regional Coaching and Mentoring professional learning provision using the above facilitator coaches' group. Coaching and mentoring cohorts for Headteachers, Deputy Headteachers and Senior Leaders continue with additional cohorts commencing in the new year. Over 211 participants have applied for regional coaching and mentoring programme to date.
- 46 aspirational leaders have been identified via the Pilot Talent Management Framework process and have been supported with an individual professional learning package of support. Participating pilot schools are continuing through the implementation of the framework and feedback on the benefits of the process remain positive.
- Implementation of the national induction professional learning package has effectively progressed during the autumn terms 2021. Professional Learning for newly qualified teachers is ongoing which has included professional learning external verifiers and school-based induction mentors. All PL sessions facilitated are recorded and shared within a collaborative Microsoft Teams space.
- Over 90% of leaders agree that the EAS provides high quality professional learning that supports for leadership and teaching, access to inspirational guest speakers, digital support and access to an equitable national leadership offer.
- In 2020/2021 58 higher level teaching assistants achieved the qualification, a 98% pass rate, building capacity in schools across the region and demonstrating improvement overtime.
- Over 500 participants have accessed the Middle Leadership Development Programme. Nearly 900 positive evaluative comments have been received about the Professional Learning experience.

Curriculum for Wales: Professional learning and support for Curriculum for Wales.

- A broad range of professional learning and bespoke support has been provided to schools and settings to support their realisation of Curriculum for Wales. School Improvement Partners have worked productively with schools and settings to understand their progress and support needs in relation to the requirements for realisation.
- There are well established networks for all practitioners that support peer engagement and the development of resources for Curriculum for Wales.
- The EAS Curriculum for Wales website has been launched, this provides a 'one stop shop' for all information, support and practice worth sharing for all practitioners, parents and learners.
- Schools and settings have been provided with examples of effective school development actions for the realisation of curriculum reform and bespoke support continues to be provided to schools and settings to implement these.
- Non-Maintained Nursery settings engaged in the pilot of curriculum reform continue to be well supported.

- A network of lead enquirers to develop the capacity for professional enquiry in all schools and settings is established and continues to thrive.
- The regional Welsh language strategy has been reviewed in collaboration with school leaders and other partners and is being used to inform future delivery models.
- Schools and settings have been supported to actively seek resources and experiences that support learners to understand the stories of different groups, including diverse and minority groups, enabling all learners to see themselves and their experiences and knowledge developed through the curriculum.
- A regional strategy developed in collaboration with practitioners provides a coherent approach to improve progress in literacy, numeracy, digital and personal and social skills of learners who have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, for example pupils eligible for free school meals.

Health Wellbeing and Equity: Professional learning and support for health, wellbeing, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

- The EAS has placed wellbeing at the forefront of its work and has provided a range of professional learning to schools and settings that has provided support to the social and emotional needs of the workforce and learners.
- Schools and settings have been provided with a range of support to enable them to identify and provide the most appropriate support to specific groups of disadvantaged and vulnerable learners, including those who have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, to help them to progress.
- The Vulnerable Learner Lead Programme has been extended and engagement levels are now improved on previous years.
- The programme of professional learning through a 'Train the Trainer' approach that provides the foundations of universal provision across all schools and settings has been delivered. Those schools who engaged are able to demonstrate improvements in their provision for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of learners.
- Pupil voice and pupil participation across the region has improved, working in partnership with the School and Super Ambassador Programme to influence school and regional priorities.
- Through the professional learning that has been offered, all schools and settings are Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Aware.
- The EAS has worked in partnership with local authorities and other regions to develop professional learning for schools to embed a whole school approach to emotional and mental wellbeing.
- The EAS has funded ten secondary schools from across the region to capture impact case studies on the use of the Recruit, Recover, and Raise standards grant.
- The EAS continues to work in partnership with Challenging Education to expand the 'Raising Achievement of Disadvantaged Learners' (RADY) programme across the region. Schools engaging in the programme attend a half termly network meeting. Schools attending are sharing their changes in practice.
- Work with local authority partners to explore and agree roles and responsibilities with regards to the EAS role in securing the effective regional provision for ALN has been completed, this will be reviewed at regular intervals.

EAS Foundations

- Good progress has been made on addressing the recommendations from all external reviews.
- The service continues to seek advice, challenge and support from external sources and uses this to develop and improve service delivery.
- Feedback from stakeholder surveys demonstrate improved satisfaction on key service areas.
- Communication with partners and the workforce across the region has improved and 'listening events' have been used to shape and change regional delivery models.
- Evaluations of the impact of regional policies and practices developed since the start have been used to inform future ways of working and curriculum design.

- Securing the Investors in People Gold status has been a positive step and has enabled further service improvements.
- EAS staff wellbeing has been placed as a high priority and feedback from staff surveys demonstrate increased satisfaction.
- High levels of staff morale and wellbeing have been maintained in the backdrop of reduced funding and the implementation of change management processes.
- All EAS staff have had access to coaching and mentoring.
- Service wide development of a review of visions and values has commenced in line with professional learning on the 'Compass for Life' model.

Next Steps: Strategic priorities for 2021-2022

We will continue to research, refine, respond and reflect to school needs. Our established networks will continue to be the mechanism of communicating with schools and settings. The Supporting our Schools website will continue to be the 'go to place' for all resources and guidance materials.

The EAS understands the need to over communicate with clarity to provide reassurance regarding advice, guidance, support and expectations. As a result, the EAS will work with local authorities to minimise any unnecessary bureaucracy for schools and settings to ensure they are able to focus on their important priorities and their support for learners. The timing, delivery and focus of the support will be carefully considered in respect of the challenges that are likely to continue. Based on ongoing self-evaluation the following are our strategic priorities for the coming year, these will be detailed in Section 4:

- Work in partnership with local authorities, schools and settings to further refine the regional model for school improvement. Further embed the elements of support, trust and transparency.
- Review the process for business planning, consult on EAS Vision for 2025 and the values of the organisation.
- Work closely with schools and settings to increase the volume of school-based visits (risk assessments allowing) to undertake a range of supportive shared self-evaluation activity.
- Provide a coherent package of professional learning and bespoke targeted support and guidance to schools, settings, clusters and practitioners to help them realise Curriculum for Wales.
- Provide professional learning and support to improve health and wellbeing, with a particular focus on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.
- Provide bespoke support to schools and settings to address the impact of the pandemic on individual learners, as appropriate, in line with their improvement priorities.
- Provide support to leaders on the identification and support for specific groups of disadvantaged and vulnerable learners including those who have been disproportionality affected by the pandemic.
- Provide professional learning and support for the development of leadership and teaching across the entire workforce.
- Further build the capacity and capability of the knowledge and skills of governing bodies (as appropriate), through the revised regional professional learning pathway and bespoke support.
- Work with partners to agree the parameters that identifies and values a broad range of school improvement indicators, including the importance of learner voice and the progress of learners.

Section 3: Our Approach

This approach begins with asking why we are doing what we do in the EAS (our vision). This reinforces the need to articulate, with our local authority partners, our ‘Statement of Intent’. This clearly describes what we are aiming to achieve as a collective partnership.

South East Wales Statement of Intent 2025




South East Wales Statement of Intent	<p>‘The five local authorities and the EAS are a mature and successful partnership that work collectively to deliver the highest standard of education for children and young people across the region. Through working in a trusting and transparent way we are able to both deliver national agendas but also local priorities; we do this through an honest tripartite relationship with schools. Our focus is the successful emergence from the most acute period of COVID response, supporting learners and ensuring that our schools are prepared for the national reform agenda. The success of our endeavours will see children and young people in Gwent as capable, confident and independent learners ready for the next period of their lives.’</p>
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In working towards the South East Wales Statement of Intent, a strong commitment of partnership working is critical. It is important to recognise that each local authority, school and educational setting will have their own strategic priorities that support the realisation of the regional vision.

Local authority priorities (Spring 2022)

These are the local authority strategic priorities as provided at the time of the completion of the final EAS Business Plan (2022-2025). Please note that local authority planning annual planning cycles may be different from the EAS financial year cycle, so may change mid-business plan year.

Local authority	Strategic priorities for 2022 onwards
Blaenau Gwent Blaenau Gwent <small>County Borough Council</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise the impact of COVID-19 on learner development and progress, including improving the digital competency of all learners and staff in the wider Blaenau Gwent school community. • Ensure high quality leadership and teaching that secures good progress for all learners, particularly the vulnerable and those who are eFSM. • Improve wellbeing for learners at all stages of development. • Secure strong progress in skills, particularly in English and mathematics at key stages 3 and 4. • Support schools who are identified as causing concern through regional protocols to secure improvement, in conjunction with the EAS.
Caerphilly CAERPHELLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL CAERFFILI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to reduce the impact of poverty within early years. • Raise standards of attainment. • Reduce the impact of poverty on attainment for both vocational and non-vocational qualifications to provide equality of opportunity. • Help those who are not able to follow a traditional attainment path. • Support learning that enables young and adult employment opportunities, including a focus on ‘future skills’. • Improve ‘Digital Skills’ for all ages. • Improve the learning environment. • Safeguard all children and young people in order to create a climate for learning, particularly for those most vulnerable.

<p>Monmouthshire</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure our schools are effectively supported to emerge from the pandemic in an informed position to meet the needs of all learners so that they achieve their potential. • Provide access to a range of professional learning and support to develop high-quality teaching and learning across all schools which leads to improved outcomes that are sustained over time • Ensure our schools have access to high-quality professional learning, advice and guidance to develop a bespoke curriculum that engages and inspires all learners to develop the skills they need for employment and life-long learning. • Provide bespoke advice and guidance to our schools to ensure a wide range of learners receive high-quality additional needs provision through the in line with the new ALN & Tribunal Act • Build the skills and expertise of schools to improve attendance recovery and levels of exclusion to reduce barriers to learning for vulnerable pupils.
<p>Newport</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and implementation of the new curriculum. • Ensure effective teaching and learning for learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN). • Estyn Inspection R1: Improve the overall performance of secondary schools. • Estyn Inspection R2: Reduce the variance in progress/outcomes for learners eligible for FSM and those not eligible. • Estyn Thematic Review: Develop a coherent approach to improve progress in literacy, numeracy and personal and social skills of vulnerable pupils disproportionately affected by the pandemic, for example pupils eligible for free school meals. • Estyn Thematic Review: Establish strategies to monitor and address the long-term impact of the pandemic on the physical and mental health of pupils.
<p>Torfaen</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure highly effective support and intervention from all school improvement services to enable most learners, particularly those identified as vulnerable (including FSM), to secure expected levels of progress in their skills, knowledge and outcomes. • Ensure all Torfaen schools have a clear strategy for improving the quality of teaching and learning particularly in secondary schools. Thus enabling most learners, particularly boys and those identified as vulnerable, to secure expected levels of progress in their skills, knowledge and outcomes. • Further improve the quality and impact of leadership, particularly on the area of teaching and learning, in schools identified as requiring high levels of support. • Ensure successful implementation of the Curriculum for Wales through provision of appropriately targeted professional learning and sharing of exemplar practice including the inclusion of resources and approaches developed as a consequence of the pandemic. • Ensure successful implementation of the ALN transformation agenda through provision of appropriately targeted professional learning and sharing of exemplar practice.

Why? What are we aiming to achieve?

EAS Vision	Supporting and enabling schools and education settings to thrive as effective learning organisations, learning from each other and the wider educational community.
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In working towards the EAS Vision, it is critical that the EAS Business Plan reflects regional and local needs.

Wales has an ambition that all schools develop as learning organisations, in keeping with OECD principles. Schools that are learning organisations are able to adapt more quickly and explore new approaches, with a means to improving learning and outcomes for all their learners.

What? What will the EAS do to achieve our vision?

All schools will be able to access a universal offer of professional learning support in each of the following areas: School Improvement, Leadership and Teaching, Curriculum for Wales, Health Wellbeing and Equity and School Governors which are intrinsically linked. As well as a holistic professional learning offer, this will include a set number of days to work with their School Improvement Partner (SIP) and a professional dialogue with the EAS and local authority to agree and or amend improvement priorities and support requirements as part of an annual professional discussion.

In addition to the universal offer, schools will be able to access specific and targeted support as determined through ongoing professional discussion with their SIP and in line with their school improvement priorities. This professional learning support may be related to a task and finish activity, an option for further work with their SIP or an option for peer working.

Bespoke support will also be available for schools who require more intensive support. This could include more support from the SIP or the use of a Learning Network School to School Partnership.

What will we do?	School Improvement: Provide support to schools and education settings which is aligned to their needs. Create and facilitate collaborative networks of professional practice.		
	Leadership and Teaching Provide professional learning and support for the development of leadership and teaching across the entire workforce.	Curriculum for Wales Provide professional learning and support for Curriculum for Wales.	Health, Wellbeing and Equity Provide professional learning and support to improve health and wellbeing, with a particular focus on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.
	Governors: Provide a broad range of professional learning, support and advice.		

What will happen as a result of our activity? How will we measure our success and what we need to do next?

How will we measure success?	The support provided by the EAS has enabled leaders, governors and education practitioners to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours to positively impact practice, providing improved learner outcomes.		
	Professional learning has been effective and appropriate to need.	Schools and education settings have made progress as a result of the support provided.	The broad range of collaborative networks and activity have supported the development of a self-improving system.

How will we capture our work and share information with our partners?

There are many ways of capturing and sharing what the EAS does which are exemplified below:

How will we report?	Governance reports	EAS Website	Impact capture reports
	Policies and processes	Case studies	Meeting minutes
	External research and review	Supporting Our Schools Site	Partnership documentation
	PL resources and guidance		

What are the foundations that enable activities to take place?

The EAS needs to have the following elements in place to enable the activities above. These are the foundations of the organisation:

- We are passionately committed to Wales, helping our staff, schools and education settings succeed.
- We support and value the wellbeing and professional learning of staff.
- We are an agile, timely and responsive organisation.
- We communicate clearly.
- We are sensitive, flexible, and empathetic to system needs.
- The way we work is informed, drawing on research from a global perspective.
- We welcome challenge and review and draw on expertise to improve our delivery.
- We have effective systems and processes for self-evaluation, risk, and financial management.
- We operate a clear and effective governance model.
- We have positive relationships with a wide range of partners.
- We adhere to all legislative requirements.
- Our work is well-planned and managed to deliver the best for our schools and education settings.

Assumptions

In writing this plan we have made the following assumptions. If these are not in place, then they become a risk to the successful delivery of this plan:

- We are able to operate with integrity, honesty and objectivity.
- Partners understand our role in the education system and provide us with timely and appropriate information.
- We are one part of the much wider system.
- We have the capacity and resources to undertake our activity effectively.
- Professional learning has a positive impact on practice and behaviour.
- Schools / education settings engage positively with us.
- When the capacity in a school / education setting are able to secure improvement evidence indicates that support results in positive change.

EAS Business Plan 2022-2025



South East Wales Statement of Intent: *“The five local authorities and the EAS are a mature and successful partnership that work collectively to deliver the highest standard of education for children and young people across the region. Through working in a trusting and transparent way we are able to both deliver national agendas and local priorities; we do this through an honest tripartite relationship with schools. Our focus is the successful emergence from the most acute period of COVID response, supporting learners and ensuring that our schools are prepared for the national reform agenda. The success of our endeavours will see children and young people in Gwent as capable, confident and independent learners ready for the next period of their lives.”*

EAS Vision	Supporting and enabling schools and education settings to thrive as effective learning organisations, learning from each other and the wider educational community.		
What will we do?	School Improvement: Provide support to schools and education settings which is aligned to their needs. Create and facilitate collaborative networks of professional practice.		
	Leadership and Teaching Provide professional learning and support for the development of leadership and teaching across the entire workforce.	Curriculum for Wales Provide professional learning and support for Curriculum for Wales.	Health, Wellbeing and Equity Provide professional learning and support to improve health and wellbeing, with a particular focus on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.
	Governors: Provide a broad range of professional learning, support and advice.		
	The support provided by the EAS has enabled leaders, governors and education practitioners to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours to positively impact practice, providing improved learner outcomes.		
How will we measure success?	Professional learning has been effective and appropriate to need.	Schools and education settings have made progress as a result of the support provided.	The broad range of collaborative networks and activity have supported the development of a self-improving system.
	Governance reports Policies and processes External research and review PL resources and guidance	EAS Website Case studies Supporting Our Schools Site	Impact capture reports Meeting minutes Partnership documentation

Foundations

- We are passionately committed to Wales, helping our staff, schools and education settings succeed.
- We support and value the wellbeing and professional learning of staff.
- We are an agile, timely and responsive organisation.
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Section 4: EAS Business Plan activities 2022-2023

This section details the activities that will take place during 2022-2023. Each section has a set of success criteria which contributes to the overarching vision that we have for 2025. The support across each area is interrelated and should not be viewed in isolation.

A. School Improvement: Provide support to schools and educational settings aligned to need. Create and facilitate collaborative networks of professional practice.	
Universal Provision	Success Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate professional discussions to identify support aligned to improvement priorities and resource allocation, highlighting good practice to share more widely and provide opportunities for peer working. • Undertake supported self-evaluation activities alongside leaders, focusing on the progress of learners including vulnerable groups. • Provide professional learning for improvement and self-evaluation processes, including supporting the roll out of the National Resource for Evaluation and Improvement. <p>Work with local authorities to complement existing education HR services and continue to develop a consistent approach to school improvement related HR matters across the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide recruitment support for the appointment of Headteachers and as a panel member for Headteacher performance management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All schools have undertaken both an annual professional discussion and a supported self-evaluation activity to confirm their priorities and have identified bespoke support needs, enabling local authorities and the EAS to know schools and educational settings well. • Schools have engaged effectively and collaboratively with peers to support the development of their priorities for improvement and share effective practice. • All local authorities have clarity about the readiness of all schools and settings with regard to national reform. • Governing Bodies who have engaged in professional learning have enhanced knowledge and skills enabling them to undertake their role effectively. • Schools and leaders requiring higher or more intensive levels of support, have been effectively supported to identify priorities for improvement and are able to demonstrate progress in key areas. • Team Around the School meetings have ensured that participant schools and settings received timely and appropriate support and challenge from the EAS and local authorities enabling them to make progress in key areas.
Targeted Provision	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide additional support to undertake self-evaluation activities alongside leaders. • Facilitate professional learning or support for specific areas identified by the school or educational setting. • Facilitate opportunities for peer-to-peer networks. • Support recruitment at key senior leadership positions. • Support targeted professional learning for Governing Bodies. • School Improvement Partners provide enhanced support for new and acting Headteachers. 	

Bespoke Provision	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate additional support for schools and educational settings requiring higher levels of support. • Broker school to school intensive support to undertake professional learning and supported self-evaluation activities alongside leaders. • Working in close partnership with local authorities and other partners to monitor the progress schools and or educational settings are making against their identified priorities. Review the impact of support and amend as needed via the Team Around the School and Multi-Agency processes. 	
B. Leadership and Teaching: Provide professional learning and support for the development of leadership and teaching across the entire workforce.	
Universal Provision	Success Criteria
<p>Page 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support leaders to develop their schools as effective learning organisations. <p>Enable the entire workforce to access professional learning that supports the development of high-quality teaching and learning and the realisation of the curriculum for Wales.</p> <p>Provide support for the leadership of teaching in the development of a whole school teaching and learning strategy, underpinned by the National Professional Teaching and Leading Assisting Teaching Standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide practical examples of teaching and learning approaches used successfully in a variety of settings and schools. • Continue to offer a national professional leadership development programme, including coaching and mentoring for leaders at all levels. • Provide a National Professional Learning offer for statutory induction, including support for Newly Qualified Teachers, School based Induction Mentors, External Verifiers. • Provide a progressive pathway of professional learning to support the role of Teaching Assistants and Higher Level Teaching Assistants. • Identify and develop a sustainable supply of diverse, high-quality, agile leaders to innovate and lead effective 21st century schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All schools and educational settings are developing effectively as learning organisations and have accessed appropriate professional learning to support them in developing the Curriculum for Wales. • Engagement in teaching, learning and leadership professional learning experiences has impacted positively on individual skills, knowledge and behaviours. • Practical examples of effective teaching, learning and leadership strategies have supported schools in the realisation of the Curriculum for Wales. • All schools and educational settings have engaged with the relevant national professional learning provision to support their entire workforce and whole school improvement priorities. • The entire workforce has had access to collaborative networks to learn with and from the external environment. • Professional learning experiences have impacted on individuals' skills, knowledge and behaviours and where appropriate, on progressing whole school improvement priorities. • All leaders who accessed national leadership development programmes have been supported by a trained leadership coach. • An increasing number of leaders have accessed the national coaching and mentoring programme to support them in developing a coaching and mentoring ethos within their own settings.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work in partnership with Initial Teacher Education partners in securing high quality teacher education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increasing number of schools have accessed the Agile Leadership programme pilot, refining flexible, adaptable leadership skills and processes when developing Curriculum for Wales.
<p>Targeted Provision</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted support for the development of whole school teaching and leadership. This may include specific targeted support over a limited time to include a particular aspect of leadership and/or teaching e.g., targeted support to support assessment across a whole school, support for a group of leaders, Schools as Learning Organisations development. Provide a comprehensive package of national and regional professional learning for School Improvement Partners to support them in their system leadership role. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increasing number of schools have identified aspirational leaders through a Talent Management Framework approach ensuring an ongoing supply of effective leaders across the region. A sustainable supply of high quality Initial Teacher Education placements have been provided within schools across the EAS region. All school improvement partners have engaged in relevant regional and national professional learning to support them in their role.
<p>Bespoke Provision</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensive and bespoke professional learning support for the entire workforce, focussed on identified areas of teaching and leadership. 	
<p>C. Curriculum for Wales: Provide professional learning and support for Curriculum for Wales.</p>	
<p>Universal Provision</p>	<p>Success Criteria</p>
<p>Provide access to access to national professional learning programmes to realise the Curriculum for Wales.</p> <p>Provide access for the entire workforce to collaborative networks of support for Curriculum for Wales and Areas of Learning and Experience (and subject disciplines).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide access to strategic support and professional learning for the development of approaches to bilingualism and the Welsh language. Provide access to professional learning to support the development of subject knowledge across the curriculum. Provide access to professional learning and guidance to support curriculum design (including progression and assessment), working with a range of international experts. Provide access to professional learning for skills development across the curriculum as a feature of high-quality curriculum design. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All schools will have published their Curriculum summaries in line with the national requirements ahead of September 2022. All PRUs, secondary and special schools have made their decision regarding commencement of Curriculum for Wales in either 2022 or 2023. All schools and educational settings have Curriculum for Wales as a priority within their school development plans, addressing mandatory aspects of the curriculum, including Welsh language development and the development of bilingualism. All practitioners who accessed professional learning programmes to realise the Curriculum for Wales, demonstrate improved professional knowledge and skills in strategic curriculum design, progression and assessment, planning, subject knowledge and the development of skills.
<p>Targeted Provision</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The School Improvement Partner will work alongside the school or education setting to broker targeted support to meet identified professional learning requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practitioner engagement in subject / Area of Learning networks and networks to support curriculum design, progression and assessment demonstrate an upward trajectory. Practitioner engagement in networks and professional learning for Welsh language development shows an upward trend. All practitioners and schools that required additional levels of support for leadership, teaching and learning or bespoke curriculum support, can demonstrate improvements in knowledge, skills and behaviours.
<p>Bespoke Provision</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocate additional EAS support for schools and educational settings requiring higher levels of support. Broker EAS school to school intensive support to undertake professional learning in Areas of Learning and Experiences / subject disciplines. Delivery of specific professional learning activity at a school or cluster level. 	

D. Health Wellbeing and Equity: Provide professional learning and support for health, wellbeing, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

<p>Universal Provision</p>	<p>Success Criteria</p>
<p>Page 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to build the capacity within schools and educational settings to create an effective whole school approach to emotional and mental wellbeing. Provide strategic support for the development of approaches to the Health and Wellbeing Area of Learning, including approaches to embedding diversity. Support to develop strategic approaches to developing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and Human Rights. Support the development of a tiered approach to the provision and teaching for disadvantaged and vulnerable learners and learners whose circumstances have changed during the pandemic. Support for the development of language, social, emotional, physical and cognitive development in early years for those adversely affected by Covid. Offer a tiered approach to the professional learning programme: Raising the Achievement of Disadvantaged Youngsters (RADY). Work in partnership with local authorities Inclusions Leads and Looked After Children Education Officers to analyse and use attendance and exclusions data for vulnerable and disadvantaged learners. Provide guidance and support for the effective use of the Pupil Development Grant (PDG). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nearly all schools and settings will have a bespoke Health and Wellbeing curriculum offer in response to the feedback from learners on their needs. Those schools and settings that have required additional support in this area will have made timely improvements. Schools and settings that have engaged in the Raising the Achievement of Disadvantaged Youngsters programme are able to demonstrate positive changes in attitudes to learning, engagement of Disadvantaged Families/Carers and improvement in attendance. Schools and settings will have finalised 'Tiered Approach to Provision Plans' and will be using this to inform effective classroom management and positive relationships strategies and in creating a positive climate for learning. Schools and settings will have a Family and Community Engagement Strategy and will be working towards their Family Friendly School Status. Practitioners who have engaged with the Thinking Differently about Disadvantaged Learners programme will demonstrate the impact this has had on their Teaching and Learning Strategy/Policy and the development of their Anti-Poverty Strategy.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the National Programme on teaching and learning (Mike Gershon). • Provide support and guidance for schools to become family and community friendly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All participating secondary schools will have identified SEREN learners and supported them to engage in SEREN learning and experience events. 75% of participating SEREN learners have attended a Sutton Trust University. • All leaders of More Able and Talented and Family and Community Engagement who have engaged in networks will demonstrate improvements in the quality of tracking and learning experiences of their more able learners and the engagement of their families/carers. • Schools will be able to provide examples of how they have addressed diversity within their curriculum offer and how diversity and equality is developing across their setting. • Participating schools will have used the outcome of the W.E.L.L. Checklist to further develop and enhance their Whole School Approach to Wellbeing and their curriculum offer.
<p>Targeted Provision</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the tackling all aspects of disadvantaged leadership programme and the Wellbeing Lead professional learning programme. • Provide 'WELL' Toolkit to support schools to review their tiered approach to Wellbeing. • Continue leadership support for key roles, to include More Able and Talented Lead, Family and Community Engagement (FaCE) and Seren Leads. 	
<p>Bespoke Provision</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the Seren Network (secondary only). • Allocate additional EAS support for schools and educational settings requiring higher levels of support and provide wellbeing coaching on a need's basis. 	
<p>School Governors: Provide a broad range of professional learning, support and advice for school governors.</p>	
<p>Universal Provision</p>	<p>Success Criteria</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a professional learning programme for Governors, including Welsh Government mandated training, the core role of the governor and support for understanding the role of the governing body and their contribution to school development priorities. • Provide all governing bodies and individual governors with advice, support and guidance in relation to their roles and responsibilities. • Provide networking opportunities for groups of governors, to discuss best practice, identify common issues and explore solutions. • Offer all governing bodies a clerking service through the optional adoption of a Service Level Agreement. • Continue to provide a range of specialist HR professional learning for governors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governors who have accessed the governor pathway professional learning can demonstrate an improvement in their knowledge, skills and behaviours. • There is increased engagement with the professional learning programme for governors (based on previous year) and an increase in overall satisfaction ratings for all EAS delivered professional learning for governors. • All newly appointed governors attended mandatory training within the stipulated timescales and where this had not been undertaken the relevant Chair of Governors had been informed. • All new governors have been supported by a mentor from within their own governing body and all additional requests for mentor support have been met.

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<p>Targeted Provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver optional programmes to further develop governors’ skills and knowledge, enabling them to deepen their understanding of their role, to effectively support and challenge their schools. • Provide these programmes as part of a targeted Governor Pathway, aimed at specific groups of governors. • Provide targeted networking opportunities for specific groups of governors, to address specific issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All delivery targets within the service level agreement for the provision of advice, clerking and statutory service to governing bodies have been met in accordance with service criteria. • Where a school had more than 3 vacancies for more than a term the Chair of Governors and Local Authority are informed.
<p>Bespoke Provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide additional specific professional learning for individual governing bodies, clusters of governing bodies or individual governors. • Individual supported Governing Body knowledge and expertise in relation to understanding of their role and responsibilities are enhanced. <p>Broker support for newly appointed Chairs of Governors, who would benefit from the support of an experienced mentor.</p> <p>Provide opportunities for more experienced chairs of governors to further develop their skills and knowledge of governance.</p>	
<p>EAS Foundations:</p>	
<p>Business delivery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear EAS vision for 2025 is articulated to schools and partners alongside the development of an effective communications strategy that meaningfully engage with all key stakeholders • Review and refine the hybrid working model and develop a balanced approach to professional learning delivery that incorporates the benefits of the virtual environment alongside face-to-face delivery where appropriate. • Embed the EAS evaluation model, continuing to welcome external challenge and support, including engagement with research partners to evaluate current programmes and inform future developments. • Use the Investors in People (IIP) development programme to support service improvements. 	<p>Success Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EAS has a well understood Vision for 2025 and service Values that have been well communicated to all partners. • Strong progress has been made against the priorities identified within the annual Business Plan. • The Collaboration and Members Agreement has been updated to consider matters pertaining to change management and has been agreed by each local authority. • An improved longer term funding model has been secured enabling more effective strategic planning. • Strong progress has been made towards the recommendations from the Investors in People programme. • Systems for performance management have been revised and are having a positive impact on staff wellbeing and service delivery.

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- Continue to develop and refine the broad range of ICT systems that support the business model and review the systems that enable the delivery of services.
- Support and advise local authorities, as appropriate, in the delivery of their statutory functions for the regional Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education (SACREs) and the development of individual Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESP).

Staff Development

- Recruit, develop and retain a skilled, professional, well informed, and motivated workforce that represents the values and vision of the EAS.
- To maintain high levels of staff morale and wellbeing in the context of reduced funding and workforce planning.
- Implement new performance management processes that utilise digital functionality and enhanced system capability.

Continue to develop collaborative ways in which the EAS team contribute to decision-making processes and are recognised more systematically for their successes.

Provide all staff with the professional learning opportunities that enable them to undertake their role and develop professionally and personally whilst demonstrating an impact on service delivery.

Funding and Resources

- Work with key partners to secure a more sustainable deliverable funding model, aligned with workforce planning.
- Secure an updated Collaboration and Members Agreement (CAMA) with local authority partners, that recognises change management funding.

Section 5: Delivery arrangements and resources for 2022-2023

Governance

The EAS is subject to a robust governance model that is underpinned by the Articles of Association and a Collaboration and Members Agreement (CAMA).

Consortium funding

The EAS is funded on an annual basis from three sources: Local authority core contributions, regional school improvement grants and a service level agreement for governor support services. A spending plan accompanies this Business Plan which is intrinsically linked to all actions contained within it. A detailed overview of the regional distribution of all grants is available for all schools to view and compare allocations and rates of delegation through the regional grant monitoring tool.

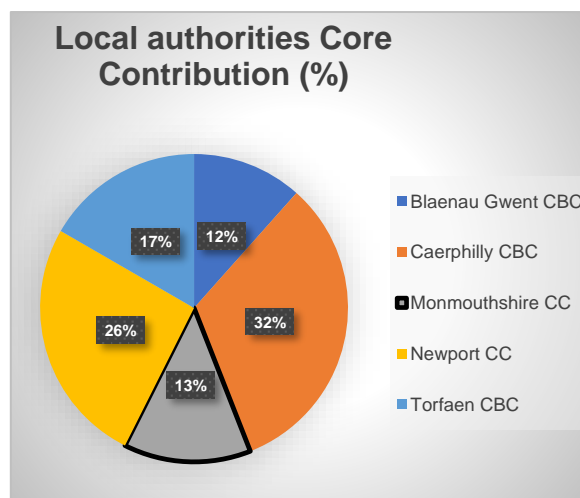
The delegation rate to schools increased to 95.5% in 2021-22, whilst the EAS staff profile has reduced by 53.1% since 2012.

As recipients of public funding, it is important that budgets are allocated and spent wisely. The EAS will continually strive to provide value for money through the optimal use of resources to achieve intended outcomes.

Local authority contributions 2022-2023

Local authority funding for consortium working is underpinned by the National Model for Regional Working, published by the Welsh Government in 2014. The model recommended a core funding allocation of £3.6m for the EAS. The local authorities' indicative figures for 2022-2023 are as follows:

Local Authority (to be agreed)	£
Blaenau Gwent CBC	£350,046
Caerphilly CBC	£980,663
Monmouthshire CC	£403,815
Newport CC	£783,291
Torfaen CBC	£503,498
Total	£3,021,313



In terms of the above £0.99m of this figure is used to secure capacity within the EAS team from current serving headteachers and schools and £0.18m of this figure is used to secure service level agreements and venue costs sourced through local authorities.

Regional school improvement grants

The Collaboration and Members Agreement (CAMA) details the procedure to be followed for all regional school improvement grants received into the region from Welsh Government. Before the grant can be accepted approval to funding distribution is required from the local authority Chief Education Officers / Directors of Education with a follow up ratification from JEG members.

Grant Name (To be updated when information on grants is received from Welsh Government)	Grant Total	Amount delegated to schools	Delegation*	Regionally Retained
	Indicative Calculation 2022-2023			
	£	£		£
Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant (RCSIG)				
- Education Improvement Grant	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
- Professional Learning for Teachers	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
- Other grant initiatives	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
Pupil Development Grant (PDG)	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
PDG (Lead Regional PDG Adviser)	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
Seren Pre 16	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
Seren Post 16	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
Total	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

*Delegation: This refers to funding which gives freedom of choice to a school in how it is used. It must however be spent in accordance with, and in the spirit of, the core purpose of the grant and the individual school development plan.

Governor Support Service Level Agreement

The EAS has responsibility for providing a Governor Support Service to all schools in the region. The service provides support to school governing bodies, headteachers, and individual governors. This includes advice, guidance, training, and an optional clerking service to support governing bodies to deliver their responsibilities.

The optional clerking service is provided through a service level agreement with an option to buy into a clerking service and then additionally a statutory committee clerking service, through a Service Level Agreement (SLA). From 2020 to 2022, 99% of schools opted into the SLA clerking service, with 51% of schools choosing the additional statutory committee service. From April 2022 the service is being offered on a 3-year basis, which aligns with the revised Business Plan approach. The indicative funding for 2022/23 is £0.364m.

Local authority strategic summaries 2021-2022

Blaenau Gwent

<p>School Improvement: Bespoke support to schools and educational settings aligned to need. Create and facilitate collaborative networks of professional practice.</p>	
<p>System Leadership: 6 Headteachers in Blaenau Gwent are engaging in system leadership across the region as School Improvement Partners, compared to 4 the previous year</p>	<p>Estyn: There are 2 schools in an Estyn follow up category compared to 2 in 2020/21. Both schools receive their visits from Estyn in the next two weeks.</p>
<p>Case Studies: 5 schools in Blaenau Gwent have contributed to school improvement case studies on turnaround leadership and the success of the Learning Network School provision: St Mary's RC Primary, Pen-y-Cwm Special School, Ebbw Fawr Learning Community, Cwm Primary and Glanhowy Primary</p>	<p>Headteachers: Nearly all (24) Headteachers shared good practice in distance and blended learning as part of their own Celebrate, Share, Support, Refine (CSSR) process. Schools presented their practice at a regional conference: St Illtyd's and Tredegar presented on both community engagement and supporting pupil wellbeing.</p>
<p>Wellbeing: Whilst there have been limited face to face visits in schools in BGBC as a result of individual schools' risk assessments, virtual meetings between headteachers and school improvement partners, focusing on wellbeing have continued to take place for all schools.</p>	<p>System Leadership: 5 Schools in Blaenau Gwent are providing holistic support for leadership and teaching to other schools: Glanhowy Primary, St Illtyd's Primary, Ebbw Fawr Learning Community, Tredegar School, Pen-y-Cwm Special School</p>
<p>Professional Discussions 6 Primary, 1 Secondary setting (as part of one of the 3-16 schools) have been held, ensuring that the schools /settings have the support they need to secure improvement.</p>	<p>Recruitment of Leaders: The EAS has supported/ is supporting Headteacher recruitment in 6 schools, with a further 2 DHT/AHT appointment processes supported, securing effective leaders.</p>
<p>Rapid School Improvement: Sofrydd Primary School has secured rapid school improvement, working with Learning Network Schools in other LAs. Glyncoed Primary has also secured strong progress in distance and blended learning working with Langstone Primary.</p>	

<p>Leadership and Teaching: Professional learning and support for the development of leadership and teaching across the entire workforce.</p>	
<p>System Leadership: 5 schools lead professional learning, supporting teaching and leadership across the EAS (11% of schools across the region).</p>	<p>PL Leads: Every school and setting is funded to develop the professional learning lead role, supporting the realisation of the Curriculum for Wales.</p>
<p>Headteacher Qualification: Over last 3 years, 9 of 59 candidates achieved were from Blaenau Gwent (442 across Wales). 3 of the 9 have secured headship.</p>	<p>Coaching and Mentoring: 19 leaders (19% of the regional total) have trained as National Facilitator Coaches to support the National Leadership Development Programmes in 2021/22.</p>

<p>Senior Leadership: Across the region, 199 (530 across Wales) senior leaders have accessed the senior leader programme, 19 (10%) were from Blaenau Gwent.</p>	<p>Middle Leadership: Across the region 603 middle leaders (1400 across Wales), have accessed the middle leader programme, with 104 (17%) from Blaenau Gwent.</p>
<p>Professional Enquiry: Every cluster is engaged in the National Professional Enquiry project focusing on one of five themes 'Assessment and Progression', 'Reimagining schooling', 'Inclusion,' 'Pedagogy and Learning', 'Leadership'. One school represents the LA in the national Evidence Informed Profession Project.</p>	<p>Middle Leadership: The National Middle Leadership Development Programme was jointly facilitated in Abertillery Learning Community.</p>
<p>International Leadership: 6 of 32 pilot schools have engaged in the International Agile Leadership pilot: St Joseph's RC Primary, Glyncoed Primary, Bro Helyg, Georgetown Primary, St Mary's RC Primary, Ysgol Gyfun Tredegar. A further 4 schools begin cohort 2 St Mary's Church in Wales Primary, Willowtown, Deighton and Blaen-y-Cwm.</p>	<p>Teaching and Learning: The Curriculum for Wales 'Teaching and Learning Group' has enhanced schools' ability to network and share practice, with 43 members from Blaenau Gwent, out of 380.</p>
<p>ITE: Initial Teacher Education Lead Schools: Tredegar comprehensive. ITE Clinical practice /associate/ partner schools Ystruth, YG Bro Helyg, Willowtown, Glanhwy, Georgetown, Deighton, Cwm, Coed y Garn, Brynbach, Blaen-y-cwm, Beaufort Hill,</p>	<p>Coaching and Mentoring: 11 leaders have engaged in the National Coaching and Mentoring Programme (6% of the total participant population). Tredegar Comprehensive and St Illtyd's Primary School jointly facilitate the programme across the region.</p>
<p>NQTs: Over the last year 15 NQTs successfully passed induction. 13 schools are currently supporting 23 Newly Qualified Teachers through the process.</p>	<p>Future Leaders: Tredegar Comprehensive has been part of the Regional Talent Management Framework Pilot.</p>

<p>Curriculum for Wales: Professional learning and support for Curriculum for Wales.</p>	
<p>Support for others: 6 Blaenau Gwent Schools provide professional learning support to other schools across the EAS region in a variety of curriculum areas as Learning Network Schools.</p>	<p>Assessment: All clusters are engaged in the developing school and cluster-based approaches to progression and assessment, to support the development of their assessment strategy.</p>
<p>Curriculum Design: 3 (of 43) practitioners engaged in the Curriculum Design Programme (Lucy Crehan), which supports developing approaches based on focus and coherence Ebbw Fawr, Glyncoed and Rhos Y Fedwen</p>	<p>Curriculum Design: All clusters are represented in the Curriculum for Wales Teaching and Learning development group which is supporting them to network with other schools and share approaches to curriculum design and developing pedagogical approaches.</p>
<p>Planning: Most schools are utilising the SDP guidance provided by the EAS to support them in realising CFW</p>	<p>Curriculum Design: 2 Secondary (or all-through schools) engaged in Secondary Design Network, supporting schools to share</p>

	approaches to professional learning and curriculum design (Ebbw Fawr and Tredegar Comp).
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Health Wellbeing and Equity: Professional learning and support for health, wellbeing, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.	
Wellbeing: All schools and settings receive funding for a Wellbeing Lead. 8 schools attend these regularly.	ACEs: All schools engaged in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) awareness training and as a result are in a position to draft their tiered approach to Provision.
RADY: 5 schools are part of Raising the Achievement of Disadvantaged Youngsters' professional learning programme. Ebbw Fawr welcomed a RADY Consultant to review their work and follow up visits are to be scheduled to evaluate impact.	A Listening to Learners session was held at Abertillery Learning Community. Learners from all secondary year groups participated and the feedback was very positive regarding Wellbeing Support available to them.
Grants: All secondary sectors made effective use of the Recruit Recover Raise Standards (RRRS) Grant.	Tredegar Comprehensive, Cwm Primary School and St Joseph's RC Primary school are all Lead Wellbeing and Equity Schools. They support our work across the region.
All schools and settings have access to SEAL Community as the region funds their subscription costs. This will support leaders to shape their Health and Wellbeing Curriculum Offer.	

School Governors: A broad range of professional learning, support and advice for school governors.	
Governor PL: Of the 186 Blaenau Gwent Governors that completed a virtual training evaluation, 87% agreed (55% strongly) that the sessions were helpful and informative, and that the information was provided in a clear and precise manner.	Governor PL: Of the 27 Blaenau-Gwent Governors that attended the regional Virtual Governor Conference and completed an evaluation, 93% agreed (63% strongly) that the conference was informative and will help them in their role as a governor.
Governor PL: Attendance at virtual professional learning opportunities, including the conference has overall been over 80% higher than physical training in previous years.	Governor PL: Of the Blaenau-Gwent Governors that attended, 83% said they would attend a Virtual Regional Conference again, with a further 17% saying they would 'maybe' attend again. None said they would not.
SLA: During the year, a total of 130 virtual meetings were supported, an (5.4 per school), well above the legal minimum of 3.	Networking: Over 50% of Blaenau-Gwent Secondary Chairs / Vice-Chairs of Governors regularly attend termly network meetings.
Bespoke Support: The EAS has provided bespoke support has been provided for the appointment of LA Additional Governors and LA nominated Chair of Governors.	SLA: For the 25% of Blaenau-Gwent schools that at some point during the year had more than 3 vacancies, notifications were sent to the Chair of Governors, prior to the subsequent meeting.

<p>School Improvement: Bespoke support to schools and educational settings aligned to need. Create and facilitate collaborative networks of professional practice.</p>	
<p>System Leadership: 25 Headteachers in Caerphilly are engaging in system leadership across the region as School Improvement Partners, compared to 22 the previous year</p>	<p>Estyn: There were 2 schools in an Estyn category compared to 5 in 2020/21. 3 schools were removed from a category in the last academic year (2 from Estyn Review, 1 from 'Requires Significant Improvement').</p>
<p>Case Studies: 8 schools in Caerphilly have contributed to school improvement case studies on turnaround leadership and the success of the Learning Network School provision: St Martins, Bryn, Cwmcarn, Cwm Rhymni, Heolddu, Hendredenny, Nant-Y-Parc, Ysgol Gymraeg Caerphilly.</p>	<p>Headteachers: Many Headteachers shared good practice in distance and blended learning as part of their own Celebrate, Share, Support, Refine (CSSR) process (55 in Caerphilly). Schools presented their practice at a regional conference: Hendredenny (Digital Strategy), Blackwood Primary (Pupil Centred Tracking through the pandemic).</p>
<p>Wellbeing: Whilst there have been limited face to face visits in schools in CCBC because of individual schools' risk assessments, virtual meetings between headteachers and school improvement partners, focusing on wellbeing have continued to take place for all schools.</p>	<p>System Leadership: 5 Schools in Caerphilly are providing holistic support for leadership and teaching to other schools: Risca Primary Hendredenny, Nant-Y-Parc, Ysgol Gymraeg Caerphilly and St Cenydd.</p>
<p>Professional Discussions 12 Primary and 11 secondary / all through school Professional discussions have been held, ensuring that they have the support they need to secure improvement.</p>	<p>Non-maintained nursery settings: Since 2019 1 NMS setting in Caerphilly has been inspected and remains in a follow up category.</p>
<p>Recruitment of Leaders: The EAS has supported Headteacher recruitment in 9 schools, with a further 10 DHT/AHT appointment processes supported, securing effective leaders.</p>	<p>Rapid School Improvement: Cwmcarn Primary, Crumlin High Level and the Bryn have secured rapid school improvement, working with Learning Network Schools in other LAs.</p>

<p>Leadership and Teaching: Professional learning and support for the development of leadership and teaching across the entire workforce.</p>	
<p>System Leadership: 15 schools lead professional learning, supporting teaching and leadership across the EAS (33% of schools across the region).</p>	<p>PL Leads: Every school and setting is funded to develop the professional learning lead role, supporting the realisation of the Curriculum for Wales.</p>
<p>Headteacher Qualification: Over the last 3 years, 17 of 59 candidates who successfully achieved the headteacher qualification were from CCBC (442 across Wales). Out of the 17, 3 have secured Headteacher positions.</p>	<p>Coaching and Mentoring: 24 leaders (25% of the regional total) have trained as National Facilitator Coaches to support the National Leadership Development Programmes in 2021/22.</p>
<p>Senior Leadership: Across the region, 199 (530 across Wales) senior leaders have accessed the senior leader programme, of which 75 (38%) were from CCBC.</p>	<p>Middle Leadership: Across the region 603 middle leaders (1400 across Wales), have accessed the middle leader programme of which 170 (28%) were from CCBC.</p>
<p>Coaching and Mentoring: 74 leaders have engaged in the National Coaching and</p>	<p>Middle Leadership: The National Middle Leadership Development Programme has been</p>

Mentoring Programme (38% of the total participant population).	jointly facilitated in Cwm Rhymni, Bedwas, and Glyngaer Primary
International Leadership: 5 out of a total of 32 pilot schools have engaged in the international Agile Leadership Pilot: St Gwladys, Lewis Girls, Lewis School Pengam, Tir-y-Berth and Blackwood Primary.	Professional Enquiry: Every cluster is engaged in the national Professional Enquiry project focusing on one of four themes 'Assessment and Progression', 'Reimagining schooling', 'Inclusion,' 'Pedagogy and Learning'.
ITE: Initial Teacher Education Lead Schools: Heolddu Comprehensive, Blackwood Primary, Risca Primary, Ystrad Mynach Primary, Rhiw-Syr-Dafydd Primary, Whiterose Primary, Ysgol Gymraeg Caerfilli, Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg y Castell and Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon.	Future Leaders: The following schools have been part of the Talent Management Framework Pilot, that has identified 25 future aspirational leaders St Gwladys, Blackwood Primary, Heolddu, Trinity Fields, Rhiw Syr Dafydd, Idris Davies, Nant-y-Parc Primary.
SLO: Nearly all schools (93%) have engaged with the Schools as Learning Organisations survey to support their development as effective learning organisations. A further 41 schools have revisited the survey.	Coaching and Mentoring: Heolddu is leading the regional delivery of instructional coaching to support high quality teaching and learning using the "Walkthrus" approach supporting over 22 schools across the region, including 17 Caerphilly schools.
NQTs: Over the last year 51 NQTs successfully passed induction .45 schools are currently supporting 84 Newly Qualified Teachers through their induction process.	HLTA: 35 participants have engaged in the National Aspiring HLTA programme over last 2 years (185 from region). 10 of 12 HLTAs have gained the status in the last two years.
Distance and Blended Learning: Nearly all schools engaged in the distance and blended learning development with 16 schools providing leading support to schools across the EAS and Wales.	Teaching and Learning: The Curriculum for Wales 'Teaching and Learning Group' has enhanced schools' ability to network and share practice with 87 out of the 380 members from Caerphilly.

Curriculum for Wales: Professional learning and support for Curriculum for Wales.	
Support for others: 16 Caerphilly Schools provide professional learning support to other schools across the EAS region in a variety of curriculum areas as Learning Network Schools (this includes 6 secondary or all-through schools).	Assessment: All clusters are engaged in the developing school and cluster-based approaches to progression and assessment, to support the development of their assessment strategy.
Curriculum Design: 9 (of 43) schools engaged in the Curriculum Design Programme (Lucy Crehan), which supports developing approaches based on focus and coherence (Rhiw Syr Dafydd, Hendre Junior, Ysgol Cwm Rhymni, Cwmaber Infants, Blackwood Primary, Cefn Forest, Llancaeath Junior, Libanus Primary, Fleur de Lis Primary).	Curriculum Design: All clusters are represented in the Curriculum for Wales Teaching and Learning development group which is supporting them to network with other schools and share approaches to curriculum design and developing pedagogical approaches.
Assessment: Lewis School, Pengam and Blackwood Primary are involved in the development of a pan-Wales assessment toolkit with the University of Glasgow.	Curriculum Design: 11 Secondary (or all-through schools) engaged in Secondary Design Network which is supporting schools to share approaches to professional learning and curriculum design.

<p>Assessment: St Gwladys Primary shared good practice regarding assessment for learning approaches in support of curriculum for Wales.</p>	<p>Curriculum Design: Lewis Girls' School and Bedwas High School have shared their approaches to curriculum design in the secondary curriculum design group.</p>
<p>Planning: Most schools are utilising the SDP guidance provided by the EAS to support them in realising CFW</p>	<p>Curriculum Design: In 2021, bespoke support for curriculum design was provided for Islwyn High School.</p>

<p>Health Wellbeing and Equity: Professional learning and support for health, wellbeing, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.</p>	
<p>Wellbeing: All schools and settings receive funding for a Wellbeing Lead. 12 schools attend these regularly. Attendance is notably lower in comparison to other LAs.</p>	<p>ACEs: All schools engaged in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) awareness training and as a result are in a position to draft their tiered approach to Provision.</p>
<p>RADY: 13 schools are part of Raising the Achievement of Disadvantaged Youngsters' (RADY) professional learning programme. 3 schools welcomed a RADY Consultant to review their work and follow up visits are due to be arranged when the COVID risk level is lowered to evaluate impact.</p>	<p>Wellbeing: Wellbeing reviews were conducted in Ysgol I Gyfun Cwm Rhymni. As a result, the staffing structure to support wellbeing was reviewed and provision extended.</p>
<p>Grants: St Martins, Lewis Girls and Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni have provided case studies related to effective use of the Recruit Recover Raise Standards (RRRS) Grant.</p>	<p>Nurture: Hendre Infants gained their Nurture Quality Award.</p>
<p>MAT: 17 schools engage in the regional More Able and Talented programme. St Martin's School and Lewis Girls School in Caerphilly have both achieved successes with 2 Seren learners gaining places in the University of Oxford.</p>	<p>LACE: Collaborative working between the EAS and the LACE Officer is excellent. 49 schools have attended their annual update training and all cluster LAC grants have been agreed.</p>

<p>School Governors: A broad range of professional learning, support and advice for school governors.</p>	
<p>Governor PL: Of the 379 Caerphilly Governors that completed a virtual training evaluation, 94% agreed (54% strongly) that the sessions were helpful and informative, and that the information was provided in a clear and precise manner.</p>	<p>Governor PL: Of the 70 Caerphilly Governors that attended the regional Virtual Governor Conference and completed an evaluation, 98% agreed (69% strongly) that the conference was informative and will help them in their role as a governor.</p>
<p>Governor PL: Attendance at virtual professional learning opportunities, including the conference has overall been over 80% higher than physical training in previous years.</p>	<p>Governor PL: Of the Caerphilly Governors that attended, 85% said they would attend a Virtual Regional Conference again, with a further 15% saying they would 'maybe' attend again. None said they would not.</p>
<p>SLA: During the year, a total of 448 virtual meetings were supported, (5.5 per school), well above the legal minimum of 3.</p>	<p>Networking: Over 50% of Caerphilly schools Secondary Chairs / Vice-Chairs of Governors regularly attend termly network meetings.</p>
<p>Bespoke Support: Bespoke mentor support has been provided for Secondary Chairs of Governors who required additional support.</p>	<p>SLA: For the 20% of Caerphilly schools that at some point during the year had more than 3</p>

	vacancies, notifications were sent to the Chair of Governors, prior to the subsequent meeting.
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Monmouthshire

School Improvement: Bespoke support to schools and educational settings aligned to need. Create and facilitate collaborative networks of professional practice.	
System Leadership: 13 Headteachers in Monmouthshire are engaging in system leadership across the region as School Improvement Partners, compared to 10 the previous year	Estyn: There are 0 schools in an Estyn category compared to 1 in 2020/21. 1 school was removed from a category in the last academic year (from Estyn Review).
Case Studies: 5 schools in Monmouthshire have contributed to school improvement case studies on turnaround leadership and the success of the Learning Network School provision: Llantilio Pertholey, Magor, Shirenewton, Y Ffin and Overmonnow Primaries.	Headteachers: Nearly all Headteachers shared good practice in distance and blended learning as part of their own Celebrate, Share, Support, Refine (CSSR) process (28 Headteachers in Monmouthshire). Schools presented their practice at a regional conference: Chepstow School presented on Professional Learning for distance and blended learning
Wellbeing: Whilst there have been limited face to face visits in schools in MCC because of individual schools' risk assessments, virtual meetings between headteachers and school improvement partners, focusing on wellbeing have continued to take place for all schools.	System Leadership: 3 Schools in Monmouthshire are providing holistic support for leadership and teaching to other schools King Henry VIII School, Shirenewton and Usk CiW Primaries
Professional Discussions 17 Primary, 3 secondary school and 1 PRU Professional discussions have been held, ensuring that the schools /settings have the support they need to secure improvement.	Non-maintained nursery settings: Since 2019 7 NMS setting in Monmouthshire have been inspected: 6 had overall good judgements and 1 was removed from follow up.
Recruitment of Leaders: The EAS has supported Headteacher recruitment in 4 schools in 2020-2021, securing effective leaders.	Rapid School Improvement: Chepstow Comprehensive School, Castle Park, Llantilio Pertholey, Durand and St Mary's RC Primaries, have secured rapid school improvement, working with Learning Network Schools in other LAs.

Leadership and Teaching: Professional learning and support for the development of leadership and teaching across the entire workforce.	
System Leadership: 6 schools lead professional learning, supporting teaching and leadership across the EAS (13% of schools across the region).	PL Leads: Every school and setting is funded to develop the professional learning lead role, supporting the realisation of the Curriculum for Wales.
Headteacher Qualification: Over last 3 years, 8 of 59 candidates achieved were from Torfaen (442 across Wales). 4 of the 10 have secured headship.	Coaching and Mentoring: 18 leaders (18% of the regional total) have trained as National Facilitator Coaches to support the National Leadership Development Programmes in 2021/22.

<p>Senior Leadership: Across the region, 199 (530 across Wales) senior leaders have accessed the senior leader programme, 17 (9%) were from Monmouthshire.</p>	<p>Middle Leadership: Across the region 603 middle leaders (1400 across Wales), have accessed the middle leader programme, with 30 (5%) from Monmouthshire.</p>
<p>Professional Enquiry: Every cluster is engaged in the National Professional Enquiry project focusing on one of five themes 'Assessment and Progression', 'Reimagining schooling', 'Inclusion,' 'Pedagogy and Learning', 'Leadership'. One school represents the LA in the national Evidence Informed Profession Project.</p>	<p>Middle Leadership: 9 participants from Monmouthshire Schools (out of 35) on the National Middle Leadership Programme for ALNCos.</p>
<p>International Leadership: 1 of 32 pilot schools have engaged in the International Agile Leadership pilot: Trellech Primary School With a further 2 schools joining cohort 2 Llantilio Pertholey Primary School Cross Ash Primary.</p>	<p>Coaching and Mentoring: 30 leaders have engaged in the National Coaching and Mentoring Programme (14% of the total participant population).</p>
<p>ITE: Initial Teacher Education Lead Schools: Caldicot Comprehensive, King Henry VIII, Llanfoist Fawr, Clinical Practice and associate schools Archbishop Rowan Williams, Gilwern, Kymin View, Llanvihangel Crucorney, Monmouth Comprehensive, Osbaston, Overmonnow, Shirenewton, The Dell, Trellech Undy, Usk, Ysgol Gymraeg y Ffin, Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni.</p>	<p>TAs & HLTA: 22 participants have engaged in the National Aspiring HLTA Programme over last 2 years (185 from region). 15 of 15 HLTAs have gained the status in the last two years. 101 TAs are members of the Teaching Assistant network 11% of members across the region.</p>
<p>SLO: Most schools (86%) have engaged with the Schools as Learning Organisations survey, to support their development as learning organisations. A further 23 schools revisited the survey between 2020-21.</p>	<p>Welsh Medium Support: One teacher from Ysgol y Ffin engaged in the in the national Middle Leader programme. Two TAs gained HLTA status from Ysgol Gymraeg y Fenni.</p>
<p>NQTs: Over the last year 20 NQTs successfully passed induction. 14 schools are currently supporting 29 Newly Qualified Teachers through the process.</p>	<p>Future Leaders: Gilwern Primary has been part of the Talent Management Framework Pilot, that has identified 2 future aspirational leaders.</p>
<p>Distance and Blended Learning: 7 schools providing leading support in the development of distance and blending learning development to schools across the EAS and Wales.</p>	<p>Teaching and Learning: The Curriculum for Wales 'Teaching and Learning Group' has enhanced schools' ability to network and share practice, with 48 members from Monmouthshire, out of 399.</p>
<p>Curriculum for Wales: Professional learning and support for Curriculum for Wales.</p>	
<p>Support for others: 8 Monmouthshire Schools provide professional learning support to other schools across the EAS region in a variety of curriculum areas as Learning</p>	<p>Assessment: All clusters are engaged in the developing school and cluster-based approaches to progression and assessment, to support the development of their assessment strategy.</p>

Network Schools (this includes 6 secondary or all-through schools).	
Curriculum Design: 7 (of 43) practitioners engaged in the Curriculum Design Programme (Lucy Crehan), which supports developing approaches based on focus and coherence (Chepstow (X3 practitioners), Cross Ash, Trellech, Goytre Fawr Primary, Monmouth Comp)	Curriculum Design: All clusters are represented in the Curriculum for Wales Teaching and Learning development group which is supporting them to network with other schools and share approaches to curriculum design and developing pedagogical approaches.
Planning: Most schools are utilising the SDP guidance provided by the EAS to support them in realising CFW	Curriculum Design: 3 Secondary (or all-through schools) engaged in Secondary Design Network, supporting schools to share approaches to professional learning and curriculum design.
Welsh in Education - Learners from non-Welsh speaking homes - Language Charter: Ysgol Y Fenni and Ysgol Y Ffin continue to work towards 'Siarter Iaith' Gold award status. The schools are also represented on the regional Language Acquisition and Immersion network, developing and sharing approaches to the learning and teaching of Welsh in the primary phase.	Curriculum: Global Futures and International Languages in the Primary: Monmouth Comprehensive and Osbaston CIW Primary School are lead regional Global Futures schools leading on the development and sharing of practice in international languages in the secondary and primary phase. Both are involved in the current EAS Erasmus+ project: Innovative Language Teaching in a Bilingual Country.
Welsh in Education - Learners from non-Welsh speaking homes - Cymraeg Campus Charter: 82% of English medium primary schools have achieved bronze award status and are working towards Silver. All schools have access to regional networking, professional learning, resources and opportunities for verification in order to progress.	Welsh in Education - Welsh language Sabbatical Scheme: Practitioners from Osbaston CIW, Goytre Fawr Primary, Magor CIW primary, St Mary's RC Primary and Kymin View who have completed the Welsh in a Year scheme have been appointed as regional Sabbatical leads.

Health Wellbeing and Equity: Professional learning and support for health, wellbeing, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.	
Wellbeing: All schools and settings receive funding for a Wellbeing Lead. 12 schools attend these regularly.	ACEs: All schools engaged in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) awareness training and as a result are in a position to draft their tiered Approach to Provision.
RADY: 2 schools and one cluster are part of Raising the Achievement of Disadvantaged Youngsters' (RADY) professional learning programme. Castle Park has developed their RADY principles and starting to see the impact of their work.	PL: 5 schools have engaged with Adoption UK Professional Learning Offer. This has been funded by Welsh Government.
Wellbeing: Kymin View and Llandogo have been the two regional pilot schools to raise awareness and complete some scoping activities to align to the Whole School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing.	Wellbeing: King Henry VIII and Pembroke Primary are both Health, Well-being and Equity Lead schools for the EAS. They support deliver professional learning across the region.

	Pembroke has also presented at regional and national events.
	Wellbeing: King Henry High School provided a case study to illustrate how they used their RRR Grant. The Case study was titled: Securing high levels of wellbeing during our disrupted learning year!

School Governors: A broad range of professional learning, support and advice for school governors.	
Governor PL: Of the 277 Monmouthshire Governors that completed a virtual training evaluation, 90% agreed (42% strongly) that the sessions were helpful and informative, and that the information was provided in a clear and precise manner.	Governor PL: Of the 28 Monmouthshire Governors that attended the regional Virtual Governor Conference and completed an evaluation, 96% agreed (65% strongly) that the conference was informative and will help them in their role as a governor.
Governor PL: Attendance at virtual professional learning opportunities, including the conference has overall been over 80% higher than physical training in previous years.	Governor PL: Of the Monmouthshire Governors that attended, 85% said they would attend a Virtual Regional Conference again, with a further 15% saying they would 'maybe' attend again.
SLA: During the year, a total of 206 virtual meetings were supported, an (6.0 per school), well above the legal minimum of 3.	Networking: Over 50% of Monmouthshire schools' Secondary Chairs / Vice-Chairs of Governors regularly attend termly network meetings.
Bespoke Support: The EAS has provided bespoke support has been provided for a number of Governing Bodies wanting to further develop their knowledge and understanding of their role.	SLA: For the 3% of Monmouthshire schools that at some point during the year had more than 3 vacancies, notifications were sent to the Chair of Governors, prior to the subsequent meeting.

<p>School Improvement: Bespoke support to schools and educational settings aligned to need. Create and facilitate collaborative networks of professional practice.</p>	
<p>System Leadership: 39 Headteachers in Newport are engaging in system leadership across the region as School Improvement Partners, compared to 19 the previous year.</p>	<p>Estyn: There are 3 schools in an Estyn category compared to 5 in 2020/21. In the last academic year 2 schools have been removed (1 from Review and 1 from Special Measures).</p>
<p>Case Studies: 7 schools in Newport have contributed to school improvement case studies on turnaround leadership and the success of the Learning Network School provision: St. Julian's Comprehensive, The John Frost, Ysgol Bryn Derw and Somerton-Eveswell Federation, Milton, Glasllwch, Maesglas Primaries.</p>	<p>Headteachers: Many (39) Headteachers shared good practice in distance and blended learning as part of their own Celebrate, Share, Support, Refine (CSSR) process. Schools presented their practice at a regional conference: St. Joseph's RC High School, Bassaleg School and Langstone and St. Andrews Primaries.</p>
<p>Wellbeing: Whilst there have been very few face to face visits in schools in Newport as a result of individual schools' risk assessments, virtual meetings between headteachers and school improvement partners, focusing on wellbeing have continued to take place for all schools.</p>	<p>System Leadership: 9 Schools in Newport are providing holistic support for leadership and teaching to other schools: St Joseph's RC High, Bassaleg School, Ysgol Bryn Derw and Glasllwch, Langstone, Gaer, Pentrepoeth, St. Andrew's, Clytha Primaries.</p>
<p>Professional Discussions 16 Primary, 9 Secondary school and 1 PRU Professional discussions have been held, ensuring that the schools /settings have the support they need to secure improvement.</p>	<p>Non-maintained nursery settings: Since 2019 5 NMS setting in Newport have been inspected: 1 was in a follow up category but has since been removed., 3 had overall good judgements and 1 has had an excellent judgment.</p>
<p>Recruitment of Leaders: The EAS has supported Headteacher recruitment in 5 schools, with a further 2 DHT/AHT appointment processes supported, securing effective leaders.</p>	<p>Rapid School Improvement: High Cross, Lliswerry Primaries, St Julian's Comprehensive and Lliswerry High School have secured rapid school improvement, working with Learning Network Schools in other Authorities.</p>

<p>Leadership and Teaching: Professional learning and support for the development of leadership and teaching across the entire workforce.</p>	
<p>System Leadership: 13 schools lead professional learning, supporting teaching and leadership across the EAS (28% of schools across the region).</p>	<p>PL Leads: Every school and setting is funded to develop the professional learning lead role, supporting the realisation of the Curriculum for Wales.</p>
<p>Headteacher Qualification: Over last 3 years, 14 of 59 candidates achieved were from Newport (442 across Wales). 1 has secured headship.</p>	<p>Coaching and Mentoring: 34 leaders (34% of the regional total) have trained as National Facilitator Coaches to support the National Leadership Development Programmes in 2021/22.</p>
<p>Senior Leadership: Across the region, 199 (530 across Wales) senior leaders have accessed the senior leader programme, 40 (20%) were from Newport.</p>	<p>Middle Leadership: Across the region 603 middle leaders (1400 across Wales), have accessed the middle leader programme, with 158 (26%) from Newport</p>

<p>Professional Enquiry: Every cluster is engaged in the National Professional Enquiry project focusing on one of five themes 'Assessment and Progression', 'Reimagining schooling', 'Inclusion,' 'Pedagogy and Learning', 'Leadership'. One school represents the LA in the national Evidence Informed Profession Project.</p>	<p>Middle Leadership: The National Middle Leadership Development Programme jointly facilitated in Newport High, Lliswerry, Caerleon. Maindee, Jubilee Park, St Andrew's Langstone, Glasllwch. 27 participants from Newport Schools (out of 57) on the National Middle Leadership Programme for ALNCos.</p>
<p>International Leadership: 17 of 32 pilot schools have engaged in the International Agile Leadership pilot: With a further 4 schools joining pilot cohort 2.</p>	<p>Coaching and Mentoring: 56 leaders have engaged in the National Coaching and Mentoring Programme (27% of the total participant population).</p>
<p>ITE: Initial Teacher Education Lead Schools: Bassaleg Comprehensive. Glasllwch, Jubilee Park, Langstone, St Joseph's High, Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd</p>	<p>TAs & HLTA: 39 participants have engaged in the National Aspiring HLTA Programme over last 2 years (185 from region). 18 of 18 HLTAs have gained the status in the last two years. 211 TAs are members of the Teaching Assistant network, 23% of members across the region.</p>
<p>SLO: Nearly all schools (95%) have engaged with the Schools as Learning Organisations survey, to support development as learning organisations. A further 32 revisited the survey between 2020-21.</p>	<p>Welsh Medium Support: Ysgol Bro Teyrnnon received bespoke support to develop Curriculum and Teaching Assistants. 3 Teachers from Ysgol Gyfun Gwent is Coed engaged in the National Middle Leadership Programme.</p>
<p>NQTs: Over the last year 45 NQTs successfully passed induction. 27 schools are currently supporting 63 Newly Qualified Teachers through the process.</p>	<p>Future Leaders: Maindee, Millbrook, Glasllwch, Langstone, Eveswell, Somerton Primary Schools has been part of the Talent Management Framework Pilot, that has identified 16 future aspirational leaders.</p>
<p>Distance and Blended Learning: 12 schools providing leading support in the development of distance and blending learning development to schools across the EAS and Wales.</p>	<p>Teaching and Learning: The Curriculum for Wales 'Teaching and Learning Group' has enhanced schools' ability to network and share practice, with 92 members from Newport, out of 399.</p>

<p>Curriculum for Wales: Professional learning and support for Curriculum for Wales.</p>	
<p>Support for others: 16 Newport schools and settings provide professional learning support to other schools across the EAS region in a variety of curriculum areas as Learning Network Schools (this includes 6 secondary or all-through schools).</p>	<p>Assessment: All clusters are engaged in the developing school and cluster-based approaches to progression and assessment, to support the development of their assessment strategy.</p>
<p>Curriculum Design: 12 (of 43) practitioners engaged in the Curriculum Design Programme (Lucy Crehan), which supports developing approaches based on focus and coherence (St Julian's High, St Julian's Primary, Glan Usk Primary, Newport Nursery, Crindau Primary,</p>	<p>Curriculum Design: All clusters are represented in the Curriculum for Wales Teaching and Learning development group which is supporting them to network with other schools and share approaches to curriculum design and developing pedagogical approaches.</p>

<p>Clytha Primary, Gaer Primary, Milton Primary, Ringland Primary).</p>	
<p>Planning: Most schools are utilising the SDP guidance provided by the EAS to support them in realising CFW</p>	<p>Curriculum Design: 3 Secondary schools engaged in Secondary Design Network, supporting schools to share approaches to professional learning and curriculum design.</p>
<p>Assessment: (7 of 12) schools are involved in the development of a pan-Wales assessment toolkit with the University of Glasgow (Milton Primary, Mount Pleasant Primary, St Mary's RC Primary, St Andrews Primary, Maindee Primary, Ysgol Bryn Derw and Maes Ebbw Special School).</p>	<p>Curriculum: International Languages in the Primary: Caerleon Comprehensive and Clytha Primary School are lead regional Global Futures schools leading on the development and sharing of practice in international languages in the secondary and primary phase. Alway Primary are currently working to develop IL with support from the EAS IL lead.</p>
<p>Welsh in Education - Learners from non-Welsh speaking homes - Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd, Ifor Hael and Bro Teyrnnon continue to work towards 'Siarter Iaith' Gold award status with Nant Gwenlli beginning on the journey. Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd and Bro Teyrnnon are also represented on the regional Language Acquisition and Immersion network, developing and sharing approaches to the learning and teaching of Welsh in the primary phase. Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed are represented on the cross-regional network for secondary Charter leads.</p>	<p>Welsh in Education - Learners from non-Welsh speaking homes - Cymraeg Campus Charter: 78% of English medium primary schools have achieved bronze award status and are working towards Silver. All schools have access to regional networking, professional learning, resources and opportunities for verification in order to progress.</p>

<p>Health Wellbeing and Equity: Professional learning and support for health, wellbeing, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.</p>	
<p>Wellbeing: All schools and settings receive funding for a Wellbeing Lead. Engagement from schools and settings is very good from across Newport</p>	<p>ACEs: All schools engaged in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) awareness training and as a result are in a position to draft their tiered Approach to Provision.</p>
<p>RADY: 6 schools are part of Raising the Achievement of Disadvantaged Youngsters' (RADY) professional learning programme. John Frost are in their third year of the RADY programme and have started to capture the impact of their work.</p>	<p>11 schools have engaged with Adoption UK Professional Learning Offer. This has been funded by Welsh Government.</p>
<p>St Joseph's High School presented a Case Study to share across the region using RRR Grant to fund a Literacy Intervention Programme into year seven.</p>	<p>Bassaleg High, Malpas Court and Pillgwenlly Primary are both Health, Well-being and Equity Lead schools for the EAS. They support deliver professional learning across the region.</p>
<p>LA Partnership – EAS attends Newport City Council Connectiveness Network. A forum of developing partnership working</p>	<p>Seren Academy is very successful across Newport Sixth Forms.</p>

<p>School Governors: A broad range of professional learning, support and advice for school governors.</p>	
<p>Governor PL: Of the 341 Newport Governors that completed a virtual training evaluation, 90% agreed (50% strongly) that the sessions were helpful and informative, and that the information was provided in a clear and precise manner.</p>	<p>Governor PL: Of the 65 Newport Governors that attended the regional Virtual Governor Conference and completed an evaluation, 95% agreed (62% strongly) that the conference was informative and will help them in their role as a governor.</p>
<p>Governor PL: Attendance at virtual professional learning opportunities, including the conference has overall been over 80% higher than physical training in previous years.</p>	<p>Governor PL: Of the Newport Governors that attended, 87% said they would attend a Virtual Regional Conference again, with a further 13% saying they would 'maybe' attend again. None said they would not.</p>
<p>SLA: During the year, a total of 339 virtual meetings were supported, an (5.9 per school), well above the legal minimum of 3.</p>	<p>Networking: Over 70% of Newport schools Secondary Chairs / Vice-Chairs of Governors regularly attend termly network meetings.</p>
<p>Bespoke Support: The EAS has provided bespoke support has been provided for an LA appointed Chair and Vice chair of Governors.</p>	<p>SLA: For the 4% of Newport schools that at some point during the year had more than 3 vacancies, notifications were sent to the Chair of Governors, prior to the subsequent meeting.</p>

<p>School Improvement: Bespoke support to schools and educational settings aligned to need. Create and facilitate collaborative networks of professional practice.</p>	
<p>System Leadership: 11 Headteachers in Torfaen are engaging in system leadership across the region as School Improvement Partners, compared to 5 the previous year</p>	<p>Estyn: There are 2 schools in an Estyn category compared to 4 in 2020/21. 2 schools were removed from a category in the last academic year (1 from Estyn Review and 1 from Special Measures).</p>
<p>Case Studies: 8 schools in Torfaen have contributed to school improvement case studies on turnaround leadership and the success of the Learning Network School provision: Crownbridge, Garnteg Primary, Henllys CiW, Ponthir Primary, Coed Eva Primary, Penygarn Primary, Greenmeadow Primary and Croesyceiliog School.</p>	<p>Headteachers: Around half of Headteachers shared good practice in distance and blended learning as part of their own Celebrate, Share, Support, Refine (CSSR) process (14 Headteachers in Torfaen). Schools presented their practice at a regional conference: Abersychan School presented on Tracking and Engagement of Vulnerable Learners</p>
<p>Wellbeing: Whilst there have been limited face to face visits in schools in TCBC as a result of individual schools' risk assessments, virtual meetings between headteachers and school improvement partners, focusing on wellbeing have continued to take place for all schools.</p>	<p>System Leadership: 4 Schools in Torfaen are providing holistic support for leadership and teaching to other schools: Greenmeadow Primary School, Garnteg Primary School, Woodlands Community Primary School, Blenheim Road Primary School</p>
<p>Professional Discussions 9 Primary, 4 secondary school and 1 PRU Professional discussions have been held, ensuring that the schools /settings have the support they need to secure improvement.</p>	<p>Non-maintained nursery settings: Since 2019 5 NMS setting in Torfaen have been inspected: 2 are in follow up categories, 1 had overall good judgements and 2 were removed from follow up.</p>
<p>Recruitment of Leaders: The EAS has supported Headteacher recruitment in 6 schools, with a further 8 DHT/AHT appointment processes supported, securing effective leaders.</p>	<p>Rapid School Improvement: Griffithstown Primary, Ysgol Panteg, Croesyceiliog School have secured rapid school improvement, working with Learning Network Schools in other LAs.</p>

<p>Leadership and Teaching: Professional learning and support for the development of leadership and teaching across the entire workforce.</p>	
<p>System Leadership: 6 schools lead professional learning, supporting teaching and leadership across the EAS (13% of schools across the region).</p>	<p>PL Leads: Every school and setting is funded to develop the professional learning lead role, supporting the realisation of the Curriculum for Wales.</p>
<p>Headteacher Qualification: Over last 3 years, 10 of 59 candidates achieved were from Torfaen (442 across Wales). 7 of the 10 have secured headship.</p>	<p>Coaching and Mentoring: 16 leaders (16% of the regional total) have trained as National Facilitator Coaches to support the National Leadership Development Programmes in 2021/22.</p>
<p>Senior Leadership: Across the region, 199 (530 across Wales) senior leaders have accessed the senior leader programme, 27 (14%) were from Torfaen.</p>	<p>Middle Leadership: Across the region 603 middle leaders (1400 across Wales), have accessed the middle leader programme, with 153 (25%) from Torfaen.</p>

<p>Professional Enquiry: Every cluster is engaged in the National Professional Enquiry project focusing on one of five themes 'Assessment and Progression', 'Reimagining schooling', 'Inclusion,' 'Pedagogy and Learning', 'Leadership'. One school represents the LA in the national Evidence Informed Profession Project.</p>	<p>Middle Leadership: The National Middle Leadership Development Programme jointly facilitated in Abersychan, St Albans and Gwynllyw. George Street Primary, Maendy Primary. Blenheim and Coed Eva Federation facilitated the National Middle Leadership Programme for ALNCos with 19 of 33 from Torfaen participating.</p>
<p>International Leadership: 4 of 32 pilot schools have engaged in the International Agile Leadership pilot: Llanyrafon, Maendy, Blenheim and Coed Eva Federation and George Street.</p>	<p>Coaching and Mentoring: 18 leaders have engaged in the National Coaching and Mentoring Programme (9% of the total participant population).</p>
<p>ITE: Initial Teacher Education Lead Schools: Maendy, George Street, Crownbridge, Coed Eva and Blenheim Road. ITE clinical practice and associates: Abersychan, Cwmffrwoer, Croesyceiliog Comprehensive, Garnteg, Greenmeadow, Griffithstown, Llantarnam, Llanyrafon, New Inn, St Albans, Ysgol Gwynllyw, YG Cwmbran, Ysgol Panteg.</p>	<p>TAs & HLTA: 33 participants have engaged in the National Aspiring HLTA Programme over last 2 years (185 from region). 37 of 39 HLTAs have gained the status in the last two years. 235 TAs are members of the Teaching Assistant network 27% of TAs across the region.</p>
<p>SLO: Nearly all schools (96%) have engaged with the Schools as Learning Organisations survey, to support their development as learning organisations. A further 20 revisited the survey between 2020-21.</p>	<p>Teaching and Leadership (Welsh Medium): Two schools have received bespoke support to develop their Teaching and Leadership: Ysgol Gynradd Bryn Onen and Ysgol Gwynllyw.</p>
<p>NQTs: Over the last year 24 NQTs successfully passed induction. 23 schools are currently supporting 32 Newly Qualified Teachers through the process.</p>	<p>Future Leaders: Abersychan has been part of the Talent Management Framework Pilot, that has identified 10 future aspirational leaders.</p>
<p>Distance and Blended Learning: Many schools engaged in the distance and blended learning development with 10 schools providing leading support to schools across the EAS and Wales.</p>	<p>Teaching and Learning: The Curriculum for Wales 'Teaching and Learning Group' has enhanced schools' ability to network and share practice, with 30 members from Torfaen, out of 380.</p>

<p>Curriculum for Wales: Professional learning and support for Curriculum for Wales.</p>	
<p>Support for others: 7 Torfaen Schools provide professional learning support to other schools across the EAS region in a variety of curriculum areas as Learning Network Schools (this includes 6 secondary or all-through schools).</p>	<p>Assessment: All clusters are engaged in the developing school and cluster-based approaches to progression and assessment, to support the development of their assessment strategy.</p>
<p>Curriculum Design: 7 (of 43) practitioners engaged in the Curriculum Design Programme (Lucy Crehan), which supports developing approaches based on focus and coherence (Griffithstown Primary,</p>	<p>Curriculum Design: All clusters are represented in the Curriculum for Wales Teaching and Learning development group which is supporting them to network with other schools and share approaches to curriculum</p>

West Monmouth School (x3), Llantarnam Primary, Blenheim/Coed Eva).	design and developing pedagogical approaches.
Assessment: St Alban's RC High are involved in the development of a pan-Wales assessment toolkit with the University of Glasgow.	Curriculum Design: 4 Secondary (or all-through schools) engaged in Secondary Design Network, supporting schools to share approaches to professional learning and curriculum design.
Welsh in Education – Cluster Leadership: All clusters (Welsh and English medium) are engaged with the development of school and cluster-based approaches to language/literacy. Strategic lead of Welsh actively engaged in a regional network for strategic leads.	International Languages: Curriculum: International Languages in Primary: Ysgol Gymraeg Cwmbran and Ponthir primary are 2 of 5 multilingual schools developing and sharing practice in teaching languages in the primary phase.
Planning: Most schools are utilising the SDP guidance provided by the EAS to support them in realising CFW	Welsh in Education - Learners from non-Welsh speaking homes - Cymraeg Campus Charter: 91% of English medium schools have achieved Bronze award status with Greenmeadow School the latest to achieve.

Health Wellbeing and Equity: Professional learning and support for health, wellbeing, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.	
Wellbeing: All schools and settings receive funding for a Wellbeing Lead. 6 schools attend these regularly. Attendance is notably lower in comparison to other LAs.	ACEs: All schools engaged in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) awareness training and as a result are in a position to draft their tiered Approach to Provision.
RADY: 3 schools are part of Raising the Achievement of Disadvantaged Youngsters' (RADY) professional learning programme. Abersychan welcomed a RADY Consultant to review their work and follow up visits are due to be arranged when the COVID risk level is lowered to evaluate impact.	8 schools participated in Floyd Woodrow Elite Leadership Programme. As a result of participating school leaders have a structured approach to revisiting their school based values and aligning them to Curriculum Reform.
Maendy Primary School participated in the Disadvantaged and Vulnerable Lead Programme and as a result developed their provision to meet the needs of their FSM learners and presented their work to the LA.	Ysgol Cwmbran and Greenmeadow Primary are both Health, Well-being and Equity Lead schools for the EAS. They support deliver professional learning across the region.
MAT: 85% of SEREN students attending Gwynllyw attended a Sutton Trust University in 2021. Two students attending, started at Oxbridge.	LA Partnership – EAS attends the Torfaen Wellbeing Partnership Group and as a result a pamphlet has been designed for schools to detailing professional learning to support the Emotional Well-being Framework.

School Governors: A broad range of professional learning, support and advice for school governors.	
Governor PL: Of the 216 Torfaen Governors that completed a virtual training evaluation, 93% agreed (53% strongly) that the sessions were helpful and informative, and that the	Governor PL: Of the 35 Torfaen Governors that attended the regional Virtual Governor Conference and completed an evaluation, 96% agreed (65% strongly) that the conference was

information was provided in a clear and precise manner.	informative and will help them in their role as a governor.
Governor PL: Attendance at virtual professional learning opportunities, including the conference has overall been over 80% higher than physical training in previous years.	Governor PL: Of the Torfaen Governors that attended, 83% said they would attend a Virtual Regional Conference again, with a further 17% saying they would 'maybe' attend again. None said they would not.
SLA: During the year, a total of 187 virtual meetings were supported, an (5.8 per school), well above the legal minimum of 3.	Networking: Over 50% of Torfaen schools Secondary Chairs / Vice-Chairs of Governors regularly attend termly network meetings.
Bespoke Support: The EAS has provided bespoke support has been provided for the appointment of LA Additional Governors and LA nominated Chair of Governors.	SLA: For the 8% of Torfaen schools that at some point during the year had more than 3 vacancies, notifications were sent to the Chair of Governors, prior to the subsequent meeting.

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**SUBJECT: REVENUE & CAPITAL MONITORING 2021/22
FORECAST OUTTURN STATEMENT – MONTH 9**

MEETING: CABINET
DATE: 2nd March 2022
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To provide Members with an updated forecast of the revenue and capital outturn position for the current financial year.
- 1.2 This report will also be considered by Select Committees as part of their responsibility to,
 - assess whether effective budget monitoring is taking place,
 - monitor the extent to which budgets are spent in accordance with agreed budget and policy framework,
 - challenge the reasonableness of projected over or underspends, and
 - monitor the achievement of predicted efficiency gains or progress in relation to savings proposals.
- 1.3 To provide an update on the financial impact of Covid-19 on the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Cabinet recognises a forecast surplus of £2.182m at year-end on the Council's core service delivery, a significant improvement in the forecast outturn position since month 6 of £4.122m.
- 2.2 That Cabinet note that the improvement in the forecast outturn has arisen both through continuing budget recovery action and more significantly through the notification of substantial further and late specific grant funding to be received from Welsh Government before the year-end.
- 2.3 That Cabinet recognises the importance of a positive outturn position being achieved for 2021/22, in that it safeguards and now forecasts to contribute to limited one-off reserve headroom retained to assist with meeting the unpredictable financial challenges over the medium term, and where uncertainty still remains to the extent of future pressures and the funding available to meet these challenges.
- 2.4 That Cabinet recognises that currently the overall net revenue forecast surplus at month 9 is £310k, as this takes account of a further forecast deficit of £1.872m that is directly associated with the extraordinary financial pressures attached to Covid-19. If, as expected the £1.872m is fully recovered from the WG Covid-19 hardship fund the overall surplus would be that on core service delivery of £2.182m.

- 2.5 That Cabinet can be reasonably assured based on commitments from Welsh Government, that all Covid-19 associated cost pressures and income losses that are eligible to be met by the Welsh Government Covid-19 Hardship fund will be funded to the end of March 2022.
- 2.6 That Cabinet note that there remains significant Covid-19 related cost pressures and income losses forecast after the end of March 2022 and that these have been assessed and incorporated where required into the final budget proposals for 2022/23.
- 2.7 That Cabinet recognise that the current budget forecast allows for an estimated non-teaching pay award for 2021/22 of 1.75%. The outcome of pay negotiations is awaited and in the event that the agreed pay award is above this estimate, that this will present a further budgetary pressure. Welsh Government have been clear that no compensating funding is anticipated and given that the Minister confirmed via the final settlement that this already took into account any subsequent pay awards.
- 2.8 That Members note that the overall revenue outturn position continues to be subsidised by £2.2m of capital receipts which are being used to fund identified eligible expenditure under the flexible use of capital receipts directive.
- 2.9 That Members note the forecast 93% delivery of the budgeted mandated savings as detailed in **appendix 3** and as agreed by full Council previously and the implicit remedial action/savings included in the financial outturn to compensate for circa 7% savings (£309k) reported as delayed or unachievable by service managers.
- 2.10 Cabinet notes the extent of forecast improvements in school balances contained in **table 4** and **appendix 1** which is informed and driven by the extent to which significant and unprecedented late grant support provided by Welsh Government to schools at the end of 2020/21 exceeded the impact of school investment plans, and notably further receipt of unbudgeted grant support notified since month 6 totalling £2.06m.
- 2.11 Cabinet considers the forecast capital outturn spend of £31.5m as outlined in **appendix 1** that would result in forecast slippage of £54.3m, noting the continuing delays in progressing some of the key capital projects due to the ongoing challenging operating conditions and impact both internally and externally in relation to Covid-19.
- 2.12 That Cabinet approve the Capital budget revisions as listed in **appendix 4** to this report resulting from the notification of external capital grant awards to the value of £4.01m and draw on Section 106 balances of £971k.

3. KEY ISSUES:

3.1 Assessing the financial impact of the pandemic on the Council

- 3.2 The 2021/22 budget was set against the backdrop of an unprecedented period of uncertainty, both in Local Government and in the wider context. The Covid-19 pandemic continues to have a major impact on all local authorities and wider public services across

Wales. From a financial perspective, the response to the pandemic has required the Council to incur significant additional expenditure, for example, costs relating to infection control measures, safeguarding the public and employees and support for elderly and vulnerable residents. In addition, income losses have also been substantial, during the period where services either have been closed or have experienced significant reductions in demand or footfall due to restrictions in place.

3.3 The Council has been given clear commitments of the proposed Welsh Government support to meet the Covid-19 pressures and significantly the announcement of further funding for local authorities via the Local Government Covid-19 hardship fund to the end of March 2022. Cabinet can be reasonably assured that all such Covid-19 related pressures will be funded during this period.

3.4 **Table 1** below indicates a total forecast net under spend for the Council at year-end of £310k and how this variance is broken down into that relating to core service delivery and that relating directly to the response to the pandemic.

Table 1: Council Fund 2021/22 Outturn Forecast as at Month 9

Directorate	Total forecast variance at Month 9	Of which due to core service delivery:	Of which due to Covid-19 Expenditure Increase:	Of which due to Covid-19 Income Loss:
Social Care, Health & Safeguarding	28	28	0	0
Children & Young People	1,128	1,128	0	0
Enterprise	47	(911)	261	697
Monlife	430	(128)	0	558
Chief Executives Unit	(160)	(160)	0	0
People & Governance	(179)	(179)	0	0
Resources	39	(217)	48	208
Corporate Costs & Levies	(693)	(693)	0	0
Appropriations	(400)	(400)	0	0
Financing	(550)	(650)	100	0
Total forecast Month 9	(310)	(2,182)	409	1,463
Total forecast Month 6	5,911	1,940	1,734	2,237
Variance from Month 6	(6,221)	(4,122)	(1,325)	(774)

3.5 The overall forecast surplus of £310k comprises expected additional costs of £409k and income losses of £1.463m directly related to the impact of Covid-19 on the Council, alongside a forecast £2.182m surplus on core Council service delivery. If, as expected, the £1.872m is fully recovered from the WG Covid-19 hardship fund the overall surplus would be £2.182m.

- 3.6 It is important to note that the combined forecast overspend of £1.872m (£409k and £1,463k in the table above) relating specifically to the Covid-19 impact is presented on a prudent basis in so much that it displays a worst case scenario that does not take into account any of the further Welsh Government Hardship funding anticipated to meet the additional costs or reimbursement of income losses that have equally resulted.
- 3.7 The Council can be reasonably assured based on continued dialogue with Welsh Government and their current funding commitments, that all Covid-19 associated cost pressures and income losses eligible to be met by the Welsh Government Covid-19 Hardship fund will be funded to the end of March 2022.
- 3.8 Whilst the Council is grateful for the funding commitments made to date by Welsh Government through the Covid-19 Hardship fund, it is imperative that the Council looks to continue to make strong representations for further clarity on funding arrangements for the ongoing Covid-19 pressures post March 2022. As Covid-19 restrictions continue to ease some of these pressures are expected to fall away quickly, others will take some time to unwind and stabilise, whilst others will be of a more permanent nature brought about by strategic policy change enacted by Welsh Government.
- 3.9 The Council prudently set aside reserve funding at the end of 2019/20 and 2020/21 totalling £2.6m for specific Covid-19 related pressures which were yet to materialise, and in the event that funding commitments from Welsh Government fall short of meeting the additional expenditure and income losses, and this reserve funding will be available to mitigate the impact. Given the Council's comparatively low level of reserve cover, and the financial challenges over the medium term and beyond, recourse to this funding should be seen as an absolute last resort after exhausting all other alternative options. Therefore, it remains of critical importance that services manage budgets and expenditure tightly and take all opportunities to maximise income generation and bear down on cost. It is vitally important that services do not become reliant upon WG support and develop strategies that allow them to emerge from the pandemic on a sustainable financial footing.
- 3.10 Just as importantly as managing the direct impacts of the pandemic on the Council, the wider and longer lasting indirect impact on Council services need to be considered, particularly in the areas of Homelessness, Children's services, Adult social care and Children's additional learning needs. There remains significant latent and complex demands in these areas as a result of the ongoing societal impacts of the Covid-19 response and restrictions, and some of these impacts will take a significant period of time to unwind and the Council needs to engage in careful discussions with Welsh Government around the management of this in the medium term. Alongside this Council services need to prepare to be adaptable and innovative in their response to these pressures materialising and not simply rely on traditional methods of mitigation or solely place reliance on further funding coming forward.
- 3.11 **Financial assessment of core service delivery**
- 3.12 As the Council continues to transition from the response phase of the pandemic it is important that Cabinet is kept informed as impacts are being assessed. The Council had already faced significant financial challenges in setting a balanced budget for 2021/22 and

the pandemic has only accentuated the challenge. The budget round saw £10.3m of budget pressures accommodated, notably:

- In full, all pay and pension-related spending pressures in our schooling system;
- The increasing demand placed on children’s social care services, adult social care and our children with additional learning needs budgets;
- Significant service pressures within the passenger transport unit and within recycling and waste and that look to ensure that the Council supports and sustains key service delivery;
- Investment that ensures that homeless people are provided adequate support, advice and accommodation in their time of need;
- An ongoing commitment to recognise and value the contribution made by the workforce and ensuring that local government staff are paid no less than the minimum wage set by the Living Wage Foundation. And that as a result of the Cabinet decision in January 2021 is also extended to apprenticeship roles within the Council.

3.13 Despite accommodating the above pressures into the 2021/22 budget, at month 9 there continues to be significant in year core service pressures forecast, with many of these pressures developing in the same key areas that have been provided additional support in the budget. Critically as we have moved through the financial year we have been notified of significant unbudgeted grant funding which has helped offset these pressures.

3.14 The principal pressures and savings are within the areas of:

Pressure/Saving	Month 9 £000's	Month 6 £000's	Description
Children’s services	394	695	Despite stabilisation in Children looked after numbers, new children have required high cost residential placements, as opposed to those leaving which have been more in the lower cost fostering/kinship/family placements. A recent legal case has also led to the need to pay kinship carers in line with foster carer rates, along with the increase in payment to foster carers due to increasing skills training. The pressure has been considerably offset since month 6 by £627k of unbudgeted WG winter pressure grant.
Adults Services	(253)	547	The pressure on this budget is largely as a result of additional carer recruitment to our in house care at home service, and increased care packages in the South of the County. This has been significantly offset since month 6 by £823k of unbudgeted grant in respect of winter pressures and the social care recovery fund.
Additional Learning Needs	1,065	982	Primarily due to a reduction in income from other LAs (£244k), additional support for pupils

			attending our own schools (£278k), and placement costs outside of our own schools (£460k).
Landlord services	181	401	Reduced income from recharges into capital schemes due to a lower level of activity in the capital programme, alongside an in-year adjustment to correct a control account in-balance due to the mis-posting of income in previous years.
Transport & Passenger Transport Unit (PTU)	241	236	The cost of maintaining the authority's fleet has exceeded available budget.
Non-teaching pay award	837	837	An allowance has been made within the forecast for the expected result of pay award negotiations over and above the 1% already budgeted for. The estimate is based on an expected award of 1.75% with negotiations continuing between local government employer's representatives and trade unions.
Holiday pay in relation to regularised overtime	493	0	A statutory change has meant that staff who work over their contracted hours as part of their normal working pattern, or casual staff who are given standard working hours, are entitled to accrued holidays. This pressure reflects the backdated pressure of bringing staff in line with the revised regulations for both 2020/21 and 2021/22.
Council tax	(650)	(750)	Out-performance of budgeted Council tax collection.
Borrowing costs	(571)	(230)	A reduction in net budgeted borrowing costs reflective of the continuing low interest rate environment and significant capital slippage.
Staff vacancies	(1,064)	(540)	Significant staff vacancies being carried in the establishment.
Waste contract & recyclates	(494)	(157)	The HWRC and transfer station contract savings have been realised since month 6 and a relatively buoyant recycling market in Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 have reduced costs. Planned expenditure on new depot infrastructure in south of county has not materialised due to the lack of suitable site availability to house recycling and waste fleet.
Unbudgeted grant income	(3,469)		Additional £1.019m grant notified for reductions in Council tax income during the period, alongside £1m in further AEF distribution. A further £1.25m notified in relation to Social care winter pressures, with a further allocation of £200k from the social care recovery fund. *£1.45m of this amount is shown above as already netting off the above pressures in relation to Children's & Adults services.

- 3.15 Importantly the overall outturn position also continues to be supported by £2.2m of identified eligible expenditure to be funded from capital receipts under the flexible use of capital receipts directive. Reliance on these mitigations is a short term measure only and is clearly not sustainable over the medium term.
- 3.16 As the financial year progresses there will inevitably be further forecast budget pressures and savings identified and added to the budget forecast. **Appendix 2** provides an analysis of both the significant forecast pressures and savings already identified at month 9.
- 3.17 It is important to note that the majority of the savings identified during the year to assist the in-year budget recovery are one-off savings and will not bring any further benefit to future year's budgets. Conversely, the majority of those pressures highlighted above are recurrent pressures and were considered as part of the wider budget process for 2022/23 and beyond.
- 3.18 Following the further funding commitments received from WG for Covid-19 related pressures, as we look to the remainder of the financial year the key financial focus and uncertainty continues to be in achieving a positive outturn position in the core service delivery. To that end the ongoing budget recovery plan remains vital in ensuring that the Council ends the year in a robust financial position and without needing to deplete reserve balances which are at comparatively low levels despite the recent replenishment, and particularly in light of the challenging budgetary position leading into 2022/23.
- 3.19 **Progress against mandated savings**
- 3.20 The 2021/22 budget included mandated savings totalling £4.734m and the progress against these is summarised in **table 3** below and in more detail in **appendix 3**.

Table 3: Progress against mandated savings

Directorate	2021/22 Budgeted Savings £000	Saving achieved £000	Delayed Savings £000	Savings Unachievable £000	% Achieved
Children & Young People	(1,510)	(1,275)	(235)	0	84%
Social Care & Health	(874)	(874)	0	0	100%
Enterprise	(821)	(821)	0	0	100%
Monlife	(100)	(80)	0	(20)	80%
Resources	(165)	(123)	(42)	0	75%
Chief Executives Unit	(32)	(20)	(12)	0	63%
Corporate Costs & Levies	(1,508)	(1,508)	0	0	100%
Appropriations	275	275	0	0	100%
Total	(4,734)	(4,426)	(289)	(20)	93%

3.21 It is pleasing to note the forecast 93% delivery of mandated savings, especially in light of the ongoing challenges faced by services in the current operating conditions. Finance officers will continue to work with services to ensure that these savings are fully delivered as the year progresses and to look at options for delivering on savings indicated as delayed.

3.22 School balances

3.23 From a financial perspective, 2020/21 was an unprecedented year for schools who received several significant Welsh Government grants to support them and their pupils during a period of significant disruption to learning, and alongside this sustained periods of enforced closure during the financial year resulted in spending on core budgets being significantly curtailed. This resulted in the majority of schools bringing forward significant surplus balances into the 2021/22 financial year.

3.24 The Authority required schools carrying significant surplus balances that were above levels guided by Welsh Government (£50k for a Primary, £100k for a Secondary) to provide investment plans setting out how they intended to spend the significant balances being held. These plans have subsequently been completed and assessed and has informed the budget monitoring process.

3.25 At month 9, the forecast is a contribution to reserves of £686,954, resulting in a forecast surplus balance of £4,105,074. The majority of the increase in reserve balances is due to further additional unbudgeted grants notified from Welsh Government during the year:

- £1,089,288 to cover revenue maintenance
- £117,306 Winter of Wellbeing
- £184,076 ALN new system funding
- £668,971 RRR's funding.

All schools are putting in place plans to ensure the most effective and beneficial use of these grants is made.

Table 4: Forecast movement school balances for 2021/22

Draft Council Fund Outturn 2021/22 – School Balances Summary outturn position at Month 9	(A) Opening Reserves (Surplus) / Deficit Position 2021/22	(B) Draw / (Contribution) from / (to) School Balances @ Month 2	(C) Draw / (Contribution) from / (to) School Balances @ Month 6	(D) Draw / (Contribution) from / (to) School Balances @ Month 9	(A+D) Forecast Reserve Balances at 2021/22 Outturn	Variance Draw on School Balances Month 6 to Month 9
	£000's	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cluster						
Abergavenny	(1,158)	309	426	(197)	(1,355)	(623)
Caldicot	(1,091)	539	372	(197)	(1,288)	(569)

Chepstow	(349)	516	417	42	(307)	(375)
Monmouth	(794)	457	354	(318)	(1,113)	(673)
Special	(26)	(39)	(11)	(16)	(42)	(5)
Total	(3,418)	1,782	1,558	(687)	(4,105)	(2,245)

3.26 Irrespective of the significant one-off funding given to schools at the end of 2020/21, and the further grants notified during 2021/22, it is clear that the inherent structural budget deficits that led to a significant number of schools being in deficit over the past few years remain and that these will require resolution regardless. It is expected that the additional funding made available to those schools will allow a period of transition and as to allow those underlying budgetary issues to be rectified without impacting on educational standards.

3.27 Capital outturn forecast

3.28 The capital expenditure forecast outturn detailed in **appendix 1** indicates no variance to budget at the present time. This is not uncommon on capital projects at this stage of the year where projects are in progress and final consolidation of costs will not be undertaken until later in the year.

3.29 The impact of Covid-19 on the programme has varied and is very much been dependent on the nature of the works being undertaken. Following initial delays on schemes during periods of operating restrictions, contractors are adapting to Covid-19 work restrictions, although cost inflation and supply chain issues continue to represent a challenge to project delivery. Some of the issues will be temporary, however it remains unclear whether increases in cost inflation will be sustained over the medium term.

3.30 There is therefore a significant level of slippage forecast at month 9 of £54.35m (63% of total budget) where some of the Councils major schemes have been impacted by delays:

- **Abergavenny 3-19 School (£26.399m)** where the original budget schedule for the project has changed considerably since the inception of the project due to external factors.
- **Asset Investment Fund (£18.092m)** where further expenditure is dependent on appropriate schemes coming forward that meet the Authorities investment criteria.
- **Crick Road Care Home (£5.964m)** where there have been delays in the building schedule.
- **Other notable slippages:** £813k for a backlog in disabled facility grant implementations; £516k for modifications to County Hall 'J' block, delayed due to a 'SUDS' consent being required; £489k for Match Funded Capital schemes and £280k on the Re-Fit programme.

3.31 The forecast movement in capital receipts balances for the year is shown below. Whilst overall balances on the face of it are healthy, there remains the risk that forecast receipts receivable for 2022/23 onwards are at comparatively low levels, and combined with the

fact that receipts are continuing to be used to subsidise the revenue budget through capitalisation direction means that the scope for further capital investment funded via receipts will be limited.

Table 5: Forecast movement in capital receipt balances

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance as at 1st April	9,581	13,503	11,108	10,311	8,714
Capital receipts used for financing	(3,582)	(2,311)	(1,294)	(1,194)	(1,094)
Capital receipts used to support capitalisation direction	(2,208)	(2,650)	(507)	(507)	(507)
Capital receipts Received or Forecast	9,712	2,565	1,004	104	104
Forecast Balance as at 31st March	13,503	11,108	10,311	8,714	7,217

4 OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 4.1 This report provides an update on the current financial situation and the challenges facing the Council now and over the medium term. It has been prepared at a time of great uncertainty as the Council still transitions from the emergency response phase of the Covid-19 pandemic towards a period of recovery.
- 4.1 The outturn forecast that has been prepared for consideration is predicated on assumptions that have been independently assessed by budget holders and subsequently reviewed as part of the budget monitoring process. These assumptions don't look to represent a policy position that Cabinet is looking to take on when services are re-opening, either fully or in a more limited capacity, or how services are looking to respond to the changing demands. Rather they represent a reasoned assessment of the impact on services in year based on known information, anticipated future changes and estimates.
- 4.2 By far the greatest uncertainty that exists is the continued level of Welsh Government funding to be received to offset additional costs incurred in responding to the Covid-19 emergency response and the significant income losses that have resulted where services have ceased as a result of the lockdown restrictions in place. Current funding commitments from Welsh Government are due end in March 2022 in their current form and the council will continue to make strong representations for further clarity on funding for the ongoing Covid-19 pressures faced.

5 EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 5.1 This forecast outturn report represents an assessment of the forecast for the 2021/22 financial year based on nine months of data. More so than ever the combination of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on service operating conditions and the fact that it is only part way through the financial year, means that a level of risk uncertainty should be attributed to the forecast.

- 5.2 There is an increased level of comfort that Welsh Government funding will meet additional costs and income losses brought about by the response to and the impact of the pandemic to the end of the financial year. However, this continues to represent a risk that will only be mitigated by monthly and quarterly submissions to Welsh Government being agreed. And furthermore and beyond those impacts resulting from Covid-19 there exists a number of significant cost pressures that need to be managed regardless.
- 5.3 The Council has traditionally maintained formal reporting to Cabinet at month 2, month 5, month 9 and outturn, with more frequent budget monitoring information being undertaken at a departmental level and reported to management and the Strategic Leadership Team. More regular formal reporting to Cabinet is considered necessary only where circumstances necessitate it.
- 5.4 Given the further funding commitments made by Welsh Government through to the end of the year to cover Covid-19 pressures, it is considered appropriate to maintain the traditional reporting frequency for the remainder of this financial year, with further reporting to take place at outturn.
- 5.5 The update of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and the development of the budget proposals for 2022/23 have been finalised. The Council has needed to consider the wider and longer lasting indirect Covid-19 impact on Council services, particularly in the areas of Homelessness, Children's services, Adult social care and Children's additional learning needs. There remains significant latent and complex demands in these areas as a result of the ongoing societal impacts of the Covid-19 response and restrictions, and some of these impacts will take a significant period of time to unwind and the Council will therefore continue to engage in careful discussions with Welsh Government around the management of this in the medium term.

6 REASONS:

- 6.1 To provide Members with an updated forecast of the revenue and capital outturn position for the current financial year.
- 6.2 To ensure that the gravity of the financial challenges facing the Council are understood and that reasonable actions are being taken to safeguard the ongoing financial sustainability of the Council.

7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 7.1 The resource implications of the current in-year forecast outturn are contained in this report and the attached appendices. The forecast outturn exhibits an under spend of £310k. However further Welsh Government Covid-19 hardship funding is expected to be received through the end of year of £1.709m which is not included in the current forecast.
- 7.2 The financial challenges facing the Council and resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic are significant in the current year and will undoubtedly be a feature of the next 4 years of the MTFP. Not just for this Council but all councils across Wales and the UK. The Council is having to incur significant costs in its response effort and this will continue as it transitions towards recovery. Furthermore and resulting from the restrictions that UK Government and Welsh Government have had to put in place to contain the spread of the virus we are

suffering significant shortfalls in our income levels. Some of these will return more quickly than others as services are able to be safely turned back on.

7.3 In terms of how the Council will respond to the challenges faced in the current year and over the medium term this will very much depend on the level of compensating funding received from Welsh Government and the flexibilities afforded to Welsh local authorities to spread the impact over more than one financial year.

7.4 The more immediate focus has been in arresting the core service delivery deficit that was forecast earlier in the financial year. To that end the ongoing budget recovery plan has been vital in ensuring that the Council ends the year in a positive position and without needing to deplete reserve balances which are at comparatively low levels despite the recent replenishment, and particularly in light of the challenging budgetary position it has had to overcome leading into 2022/23.

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

8.1 This report provides Members with information on the forecast revenue and capital outturn position of the Authority and carries no decisions. There are therefore no equality of future generations' implications directly arising from this report.

8.2 Any such impacts will be fully considered subsequently when Council receives details the budget recovery plan and revised budget proposals.

9 CONSULTEES:

Senior Leadership Team
Cabinet

10 BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix 1 – Detailed outturn statements and directorate commentaries

Appendix 2 – Service variance analysis

Appendix 3 – Progress against budgeted savings

Appendix 4 – Capital external financing budget revisions

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Overall Revenue Position

Table 1: Council Fund 2021/22 Outturn Forecast Summary Statement at Month 9

Service Area	Original Budget 2021/22	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M9	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M6	Forecast Variance M6 to M9
	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's
<u>Social Care, Health & Safeguarding</u>	52,825	(182)	52,643	52,671	28	1,181	(1,153)
<u>Children & Young People</u>	56,527	48	56,575	57,703	1,128	1,262	(134)
<u>Enterprise</u>	21,884	(468)	21,416	21,463	47	913	(866)
<u>MonLife</u>	3,951	17	3,968	4,398	430	1,228	(798)
<u>Chief Executives Unit</u>	2,912	(100)	2,812	2,652	(160)	(41)	(119)
<u>People & Governance</u>	3,383	427	3,809	3,630	(179)	(184)	5
<u>Resources</u>	7,235	(849)	6,386	6,425	38	1,504	(1,466)
<u>Corporate Costs & Levies</u>	23,414	847	24,261	23,569	(693)	705	(1,398)
Net Cost of Services	172,130	(261)	171,870	172,510	640	6,568	(5,928)
<u>Appropriations</u>	5,836	261	6,097	5,697	(400)	(93)	(307)
Expenditure to be Financed	177,966	0	177,966	178,207	240	6,475	(6,235)
<u>Financing</u>	(177,966)	0	(177,966)	(178,517)	(550)	(564)	14
Net General Fund (Surplus) / Deficit	(0)	0	0	(310)	(310)	5,911	(6,221)

Table 2: Council Fund 2021/22 Outturn Forecast Detailed Statement at Month 9

Service Area	Original Budget 2021/22	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M9	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M6	Forecast Variance M6 to M9
	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's
Adult Services	8,341	(81)	8,261	8,257	(4)	629	(633)
Children Services	16,147	(85)	16,061	16,458	397	695	(298)
Community Care	24,386	(43)	24,342	24,275	(67)	96	(163)
Commissioning	1,431	(37)	1,394	1,239	(155)	(162)	7
Partnerships	436	0	436	436	(0)	0	(0)
Public Protection	1,523	18	1,541	1,426	(115)	(60)	(55)
Resources & Performance	560	47	607	580	(27)	(17)	(10)
Social Care, Health & Safeguarding	52,825	(182)	52,643	52,671	28	1,181	(1,153)
Individual Schools Budget	46,488	43	46,531	46,502	(29)	166	(195)
Resources	1,167	4	1,171	1,180	8	18	(10)
Standards	8,871	1	8,872	10,021	1,149	1,078	71
Children & Young People	56,527	48	56,575	57,703	1,128	1,262	(134)
Business Growth & Enterprise	3,024	10	3,034	3,270	236	534	(298)
Facilities & Fleet Management	5,487	(54)	5,433	5,429	(4)	437	(441)
Neighbourhood Services	11,233	(180)	11,053	10,685	(368)	(185)	(183)
Placemaking, Highways & Flood	2,140	(244)	1,896	2,079	183	127	56
Enterprise	21,884	(468)	21,416	21,463	47	913	(866)
Countryside & Culture	1,422	(0)	1,422	1,514	92	72	20
Finance & Business Development	1,735	23	1,758	1,651	(107)	8	(115)
Leisure, Youth & Outdoor Adventure	794	(6)	787	1,233	446	1,148	(702)
MonLife	3,951	17	3,968	4,398	430	1,228	(798)
Policy, Scrutiny & Customer Service	2,912	(100)	2,812	2,652	(160)	(41)	(119)
Chief Executives	2,912	(100)	2,812	2,652	(160)	(41)	(119)
Democratic Services	2,424	(82)	2,342	2,257	(85)	(114)	29
Emergency Planning	152	0	152	152	(0)	0	(0)
People	807	508	1,315	1,221	(94)	(62)	(32)

Service Area	Original Budget 2021/22	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M9	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M6	Forecast Variance M6 to M9
People & Governance	3,383	427	3,809	3,630	(179)	(176)	(3)
Finance	3,339	(475)	2,864	2,539	(325)	760	(1,085)
Information, Communication Technology	3,029	(367)	2,662	2,641	(21)	(17)	(3)
Commercial & Corporate Landlord	868	(7)	860	1,245	384	754	(370)
Resources	7,235	(849)	6,386	6,425	38	1,496	(1,458)
Precepts & Levies	21,362	0	21,362	21,375	13	13	(0)
Coroner's	147	0	147	147	(0)	0	(0)
Archives	182	0	182	182	(0)	0	(0)
Corporate Management	339	0	339	245	(94)	(68)	(26)
Non Distributed Costs (NDC)	643	0	643	705	62	62	0
Strategic Initiatives	(836)	823	(13)	(689)	(676)	837	(1,513)
Insurance	1,578	24	1,601	1,604	3	(140)	143
Corporate Costs & Levies	23,414	847	24,261	23,569	(693)	705	(1,398)
Net Cost of Services	172,130	(261)	171,870	172,510	640	6,568	(5,928)
Fixed Asset Disposal Costs	30	0	30	201	171	136	35
Interest & Investment Income	(134)	0	(134)	(203)	(69)	11	(80)
Interest Payable & Similar Charges	3,736	0	3,736	3,333	(403)	(230)	(173)
Charges Required under Regulation	6,404	0	6,404	6,393	(11)	(10)	(1)
Other Investment Income	0	0	0	(2)	(2)	0	(2)
Borrowing Cost Recoupment	(3,619)	0	(3,619)	(3,704)	(85)	0	(85)
Contributions to Reserves	195	0	195	195	(0)	0	(0)
Contributions from reserves	(777)	261	(516)	(516)	(0)	(0)	0
Appropriations	5,836	261	6,097	5,697	(400)	(93)	(307)
Expenditure to be Financed	177,966	0	177,966	178,207	240	6,475	(6,235)
General Government Grants	(69,465)	0	(69,465)	(69,465)	0	0	(0)

Service Area	Original Budget 2021/22	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M9	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M6	Forecast Variance M6 to M9
Non Domestic Rates	(32,018)	0	(32,018)	(32,018)	0	(0)	0
Council tax	(83,636)	0	(83,636)	(84,286)	(650)	(750)	100
Council Tax Benefit Support	7,152	0	7,152	7,253	100	186	(86)
Financing	(177,966)	0	(177,966)	(178,517)	(550)	(564)	14
Net General Fund (Surplus) / Deficit	(0)	0	0	(310)	(310)	5,911	(6,221)

DIRECTORATE – DIVISION VARIANCE COMMENTS

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & SAFEGUARDING	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	1,665	1,181	28	0

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & SAFEGUARDING DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARY:

The month 9 directorate outturn for 2021/22 is a predicted overspend of £28,000. The overspend would be £3.25M higher if not assisted by the Social Care Workforce and Sustainability Grant from Welsh Government of £1.242M, £500k of Intermediate Care Funding (ICF), Discharge to Reassess monies from Health, £540K from the Social Care Recovery and its Extension Fund, and the recently announced additional financial support package from Welsh Government to fund overspends within Social Care of £1.25M.

The Adult Services division (which also includes the Community care, Commissioning, Partnerships & Resources sections) at month 9 has an underspend of £253K, a reduction of £799K since month 6, even though we have made additional recruitment to our inhouse care at home service, and increased care packages in the South of the County. This area of the directorate is benefitting from the Social Care Workforce and Sustainability (SCWS) grant of £1.242M, ICF (scheduled to terminate at 31st March 2022) , Discharge to Reassess funding from Health totalling £150K, £300K from the Social Care Recovery Fund and £623K as its share of the £1.25M additional support from Welsh Government.

Children's Services has a forecast overspend of £396K, a decrease of £298K since month 6 due to increased costs connected with one high cost placement. At the end of 2019/20 CLA numbers stood at 213 but have fallen to 205 at the end of month 9, remaining unchanged since month 6. However, new children have required high cost residential placements, as opposed to those leaving which have been more in the lower cost fostering/kinship/family placements, accounting for £832K of the overspend. A recent legal case has led to the need for the directorate to pay kinship carers in line with foster carer rates, along with the increase in payment to foster carers due to increasing skills training, producing £273K of the overspend. Legal costs associated with court proceedings accounting for £213K of the overspend, with the continued use of agency staffing contributing £75K to the overspend. There are £104K of compensating savings mainly from the vacant Head of Service and reduced partner contributions. This element of the directorate has also benefitted from ICF funding of £300K, coupled with £240K from the Social Care Recovery and Extension Fund, and £627K as its share of the £1.25M additional support from Welsh Government has helped to lower the overspend.

Public Protection is anticipated to underspend by £115K due to vacancies within the service which will be maintained until the end of this financial year.

ADULT SERVICES

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	289	629	(4)	0

Additional recruitment of carers, over and above budget, into our in-house care at home service to facility additional packages of care. This overspend has been offset by £623K as its share of the £1.25M additional funding package from Welsh Government

CHILDREN SERVICES

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	1,127	695	397	0

Even with stabilising CLA numbers, new children have required high cost residential placements as a result of increased complexity, as opposed to those leaving which have been more in the lower cost fostering/kinship/family placements, accounting for £832K of the overspend. A recent legal case has led to the need for the directorate to pay kinship carers in line with foster carer rates, along with the increase in payment to foster carers due to increasing skills training, producing £273K of the overspend. Legal costs associated with court proceedings accounting for £213K of the overspend, with the remaining £75K due to continued use of agency staffing. There is £104K of compensating savings through the current vacant Head of Children's Services post, reduced partner contribution into the Youth Offending Service and reduced contracted transport costs achieved due to the pandemic. This service area is benefitting from one off ICF funding totalling £300K, £240K from the Social Care Recovery and Extension Fund and £627K as its share of the £1.25M additional funding package from Welsh Government which has reduced the impact of the overspend.

COMMUNITY CARE

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	397	95	(67)	0

The overspend in in the South of the County in our Chepstow Integrated team resulting from increased care packages. However, one off ICF funding, the Social Care Sustainability Grant and the new Social Care Recovery fund have helped to offset the potential overspend.

COMMISSIONING

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'s	(134)	(162)	(155)	0

Ongoing vacant Commissioning Officer post and due to the continued closure of day facilities transport, costs are lower than budget.

PARTNERSHIPS

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	0	0	0

No variances

PUBLIC PROTECTION

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'s	2	(60)	(115)	0

Due to delayed recruitment into vacant posts.

RESOURCES & PERFORMANCE

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(16)	(16)	(27)	0

Vacant posts within the Finance team.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	832	1,262	1,128	0

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARY:

The Directorate's Month 6 position is an over spend of £1,128k, which is primarily due to additional ALN expenditure as outlined below.

INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS BUDGET

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	166	(29)	0

Back pay due to school staff is less than anticipated and there is an underspend on Covid-19 expenses from the 2020-21 grant.

RESOURCES

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	3	18	8	0

The decrease in overspend is due to staff cost savings.

STANDARDS

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	829	1,078	1,149	0

- Recoupment decreased by (income received from other LA's) £235,000
- Independent placement costs overspent by £303,000
- Other LA placement costs overspent by £191,000
- Additional support for pupils attending our schools overspent by £336,000
- Breakfast Club reduction in income & increased costs £62,000
- Deri View SNRB/Virtual School Staff & Overmonnow SNRB £77,000

The above overspends have been partially offset by the following savings: -

- Staff cost savings in Psychology Service (£27,000)
- Recent Early Years grants released to cover staff costs (£20,000)

ENTERPRISE	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	2,470	913	47	0

ENTERPRISE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARY:

The Enterprise Directorate is forecasting a £47k overspend at month 9.

The impacts of COVID-19 are still affecting services provided within Enterprise, WG Covid-19 funding has been guaranteed for the remainder of the year so any shortfall caused by Covid-19 will not impact the directorates outturn position at year end. We have continued to submit Covid-19 claims through the year and the receipt of funding since Qtr2 is the main reason for the £866k improvement from Month 6.

The current £47k overspend projection can be broken down between:

- **Covid-19 Related Pressures** of £958k – these are mainly found in Homelessness (B&B and Security costs), Car Parking (loss of P&D and PCN income) and Waste (Staff cover and vehicles). As mentioned above we are anticipating that all these costs will be covered.
- **Non-Covid-19 Related** underspend of £911k – main savings can be found in Waste (Contract & Recyclate savings), Streetlighting (Energy savings), PTU (Contractor savings) and staff vacancy savings across whole directorate.

Each service area sets out the detail behind these projections within the next sections of the report and the key financial issues, risks and implications are described.

Across all service areas we are looking to ensure that all eligible additional costs and income losses will be claimed against any Welsh Government funding being made available.

ENTERPRISE & COMMUNITY ANIMATION

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	1,143	534	235	0

Enterprise & Community Animation is forecasting a £235k overspend at month 9, this is mainly due to:

- **Borough Theatre** – Break-even – Covid-19 funding in Qtr. 1 & Qtr. 2 has helped offset income losses. The theatre is now closed for refurbishment, but it is anticipated that the cost of this will be covered within existing core budget.
- **Business Growth & Enterprise** – Reporting a break-even position
- **Communications** – £6k overspend – driven by on-going COVID-19 response comms requirements, an increase in photography, film and software costs, and a cost for recruitment, some training and freelance support driven by some team changes.
- **Community & P/Ships development** - £34k underspend - due to the capitalisation of staff costs linked to innovation & service transformation (£28k) and a decrease in travel costs and course fees (£5k).
- **Enterprise Management** - £12k underspend – Staff vacancy savings due to a post only being filled part way through the year.
- **Housing** - £308k overspend, this can be broken down into these main areas:
 - **Homelessness** – £354k overspend - If levels remain the same for the remainder of the year then we are expecting a pressure of £433k split between B&B costs of £176k and hostel security costs of £258k. This has been offset by staff vacancies of £79k. WG have informed us that the Homeless costs will continue to be covered out of Covid-19 grant for the rest of the year so there will be no adverse impact on revenue budget.
 - **Sewage Treatment Plants** - £24k overspend – Delays in NRW decision to approve a replacement system at Shirenewton has meant that the plant still needs to be emptied on a regular basis to avoid leaks.
 - **Social Housing Grant** - £63k overspend – Change in grant T&Cs has meant that core staff costs are no longer claimable causing a budget pressure.
 - **Shared Housing & Private Leasing** - £110k underspend - Rental income within Shared housing and Private leasing are currently exceeding budget creating a bottom-line underspend. This is an improvement from month 6 of £16k but the receipt of rental payments can be volatile so this figure could change between now and year end.
 - **Careline** - £22k underspend – Mainly due to reductions in equipment spend and income increase from recharges to other LAs.
- **Procurement** - £33k underspend – Employee saving due to a member of staff retiring.

The reduction in overspend from Month 6 of £299k can mainly be attributed to the receipt of Covid-19 funding in the 3rd quarter of the year.

FACILITIES & FLEET MANAGEMENT

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	551	437	(4)	0

Facilities & Fleet management are forecasting a £4k underspend, due to:

- **Schools Catering** – Break-Even – It is forecast that the anticipated uptake in meals between now and year end will be sufficient to bring the service in on budget. All shortfalls caused by Covid-19 in the earlier parts of the year have been covered by the WG Covid-19 grant.
- **Building Cleaning** - £25k overspend – due to increased staffing costs to cover Covid-19 related absences, this will be reclaimed from the WG Covid-19 funding so won't impact on year end outturn.
- **Passenger Transport** – £269k underspend:
 - **Home to School Transport** – Break-even - employee savings have offset external vehicle maintenance costs.
 - **External Commissioning** - The section is forecasting to underspend by £269k, this is due underspends in contractor payments and staff vacancies totalling £219k and a £50k saving from the capitalisation of route optimisation software costs.
 - **Private Hire** – Break-even – All losses anticipated in Private Hire have been covered off by the WG Covid-19 fund.
- **Fleet Maintenance** - £240k overspend – The cost of maintaining the authority's fleet has exceeded available budget, current forecasts predict a £219k shortfall. In addition, the number of members of the car salary sacrifice scheme have reduced meaning savings are below budgeted levels by £22k.

The outturn position has improved by £441k from month 6 and this is mainly down to the receipt of Covid-19 funding in Catering and PTU and an improving position regarding the overall impact of Covid-19 on services.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	346	(185)	(367)	0

Neighbourhood Services are forecasting to underspend by £367k, this is due to:

- **Highways, SWTRA & Streetlighting** – £109k underspend - This is due to Streetlighting, the LED replacement programme is now complete and the resultant reduction in KWH output means our energy costs have reduced below budget. We are also seeing a saving in our maintenance budget as our 'Hazard' monitoring costs have gone down. Highways Operations and SWTRA & External Clients are both forecasting a break-even budget.
- **Waste & Street Scene** - £257k underspend – this can be broken down between:
 - a. **Covid-19 Related** - £236k overspend – this is for additional staff and vehicles to cover Covid-19 related absences and distancing guidelines, these costs will be recovered from the WG Covid-19 fund and will not impact on year end.
 - b. **Non-Covid-19 Related** - £494k underspend - as we move through the year we are getting a better understanding of the potential outturn position for Waste & Street Scene, the HWRC and transfer station contract savings were still being worked through in Month 6 and a relatively buoyant recycling market in Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 have reduced costs. Planned expenditure on new depot infrastructure in

south of county has not materialised due to the lack of suitable site availability to house recycling and waste fleet.

The £182k improvement from Month 6 is due to the receipt of Covid-19 funding and the improvement in the Waste position that was not fully known in September.

PLACEMAKING, HIGHWAYS & FLOOD

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	430	127	182	0

Placemaking, Highways & Flood is forecasting to overspend by £182k, this is because of:

Planning & Building Control – £108k overspend – Income in Building Control has dropped due to the impact of Covid-19, current predictions estimate we will be £73k below budget by year end. Pre-application income is also down in Planning by £35k due to reduced volume. The Building control income loss will be claimed back for the WG Covid-19 grant.

Planning Policy & LDP – Break-even.

Car Parks - £240k overspend – Covid-19 restrictions have impacted on parking and enforcement income, we are seeing an improvement in Pay & Display levels but are still expecting to see a pressure of £191k this year - in addition there are overspends in expenditure primarily transport, premises & software costs (£49k). We will be claiming back the lost income from the WG Covid-19 grant so impact on outturn will only be £49k by year end.

Highways Management & Flooding - £166k underspend – Staffing underspend due to delays in filling vacant posts and improved income.

The increase in overspend from Month 6 can be mainly attributed to the reduction in Building Control income that was not known in September, although this will be reclaimable via WG Covid-19 grant.

MONLIFE	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	3,010	1,228	430	

MonLife DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARY:

The MonLife Directorate is forecasting an overspend of £430k at month 9, a significant reduction from month 6 which is due to the receipt of Welsh Government hardship funding of £793k to cover income losses in quarter 2.

The current £430k overspend projection can be broken down between:

- **Covid-19 Related Pressures** - £558k – this relates to income pressures in Leisure services, Outdoor Adventure and Attractions. The WG Covid-19 grant will continue to fund these losses through to March 2022 so this should have no impact on year end outturn.
- **Non-Covid-19 Related** - underspend of £128k – mainly due to staff savings throughout the service due to delays in filling vacant posts

(MONLIFE) Countryside & Culture

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
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Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	54	72	92	0
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Countryside & Culture is forecasting an overspend of £92k at month 9, this is due to:

- **Museums** - £64k overspend – our sites have had limited opening this year due to the pandemic resulting in a loss of income from retail sales and event income.
- **Learning** - £8k overspend – reduced income as the service hasn't been able to fully deliver programmes and events as planned due to pandemic.
- **Countryside** - £21k overspend – due to a £15k contribution to the "Living Levels" and additional cost for a compound in Gilwern and reduced income due to Covid-19.
- **Tourism** – Break-even – this is an improvement of £21k from Month 6 as IT system costs can be capitalised.

Of the reported overspend, £78k is Covid-19 related and will be recovered via the WG Covid-19 grant.

(MONLIFE) Finance & Business Development

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	8	(107)	0

Finance & Business Development is forecasting to underspend by £107k at month 9, this is due to:

- **Attractions** - £58k underspend – due to senior staff savings in attractions management and overtime savings in our TICs, this has been offset by a net income shortfall at the Old Station in Tintern and Caldicot Castle.
- **Leisure Services Management** - £58k underspend – due to savings from staff vacancies due to delays in filling posts.
- **Business Support, Sales & Marketing** - £9k overspend – mainly due to a reduction in grant funding.

(MONLIFE) Leisure, Youth & Outdoor Adventure

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	2,956	1,148	445	0

Leisure, Youth & Outdoor Adventure is forecasting a £445k overspend, this is due to:

- **Leisure Services** - £427k overspend - Leisure Centres have re-opened but income levels have been affected by the pandemic. Throughout the year we have seen high levels of membership cancellations and reductions in general bookings with some memberships still frozen. We have recently seen a much needed uplift due to the re-opening of the Abergavenny fitness suite, although the benefits of this have been slightly impaired by a short term issue with the pool, so although the net income position is improving as we go through the year we will still need to draw on the WG Covid-19 grant to cover the remaining shortfall.
- **The Outdoor Adventure Service** - £19k overspend - Covid-19 Restrictions on residential visits for schools have had significant impact on income with no visits between April and August and limited bookings for the rest of the year as customers continue to be hesitant about returning, although the service is hopeful that as confidence returns that income levels will improve through to year end. As with above income shortfalls have been covered by the WG Covid-19 grant.

CHIEF EXECUTIVES UNIT	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	53	(41)	(160)	

HEAD OF POLICY, PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMENTARY:

The Chief Executive's department is currently forecasting a £160K under spend. The most significant factor is an increase in grant income because of a change in the national formula. This has not been fully utilised because of the impact of Covid-19 restrictions on service delivery. Provision had been made for partial repayment which we have been advised will not be required accounting for the shift on the month 6 position.

The other main factor is a delay in the introduction of a new telephony system. This is part of a Wales-wide framework contract which will not be implemented until the 2022-23 financial year.

These have helped balance overspends in other service areas including an over-spend on Welsh language translation costs.

POLICY, SCRUTINY & CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	53	(41)	(160)	0

Policy, Scrutiny & Customer Experience is forecasting a £160k underspend at month 9, this is due to:

- **Community Education** - £159k underspend – this is due to improved external partner income that have been carried forward from 2020-21 that has helped offset core service costs, these have been part offset by increased lecturer costs.
- **Contact Centre** - £65k underspend – due to budget savings because of the delay in the implementation of a new telephony system. This was not known at month 6 and is the reason for the positive swing.

Offset by:

- **Community Hubs** - £29k overspend – shortfall in library and room hire income due to unachievable income budgets.
- **Corporate CEO** - £9k overspend – due to inability to meet staff vacancy factor saving and an increase in license costs.
- **Policy & Partnerships** – £24k overspend - Net overspend mainly due to an increase in Welsh Language translation costs of £37k, offset by a saving of £4k in third party contributions and £7k in CCTV maintenance costs. The volume of translation work has increased significantly in recent months and is the reason for the increase in overspend from Month 6.

The improvement in underspend of £119k from Month 6 is mainly due to:

- Community Education - £59k additional income that was not factored in at month 6.
- Contact Centre - £83k reduced expenditure due to the delay in telephony system implementation.
- Welsh language – Increased translation costs £37k not factored in at Month 6.

PEOPLE & GOVERNANCE	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(8)	(176)	(179)	

People & Governance DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARY:

People & Governance is reporting a £179k under spend. It is a period of transition for this new Directorate and intentional restraint around vacancies and the overall structure of the team has led to the majority of the underspend. Planning for FY 2022/23 is advanced and resource allocation is likely to be a much more challenging prospect given the combination of several projects coming to fruition.

Governance

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(8)	(122)	(84)	0

Democratic Services is forecasting to underspend by £84k, this is due to:

- **Organisational Development** – overspending by £8k – increase in staff costs as a post has gone from part-time to full time.
- **Members Costs** - underspending by £49k due to a reduction in IT replacement costs (£35k) and savings in mileage and allowance claims (£14k) due to more agile attendance of meetings.
- **Electoral Management** – Break-Even – underspends resulting from a reduction in canvassing costs have been offset by increased postage & printing costs and a staff costs due to post re-gradings. The extent of postage and printing costs was not known earlier in the year and is the reason for the £30k reduction in underspend since Month 6.
- **Committee Section** – overspending by £18k due to increased staff costs due to post re-gradings, a small overspend on software costs and a reduction in WG grant.
- **Legal Services** - £24k underspend – staff savings resulting from the delay of the employment lawyer
- **Land Charges** - £37k underspend – this is because of increased search income and savings from a staff vacancy.

Emergency Planning

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'s	0	0	0	0

Emergency Planning are forecasting a balanced budget.

People

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	(62)	(94)	0

- **People Services** is forecasting to underspend by £94k due to senior staff vacancy savings of £80k and a £11k underspend in Occupational Health due to a reduction in demand.
- **Corporate Training** – Forecasting a £3k underspend – due a small staff saving resulting from a delay in filling a post and an increase in external training income.

The £32k improvement from Month 6 can be attributed to the delay in filling a senior post in People services.

RESOURCES	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	1,107	1,504	38	

RESOURCES DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARY:

The directorate has seen a considerable improvement in forecast since month 6 of £1,466k, of which £576k can be attributed to core service delivery, with a further £885k representing continued recoupment of Covid-19 related costs from the WG hardship fund.

Of the total forecast, a £217k surplus relates to core service delivery, with much of this relating to continued staff vacancies which does not represent a sustainable position moving forward and will need further consideration as we move into 2022/23.

The remaining £256k forecast pressure is specifically related to additional Covid related expenditure or income losses and is expected to be funded in full from the Welsh Government hardship fund during the course of the year. Officers will continue to work with Welsh Government colleagues to ensure that legitimate costs and income losses are recovered where they are as a direct result of the impact of the pandemic on services.

FINANCE

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	756	760	(325)	0

Finance is forecasting to underspend by £325k, this is mainly due to:

- **Revenues** - £13k overspend, this is due in the main to:
 - **Housing Benefits** - £42k overspend - The position has improved significantly for this budget following Welsh Government's decision to release hardship funding to support the lost Housing Benefit Subsidy resulting from temporary accommodation placements. The remaining £42,000 over-spend is a real cost to Monmouthshire and mainly reflects ongoing placements costs, which by their nature do not currently attract subsidy.
 - **Council Tax** - £108k over-spend – due to a £57k over-spend against salary costs, as the budget was vired to Finance as part of structure adjustments. Plus, a £51k estimated shortfall in summons income. Courts have now started up again and full recovery is underway. As a result, Summons Income has started to pick up and is the reason for the £29,000 reduction in the forecast over spend since month 6. However, Summons Income is still behind normal levels and any shortfall at year end has the potential to be claimed back via the WG Covid-19 fund.
 - **Debtors and Charity relief** - £137k underspend – due to a combination of £3k anticipated savings against the discretionary relief budget, a net surplus of £3k admin grant funding from Welsh Government, a £5k saving against the debtors postage budget and a £126k under spend following the decision not to call on the NDR budget this year.
- **Finance** - £243k underspend – This is a result of senior management vacancies. We are anticipating that these positions will now not be filled until the new financial year.
- **Audit** - £15k underspend – This is due to staff vacancy savings.
- **Systems & Cashiers** – £21k underspend – The Cashiers budget includes a £20k staff saving, following the decision to remove cheques from the authority's day-to-day business. However, Covid-19 has delayed the full implementation of this decision resulting in a budget pressure. In addition, we have seen an increase in card handling fees as more people are paying for services online. Cash system costs have increased as new functionality is developed

resulting in a combined over-spend of £26k. These pressures are offset by £10k security carrier savings and a £57k underspend in the Revenues & Systems Support team, due to staff vacancies and system development savings intentionally held back to fund the pressure within cashiers.

- **Payroll** – £59k underspend – Staff savings due to the retirement of a senior post plus further savings from delays in filling vacant posts.

The outturn position has improved by £1.085m from month 6 and this is mainly down to the receipt of Covid-19 funding in our Revenues section from September and an improving position regarding the overall impact of Covid-19 on services. In addition, the position has also improved as staff vacancies have remained vacant longer than originally thought at Month 6.

INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION & TECHNOLOGY

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	(17)	(21)	0

ICT is forecasting to underspend by £21k as our SRS contribution for 2021-22 is below available budget. All other services are reporting break-even.

COMMERCIAL & CORPORATE LANDLORD

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	352	754	382	0

Commercial & Corporate Landlord is forecasting to overspend by £382k:

- **Investment Properties** - £242k overspend, due to:
 - **Newport Leisure Park** - £8k underspend – Although the site has seen losses in rental due to the Covid-19 pandemic these have been reclaimed from WG Covid-19 grant so budget for 2021-22 forecast to come in on target.
 - **Castlegate Business Park** - £249k overspend - Rental income forecasts for this year are still projecting to cover outgoings but a budget pressure has been caused by an in-year adjustment to correct a control account in-balance due to the mis-posting of income in previous years.
- **Landlord Services** - £59k underspend – due to staff vacancies of £122k caused by delays in filling vacant posts and rates savings on buildings (£21k), offset by an £85k net income shortfall from rental loss at Magor (£38k) plus a £65k loss of service charge, these have been offset by a small gain of £17k in commercial rents and estates fees. The improvement from month 06 is due to the receipt of Q2 Covid-19 funding of £20k, £58k further staff savings due to posts not filled (M6 assumed posts would be filled from Dec) and £20k less rates bill than anticipated.
- **County Farms** - £21k overspend – due to additional consultant costs associated with dilapidation surveys and a reduction in rental income due to a reduction in tenants.
- **Solar Farm** - £40k underspend – income is currently projected to be above budget; this is mainly due to improved ROC prices.
- **Markets** - £89k overspend. This is due to an estimated shortfall in income of £54k due to the disruption caused by Covid-19 and a net increase in spend of £35k mainly due to an overspend on waste disposal costs. The rental income loss will be recovered from the WG Covid-19 grant so will not impact on final outturn figures.

- **Property Services** - £131k overspend. This can be split into 2 main areas:
 - **Accommodation** - £90k overspend due to an increase in repair and maintenance costs across council offices (£42k) and increase in cleaning costs due to additional requirements relating to Covid-19 (£48k). It is anticipated that the cleaning costs can be recovered via the WG Covid-19 fund.
 - **Property** - £40k overspend. Mainly due to a reduction in fee income as the number (and size) of projects that staff can be recharged to have reduced this year, although position has improved by £135k since Month 6. The service will continue to address this shortfall between now and year end.

The outturn position for the division has improved by £372k from month 6, this is mainly down to the receipt of Covid-19 funding in Estates, improved income projection within Property Services and increased staff savings across the services as posts have remained vacant longer than originally thought at Month 6.

CORPORATE COSTS & LEVIES	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	21	705	(693)	
PRECEPTS & LEVIES				
Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	13	13	13	
National parks levy notified after budget produced - increase in levy of circa 10% based on increased staff and project work required				
CORONERS SERVICES				
Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	0	0	
No variance at month 6				
CORPORATE MANAGEMENT				
Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(24)	(68)	(94)	
Primarily due to the release of a bad debt provision in relation to the SRS financial administration whereby it was originally estimated that there may be a bad debt burden upon transfer of the administration to TCBC, but which has not materialised.				
NON-DISTRIBUTED COSTS				
Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	32	62	62	
Additional pension strain costs notified since the budget has been set. These costs reflect the additional payment the Council need to make to the pension fund when an employee is permitted to leave employment prior to their normal pensionable age and wishes to immediately draw on their pension				

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	837	(676)	

Primarily due to the allowance for an expected non-teaching pay award of £837k across services, which represents a forecast award of 1.75%, which is 0.75% above that already budgeted.

Additionally there is a £493k overspend in relation to a Holiday Pay liability for the last two years due a change in case law for staff whose overtime is regular and consistent.

This is offset by notification of an unbudgeted grant of £1.019m from Welsh Government in relation to the reduction in Council tax collection rates during the period and a further £1m in AEF notified by WG.

INSURANCE

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	(140)	3	

Primarily due to savings in premium costs for the year of £35k, savings in professional fees of £34k, and the forecast saving in settlement expenditure based on current trends. In terms of settlement expenditure it should be noted that this area of the business can be highly volatile and a significant number of, or complex claims can lead to high value settlements in terms of the excesses payable on our insurance policies. This has been offset since month 6 by a forecast uninsured settlement of circa £200k in respect of a repairing obligation to the former Usk grammar school foundation trust for a former property owned by the trust and occupied by MCC.

APPROPRIATIONS

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	(93)	(400)	

The Appropriations under spend has increased by £307k to £400k at month 9.

Interest & Investment Income has moved to an underspend of £69k due to backdated interest paid as part of the Broadway loan which was not received at Month 6.

Interest Payable is underspent by £403k from £230k at month 6. This is due to authority locking in both short and long term borrowing before an increase in interest rates. Longer term borrowing costs are also less than expected due to an error found in previous calculations which has not been rectified.

The underspend is offset slightly by an overspend on Fixed Asset Disposal costs of £171k. This overspend is due to unforeseen security costs at Hilston Park.

FIXED ASSET DISPOSAL COSTS

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	136	171	

Overspend due to £190k of additional security costs related to the sale of the Hilston Park Site. This is offset by fully utilising the available capital fixed asset disposal budget.

INTEREST & INVESTMENT INCOME

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
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Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	11	(69)	
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The movement to surplus is due to interest from Broadway loan which wasn't reported at month 6. There has also been an improvement in return from pooled funds since month 6.

INTEREST PAYABLE & SIMILAR CHARGES

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	(230)	(403)	

Additional short-term borrowing costs were anticipated at M6 but did not materialise due to locking in longer term PWLB borrowing. Clarification of PWLB annuity loan costs also meant the total PWLB costs were less than previously anticipated.

CHARGES REQUIRED UNDER REGULATION

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	(10)	(11)	

11k underspend against MRP due reduced capital spend in the previous financial year than budgeted.

OTHER INVESTMENT INCOME

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	0	(2)	

A small number of unbudgeted Wayleaves + Easements Income has been received since month 6.

BORROWING COST RECOUPMENT

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	0	(85)	

Additional loan repayment has been made from services since Month 6.

FINANCING

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(130)	(564)	(550)	

COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT SUPPORT

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	370	186	100	

This budget continues to be under pressure, as a direct result of Covid-19. However, we continue to see some easing of demand since the year started. We have still not received confirmation from Welsh Government at the writing of this report if they will provide any funding support that was put in place last year.

COUNCIL TAX

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
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Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(500)	(750)	(650)	
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The latest council tax data shows a slight reduction in anticipated income for the year. We continue to see new properties being added to the tax base however we have now also started to see an increase in the number of exemptions and discounts being requested and awarded

2. SCHOOLS

2.1. A Board of Governors who are responsible for managing the school's finances directly governs each of the Authority's Schools. However, the Authority also holds a key responsibility for monitoring the overall financial performance of schools. Below is a table showing the outturn forecast Schools' balances position based on month 9 projections for each Educational Cluster.

Draft Council Fund Outturn 2021/22 – School Balances Summary outturn position at Month 9	(A) Opening Reserves (Surplus) / Deficit Position 2021/22	(B) Draw / (Contribution) from / (to) School Balances @ Month 2	(C) Draw / (Contribution) from / (to) School Balances @ Month 6	(D) Draw / (Contribution) from / (to) School Balances @ Month 9	(A+D) Forecast Reserve Balances at 2021/22 Outturn	Variance Draw on School Balances Month 6 to Month 9
Cluster	£000's	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Abergavenny	(1,158)	309	426	(197)	(1,355)	(623)
Caldicot	(1,091)	539	372	(197)	(1,288)	(569)
Chepstow	(349)	516	417	42	(307)	(375)
Monmouth	(794)	457	354	(318)	(1,113)	(673)
Special	(26)	(39)	(11)	(16)	(42)	(5)
Total	(3,418)	1,782	1,558	(687)	(4,105)	(2,245)

2.2. Collective School Balances at the beginning of the financial year amounted to a £3,418,120 surplus. (The majority of the surplus balance brought forward is due to two grants being awarded to schools at the 2020/21 year-end; the Schools Revenue Maintenance Grant and Recruit, Recover and Raise Standards).

2.3. The Schools month 2 forecast anticipated draw on reserves was £1,781,648, which resulted in a forecast surplus balance of £1,636,472. At month 6, the forecast anticipated draw on reserves was reduced by £223,938, to a forecast surplus balance of £1,860,410. At month 9, the forecast is a contribution to reserves of £686,954, resulting in a forecast surplus balance of £4,105,074. The majority of the increase in reserve balances is due to additional grants from Welsh Government, the details are below:

- £1,089,288 to cover revenue maintenance
- £117,306 Winter of Wellbeing
- £184,076 ALN new system funding
- £668,971 RRR's funding.
- £2,059,641 Total

All schools are putting in place plans to ensure the most effective and beneficial use of these grants is made.

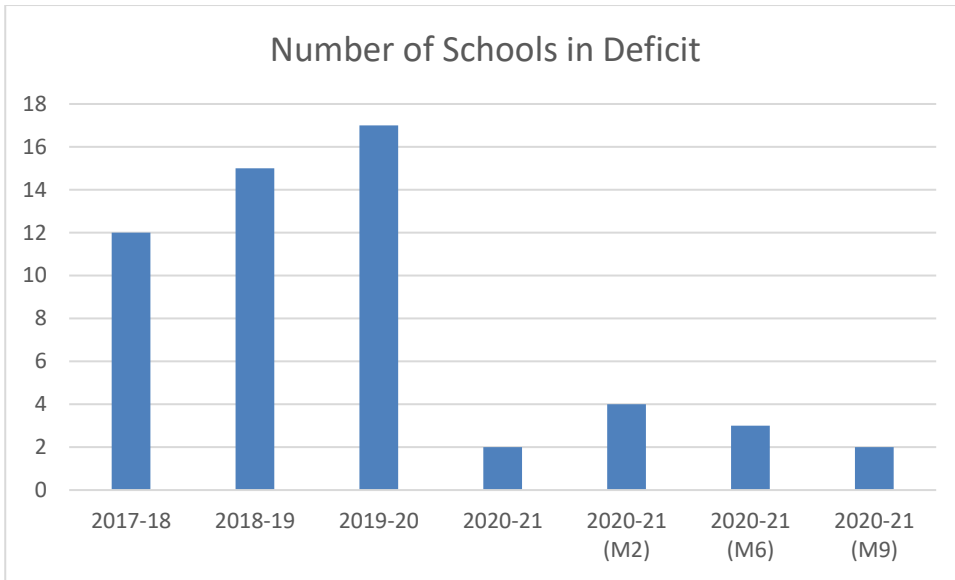
- 2.4. The movement of individual schools forecast to be in deficit since the start of the financial year is shown below:

Start of year	Month 2 (Forecast)	Month 6 (Forecast)	Month 9 (Forecast)
2	4	3	2
Chepstow Comprehensive	Chepstow Comprehensive	Chepstow Comprehensive	Chepstow Comprehensive
Llandogo Primary	Llandogo Primary	Llandogo Primary	Llandogo Primary
	Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni	Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni	
	Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin		

- 2.5. All Schools in a deficit budget have or are in the process of agreeing recovery plans. These recovery plans will be confirmed with both the Local Education Authority and each School's Governing Body. Once finalised the schools with significant deficits will be monitored by the Cabinet member for Children and Young People and Resources on a termly basis.
- 2.6. Total Schools balances have been exhibiting a fluctuating trend with some schools showing a continuing reduction in schools balances, which is of concern, and others a more balanced trend. However, as previously advised, grants awarded to schools at 2020/21 year-end has resulted in a large increase in overall school balances.

Financial Year-end	Net level of School Balances
2014-15	(1,140)
2015-16	(1,156)
2016-17	(269)
2017-18	(175)
2018-19	232
2019-20	435
2020-21	(3,418)
2021-22 (Forecast)	(4,105)

- 2.7. The increase in school balances has resulted in a reduction in the number of schools in deficit, as illustrated in the following table: -



3 CAPITAL OUTTURN

3.1 The summary forecast Capital position at Month 9 is as follows:

Forecast Capital Outturn Position 2021/22 at Month 9							
Select Portfolio	Slippage B/F	Original Budget	Budget Adjustments	Provisional Slippage	Revised Budget 2021/22	Forecast	Variance
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Expenditure							
Children & Young People	15,381	14,423	1,261	(27,478)	3,587	3,587	0
Economic & Development	19,244	546	606	(18,143)	2,253	2,253	0
Adult	5,964	0	0	(5,964)	0	0	0
Strong Communities	8,554	11,545	8,349	(2,768)	25,680	25,680	0
Total Expenditure	49,143	26,514	10,216	(54,353)	31,520	31,520	0
Financing							
Supported Borrowing	0	(2,431)	0	0	(2,431)	(2,431)	0
General Capital Grant	0	(2,438)	0	0	(2,438)	(2,438)	0
Grants and Contributions	(19,096)	(13,160)	(7,685)	29,132	(10,809)	(10,809)	0
S106 Contributions	(711)	0	(331)	170	(872)	(872)	0
Unsupported Borrowing	(27,031)	(4,094)	0	23,686	(7,439)	(7,439)	0
Earmarked Reserve & Revenue Funding	(241)	0	0	0	(241)	(241)	0
Capital Receipts	(2,064)	(2,891)	(2,200)	1,365	(5,790)	(5,790)	0
Leasing	0	(1,500)	0	0	(1,500)	(1,500)	0
Total Financing	(49,143)	(26,514)	(10,216)	54,353	(31,520)	(31,520)	0

3.2 The capital expenditure forecast outturn at month 9 shows a balanced outturn position as capital budget holders are forecasting a full spend on schemes that are not being slipped.

3.3 Forecast Capital Slippage at month 9 is £54.353m (£51.772m at Month 6) as major schemes are impacted by delays.

- Abergavenny King Henry VIII replacement (£26.399m), where the original budget schedule for the project has changed considerably since the inception of the project.
- Asset Investment Fund (£18.092m), on hold due to an asset investment priority review;
- Crick Road Care Home (£5.964m), delays in building schedule;
- £813k for a backlog in disabled facility grant implementations;
- £516k for modifications to County Hall 'J' block, delayed due to a 'SUDS' consent being required;
- £489k for Match Funded Capital schemes due to the dependency on external funding contributions;
- £280k on the Re-Fit programme

3.4 Useable Capital Receipts Available

3.5 In the table below, the effect of the changes to the forecast capital receipts on the useable capital receipts balances available to meet future capital commitments are illustrated.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance as at 1st April	9,581	13,503	11,108	10,311	8,714
Capital receipts used for financing	(3,582)	(2,311)	(1,294)	(1,194)	(1,094)
Capital receipts used to support capitalisation direction	(2,208)	(2,650)	(507)	(507)	(507)
Capital receipts Received or Forecast	9,712	2,565	1,004	104	104
Forecast Balance as at 31st March	13,503	11,108	10,311	8,714	7,217

Social Care, Health & Safeguarding Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Net Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Adult Services	(4)	0		0	(4)
Children Services	396	0	0	0	396
Community Care	(67)	0	0	0	(67)
Commissioning	(155)	0	0	0	(155)
Partnerships	0	0	0	0	0
Public Protection	(115)	0	0	0	(115)
Resources & Performance	(27)	0	0	0	(27)
Total	28	0	0	0	28

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Social Care, Health & Safeguarding Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Adult Services					
Reduced capacity to offer services	(259)				(259)
Bad debt provision	99				99
Additional care packages & recruitment	156				156

Total Adult Services	(4)	0	0	0	(4)
Children Services					
High cost residential placements as a result of increased complexity	832				832
Legal case relating to rate historically paid to kinship carers	273				273
Legal costs	213				213
Agency staff requirement	75				75
Winter pressures grant unbudgeted	(627)				(627)
Net reduction in staffing requirement over the period	(104)				(104)
Transport/Other grant funding	(266)				(266)
Total Children's Services	396	0	0	0	396
Community Care					
A net underspend driven by lower referrals for drug & alcohol dependency and unbudgeted grant, offset by an increase in some car packages	(67)				(67)
Total Community Care	(67)	0	0	0	(67)
Commissioning					
Other	(22)				(22)
Staff vacancy	(99)				(99)
Termination of the Usk Services contract	(34)				(34)
Total Commissioning	(155)	0	0	0	(155)
Public Protection					
Other	(7)				(7)
Staff vacancies	(108)				(108)
Total Public Protection	(115)	0	0	0	(115)
Resources & Performance					
Other	13				13
Staff vacancy	(40)				(40)
Total Resources & Performance	(27)	0	0	0	(27)
Total	28	0	0	0	28

Children & Young People Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Net Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Individual Schools Budgets	(29)	0	0	0	(29)
Resources	8	0	0	0	8
Standards	1,149	0	0	0	1,149
Total	1,128	0	0	0	1,128

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Children & Young People Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Individual Schools Budgets					
Back pay due to school staff is less than anticipated	(29)				(29)
Total Individual Schools Budgets	(29)	0	0	0	(29)
Resources					
Additional support services staff	8				8
Total Resources	8	0	0	0	8
Standards					
Additional learning needs - placements, recoupment, support	1,065				1,065

Breakfast club income	62				62
Additional staffing	22				22
Total Standards	1,149	0	0	0	1,149
Total	1,128	0	0	0	1,128

Enterprise Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
Enterprise & Community Animation	(197)	0	433	0	236
Facilities & Fleet	(28)	25	0	0	(3)
Neighbourhood Services	(604)	236	0	0	(368)
Placemaking, Highways & Flood	(82)	0	264	0	182
Total	(911)	261	697	0	47

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Enterprise Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
Enterprise & Community Animation					
Communications - Increase in Software Costs offset by increased income	6				6
Community & Pships - savings on course fees and mileage - staff costs to capitalisation (£29k)	(33)				(33)
Enterprise Mgt - Staff vacancy savings	(12)				

Homelessness - Increase in B&B costs, security costs due to Covid	(79)		433		
Sewage Treatment Costs - Shirenewton waste removal to avoid leaks.	24				
Housing Grant - Staff costs no longer covered by grant T&Cs	63				
Shared Housing & Private Leasing - Improved rental figures	(102)				
Housing Associations - Mortgage costs	8				8
Careline - Reduction in equipment spend, improved income.	(22)				(22)
Strategic Services - Vacant post savings.	(17)				(17)
Procurement	(33)				(33)
Total Enterprise & Community Animation	(197)	0	433	0	(91)
Facilities & Fleet					
Building Cleaning - Essential equipment repair & replacement.	0	25			25
PTU Commissioning - Reduction in in contract costs, windfall in operator payments going monthly. £50k route optimisation software capitalised	(269)				
Transport - Green car scheme loss £26k, increased repair costs £238k for additional vehicles taken on for covid & increased operations. Staff Cost to capitalisation £28k	241				
Total Facilities & Fleet	(28)	25	0	0	25
Neighbourhood Services					
Highways & Streetlighting - Energy & maintenance savings	(110)				(110)
Waste/Grounds - Savings from recyclates and reduced waste mgt contract + Increased vehicles due to covid.	(494)	236			
Total Neighbourhood Services	(604)	236	0	0	(110)
Placemaking, Highways & Flood					
Planning - Lost Pre-app income	35				35
Building Control - Lost income			73		
Car Parking & CPE - Software, premises and transport overspend	49				
Car Parking & CPE Income down			191		
Highway Dev & Flooding - Staff uspend & improved income.	(166)				

Total Placemaking, Highways & Flood	(82)	0	264	0	35
Total	(911)	261	697	0	(141)

MonLife Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
Countryside & Culture	14	0	78	0	92
Finance & Business Development	(145)	0	38	0	(107)
Leisure, Youth & Outdoor Adventure	3	0	442	0	445
Total	(128)	0	558	0	430

Page 98	Monlife Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
		Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
	Countryside & Culture					
	Countryside & Culture - Income Loss, contribution to Living Levels	14		78		92
	Total Countryside & Culture	14	0	78	0	92
	Finance & Business Development					
	Finance & Business Development - Income Loss (£38k), Staff Vacancy savings (£145k)	(145)		38		(107)
	Total Finance & Business Development	(145)	0	38	0	(107)
	Leisure, Youth & Outdoor Adventure					
	Leisure, Youth & Outdoor Adventure - Loss of leisure centre & outdoor adventure income	3		442		445

Total Leisure, Youth & Outdoor Adventure	3	0	442	0	445
Total	(128)	0	558	0	430

Resources Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
Commercial, Corporate & landlord Services	181	48	157	0	386
Finance	(376)	0	51	0	(325)
Future Monmouthshire	0	0	0	0	0
Information Communication Technology	(22)	0	0	0	(22)
Total	(217)	48	208	0	39

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Resources Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
Commercial, Corporate & landlord Services					
Estates - Income loss from vacant office space in magor and loss of service charge, offset by staff savings	(96)		37		(59)
Solar Farm - Improved ROC income	(40)				(40)
Commercial Investments - income shortfall NLP	(74)		66		(8)
Commercial Investments - Castlegate - Control account mis-post	250				250

County Farms - Increase in fees, and a reduction in tenant income.	21				21
Property Services - Reduction on project fee income	43				43
Central Accommodation - Pru borrowing hit for J block - increase in repair costs. Additional cleaning costs (£48k)	42	48			90
MCC Markets - Income Loss due to 50% charge due tot refurb, £78k due to covid rules. £35k over on Refuse.	35		54		89
Total Commercial, Corporate & landlord Services	181	48	157	0	386
Finance					
Benefits - B&B HB claims increasing due to Covid, not all can be claimed against Housing benefit subsidy so pressure on budget.	42				42
Council Tax & NNDR - Shortfall in Summons income due to courts being closed and decision to halt recovery of Unpaid Council Tax & Business Rates. Salary overspend as budget moved as part of restructure that has not taken place yet.	57		51		108
Charity Relief - Business Grants admin grant payment	(132)				(132)
Debtors - Vacant post	(4)				(4)
Finance & Imp - Senior staff vacancy saving	(243)				(243)
Payroll - Staff vacancy savings	(60)				(60)
Innovation - Staff Costs					0
Audit - Staff Savings	(15)				(15)
Systems & Exchequer - Security carrier savings, system dev postponement savings.	(21)				(21)
Total Finance	(376)	0	51	0	(325)
ICT					
SRS - Contribution savings	(22)				(22)
Total ICT	(22)	0	0	0	(22)
Total	(217)	48	208	0	39

Chief Executive Summary		Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION		Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
Policy, Scrutiny & Customer Service		(160)	0	0	0	(160)
Total		(160)	0	0	0	(160)

Page 102	Chief Executive Detailed		Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
			Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
Policy, Scrutiny & Customer Service							
Community Hubs - Unachievable income budget.			29				29
Community Education - Grant Windfall from 20-21.			(159)				(159)
Contact Centre - Increased staff costs offset by savings due to delay in new telephony system.			(65)				(65)
Corporate CEO - Inability to meet vacancy factor and increase in licensing fees			9				9
Scrutiny - Unachievable Staff vacancy savings			1				1
Policy & Partnerships - Welsh Language Overspend due to covid, reduction in third party contributions.			25				25
Total Policy, Scrutiny & Customer Service			(160)	0	0	0	(160)
Total			(160)	0	0	0	(160)

People & Governance Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
People & Governance	(179)	0	0	0	(179)
Total	(179)	0	0	0	(179)

People & Governance Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
Page 103	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
People & Governance					
Innovation - Staff re-grading, no budget	8				8
Members - IT Equipment saving and mileage/allowance due to less travel for meetings	(50)				(50)
Elections - Reduced canvassing costs offset by increased salary.	0				0
Committee Section - Increased staff hours	18				18
Legal - Staff savings through delay in employing lawyer.	(24)				(24)
Land Charges - Vacant Post & improved search income	(37)				(37)
People Services - Senior staff vacancy savings (£80K) and reduce demand in occ health. (£11k), Training Staff vacancy (£3k)	(94)				(94)
Total People & Governance	(179)	0	0	0	(179)
Total	(179)	0	0	0	(179)

Corporate Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Precepts & Levies	13	0	0	0	13
Corporate Management	(94)	0	0	0	(94)
Non Distributed Costs (NDC)	62	0	0	0	62
Strategic Initiatives	(677)	0	0	0	(677)
Insurance	3	0	0	0	3
Total	(693)	0	0	0	(693)

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Corporate Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Precepts & Levies					
National parks levy	13				13
Total Precepts & Levies	13	0	0	0	13
Corporate Management					
Bad debt provision reversal	(86)				(86)
Other	(8)				(8)

Total Corporate management	(94)	0	0	0	(94)
Non Distributed Costs (NDC)					
Pension strain costs	62				62
Total Non Distributed Costs (NDC)	62	0	0	0	62
Strategic Initiatives					
Other	12				
Holiday pay in relation to regularised overtime	493				
Unbudgeted grant - Council tax losses	(1,019)				
Additional AEF notified	(1,000)				
Pay award pressure over and above 1% budgeted	837				837
Total Strategic Initiatives	(677)	0	0	0	837
Insurance					
Premium	(40)				(40)
Fees	(34)				(34)
Usk trust payment, offset by lower forecast Self insured costs	77				77
Total Insurance	3	0	0	0	3
Total	(693)	0	0	0	821

Appropriations Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Net Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Fixed Asset Disposal Costs	171	0	0	0	171
Interest & Investment Income	(72)	0	0	0	(72)
Interest Payable & Similar Charges	(403)	0	0	0	(403)
Charges Required under Regulation	(11)	0	0	0	(11)
Borrowing cost recoupment	(85)	0	0	0	(85)
Total	(400)	0	0	0	(400)

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Appropriations Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Fixed Asset Disposal Costs					
Unbudgeted security costs	171				171
Total Fixed Asset Disposal Costs	171	0	0	0	171
Interest & Investment Income					
Returns higher than budgeted due to increase in rates and additional unbudgeted recoupment	(72)				(72)

Total Interest & Investment Income	(72)	0	0	0	(72)
Interest Payable & Similar Charges					
Temporary borrowing costs remaining very low	(403)				(403)
Total Interest Payable & Similar Charges	(403)	0	0	0	(403)
Charges Required under Regulation					
Due to capital slippage in 20/21	(11)				(11)
Total Charges Required under Regulation	(11)	0	0	0	(11)
Unbudgeted recoupment from service	(85)				(85)
Borrowing cost recoupment	(85)	0	0	0	(85)
Total	(400)	0	0	0	(400)

Financing Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Net Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Council Tax	(650)	0	0	0	(650)
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	0	100	0	0	100
Total	(650)	100	0	0	(550)

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Financing Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Council Tax					
Increase in base, reductions in exemptions, collection rate remaining healthy	(650)				(650)
Total Council Tax	(650)	0	0	0	(650)
Council Tax Reduction Scheme					
CTRS		100			100
Total Council Tax Reduction Scheme	0	100	0	0	100
Total	(650)	100	0	0	(550)

(SELECT)	REF.	Disinvestment 2021-22	2021/22 Budgeted Savings £000	Value of Saving forecast at Month 2 £000	Value of Saving forecast at Month 6 £000	Value of Saving forecast at Month 9 £000	Value of Saving achieved at Outturn £000	Delayed Savings £000	Savings deemed Unachievable YTD £000	% Forecast M6
		Children & Young People	(1,510)	(1,313)	(1,266)	(1,275)	0	(235)	0	83.9%
		Social Care & Health	(874)	(874)	(874)	(874)	0	0	0	100.0%
		Enterprise	(821)	(821)	(821)	(821)	0	0	0	99.9%
		MonLife	(100)	(80)	(80)	(80)	0	0	(20)	80.0%
		Resources	(165)	(165)	(117)	(123)	0	(42)	0	70.9%
		Chief Executives Units	(32)	(20)	(20)	(20)	0	(12)	0	62.5%
		Corporate Costs & Levies	(1,508)	(1,508)	(1,508)	(1,508)	0	0	0	100.0%
		Appropriations	275	275	275	275	0	0	0	100.0%
		Totals Disinvestments by Directorate	(4,734)	(4,506)	(4,411)	(4,426)	0	(289)	(20)	93.2%

		Children & Young People Select Committee	(1,510)	(1,313)	(1,266)	(1,275)	0	(235)	0	83.9%
		Adult Select Committee	(874)	(874)	(874)	(874)	0	0	0	100.0%
		Economic & Development Select Committee	(162)	(142)	(142)	(142)	0	0	(20)	87.5%
		Strong Communities Select Committee	(2,189)	(2,177)	(2,129)	(2,135)	0	(54)	0	97.3%
		Totals Disinvestments by Select	(4,734)	(4,506)	(4,411)	(4,426)	0	(289)	(20)	93.2%

Page 109	Children & Young People		2021/22 Budgeted Savings £000	Value of Saving forecast at Month 2 £000	Value of Saving forecast at Month 6 £000	Value of Saving forecast at Month 9 £000	Value of Saving achieved at Outturn £000	Delayed Savings £000	Savings deemed Unachievable £000	Traffic Light based Risk Assessment	ASSESSMENT of Progress	Risk of current forecast saving NOT being achieved (High / Medium / Low)
	CYP	CYP 1	Mounton House closure impact on ISB	(1,258)	(1,258)	(1,258)	(1,258)	0	0	0		Achieved
CYP	CYP 2	Additional recoupment income - mainstream	(252)	(55)	(8)	(17)	0	(235)	0		Unlikely to achieve saving, as several pupils have moved into Monmouthshire, meaning we can no longer recoup from other LA's	High
		Total Children & Young People	(1,510)	(1,313)	(1,266)	(1,275)	0	(235)	0			
		Social Care & Health										
ADULT	SCH 1	Fees & Charges 2021/22	(79)	(79)	(79)	(79)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
ADULT	SCH 2	Increase in Social Care Workforce Development (SCWD) grant	(247)	(247)	(247)	(247)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
ADULT	SCH 3	Removal of TWUD base budget	(548)	(548)	(548)	(548)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
		Total Social Care & Health	(874)	(874)	(874)	(874)	0	0	0			
		Enterprise										
E&D	ENT	PLANHOUS - Staff Saving - 20-21 Staff Restructure Savings (£11,950) + £50k LDP senior officer saving, frozen until 23/24.	(62)	(62)	(62)	(62)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low

SCOMM	ENT	NEIGHBOURHOOD - Waste - Service Savings	(685)	(685)	(685)	(685)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
SCOMM	ENT	NEIGHBOURHOOD - Grounds Maintenance - Remove Sweeper & Staff savings	(65)	(65)	(65)	(65)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
SCOMM	ENT	Increase in discretionary Fees & Charges	(9)	(9)	(9)	(9)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
		Total Enterprise	(821)	(821)	(821)	(821)	0	0	0			
		MonLife										
E&D	MonLife	MONLIFE - Removal of Events Co-ordinator Post	(25)	(25)	(25)	(25)	0	0	0		Achieved post has not been filled.	Low
E&D	MonLife	MONLIFE - Introduce Car Parking Charges at Caldicot Castle	(20)	0	0	0	0	0	(20)		Will not be achieved this financial year as charges are not being introduced.	High
E&D	MonLife	Increase in discretionary Fees & Charges	(55)	(55)	(55)	(55)	0	0	0		Increase has been implemented, any shortfall will be claimed from WG loss of income claims.	Low
		Total MonLife	(100)	(80)	(80)	(80)	0	0	(20)			
		Chief Executive's Unit										
SCOMM	CEO	GOVDEMSUP - Members Supplies & Services	(15)	(15)	(15)	(15)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
SCOMM	CEO	GOVDEMSUP - Staff Vacancy Saving	(17)	(5)	(5)	(5)	0	(12)	0		Increased staff hours have partly offset saving	High
		Total Chief Executive's Unit	(32)	(20)	(20)	(20)	0	(12)	0			
		Resources										
SCOMM	RES	CORPLORD - Property Accommodation Savings.	(50)	(50)	(2)	(8)	0	(42)	0		Will not be achieved in full in 21-22, maintenance costs have increased across our office sites this year.	Low
SCOMM	RES	FUTUREMON - Mileage Savings	(71)	(71)	(71)	(71)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
SCOMM	RES	FUTUREMON - Staff Secondment Savings	(44)	(44)	(44)	(44)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
		Total Resources	(165)	(165)	(117)	(123)	0	(42)	0			
		Corporate Costs & Levies										
SCOMM	COL001	Capitalisation directive	(1,508)	(1,508)	(1,508)	(1,508)	0	0	0		Likely to be taken in full	Low
		Total Corporate Costs & Levies	(1,508)	(1,508)	(1,508)	(1,508)	0	0	0			
		Appropriations										
SCOMM	APP001	Net Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) increase based on additional activity	275	275	275	275	0	0	0		Included in overall MRP charge for year	Low
		Total Appropriations	275	275	275	275	0	0	0			

Appendix 4 - Capital budget revisions - external grant & Section 106

Under the current Council constitution any additions to the capital budget that are financed entirely by external grant or Section 106 can be approved by Cabinet and do not require a Council decision.

The following external grant awards and Section 106 draw on developer balances held have been notified since Month 6 and require approval to be added to the budget:

Capital Project	Amount
Grant funded	
WG - LTF Severn Tunnel Junction Improvements	980,000.00
CADW - Clydach Ironworks Enhancement Scheme	49,989.00
Arts Council of Wales - Abergavenny Borough Theatre Works	50,000.00
WG – All Wales Play Opportunities Grant	128,000.00
WG - MUCH Project (Magor with Undy Community Hall)	1,145,000.00
National lottery community fund - MUCH Project (Magor with Undy Community Hall)	300,000
Monmouth Town Football Club - Spectator Stand (Wonastow Road)	37,948.72
WG - School Refurbishment Grant	1,270,711.00
WG - Flying Start - Minor Improvements	50,000.00
Total Grant funded	4,011,648.72
Section 106 Funded	
S106 - Off Road Cycling Feasibility Study	28,000.00
S106 - Rockfield Central Open Space and Play Area (Wonastow Road)	40,000.00
S106 - Sudbrook Play Park Equipment (The Old Shipyard Sudbrook)	20,580.00
S106 - Goytre Playing Field Recreational & Play Facilities upgrade	82,572.00
S106 – MUCH Project (Magor with Undy Community Hall)	800,000.00
Total Section 106 Funded	971,152.00
Total	4,982,800.72

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REPORT

SUBJECT:	Revenue and Capital Budget 2022/23 – Final proposals following scrutiny and public consultation
MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	2nd March 2022
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To update Cabinet with the consultation responses to the draft budget proposals issued by them on the 19th January in respect of the Capital and Revenue budgets for 2022/23.
- 1.2 To update members with implications arising from the Provisional Local Government Settlement announcement of the Welsh Government as well as providing update with regards to the awaited Final Settlement announcement.
- 1.3 To make recommendations to Council on the Capital and Revenue budgets and level of Council Tax for 2022/23.
- 1.4 To receive the Responsible Financial Officer's Prudential Indicator calculations for capital financing.
- 1.5 To receive the statutory report of the Responsible Financial Officer on the budget process and the adequacy of reserves.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Cabinet considers the responses to consultation and recommends to Council:
 - a) The 2022/23 revenue budget as attached in **Appendix H2**.
 - b) The 2022/23 to 2025/26 capital programme as attached in **Appendix I1**.
- 2.2 That Cabinet acknowledges that the final budget proposals proposed look to support the priorities of the council and specifically seek to recognise:
 - a) All pay and pension related spending pressures in our schooling system, up to a threshold of a 3% pay award
 - b) The increasing demand on schools and the Local Education Authority of pupils with additional learning needs
 - c) The increasing complexity of cases being placed on our children's social services in respect of looked after children and for whom the Council acts as corporate parent
 - d) The growing impact of an ageing population on adult social services and the challenges that result from a fragile and unsustainable social care market in Wales

- e) Significant service pressures within the passenger transport unit and within recycling and waste and that look to ensure that the Council supports and sustains key service delivery
 - f) Responding to the needs of homelessness with housing related support
 - g) Further investment in our Highways and transport infrastructure alongside our IT and network estate
- 2.3 That a 2.95% increase in the Band “D” equivalent Council Tax is used as the planning assumption in the budget model and to apply for County purposes in 2022/23, reduced from the previous proposed increase of 3.95% and as a result of public consultation.
- 2.4 That Cabinet approves the revised saving and pressure proposals, updated following public consultation, scrutiny and more up to date information being made available since the draft proposals were released on consultation on 19th January 2022.
- 2.5 That Cabinet recommends the additional capital investment of £4.84m for 2022/23 and a further £4.38m over indicative capital budgets from 2023/24 to 2025/26 and as identified in **Appendix I2**.
- 2.6 That Cabinet recommends Council to dispose of assets identified in the exempt background paper at best value.
- 2.7 That Cabinet considers the Responsible Financial Officer’s report on the robustness of the budget process and the adequacy of reserves issued under the provisions of the Local Government Act, 2003, together with an assessment of the current and future financial risks facing the Council.
- 2.8 That Cabinet adopts the Responsible Financial Officer’s report on Prudential Indicators.
- 2.9 That Cabinet approves that:
- a) Further work is undertaken to develop a balanced Medium Term Financial Plan.
 - b) Regular review is undertaken of the MTFP to ensure it remains up to date, and that it includes an assessment of evidence based pressures and risks, underlying modelling assumptions and the ongoing affordability implications of the Corporate Plan.

3. KEY ISSUES:

BUDGET CONSULTATION

- 3.1 Cabinet issued its budget consultation proposals on 19th January 2022 thereby allowing a period for public consultation and scrutiny.
- 3.2 The pandemic and the current restrictions continued to place an additional challenge on being able to adequately consult with residents. As a result the Council:
- a) Maintained a dedicated page on the Council's website containing the draft budget proposals, a video blog by the Cabinet Member for Resources and an online feedback form;

- b) Made use of social media linked to press releases, the website and online forms to ensure that there is optimal reach to allow residents to become aware of and respond to the draft budget proposals.
 - c) All subscribers (c.15k people) of the MyMonmouthshire digital newsletter were sent information and links to all the consultation material, including the survey, and a reminder to register for the Budget Livestream.
- 3.3 There was an opportunity for the community to provide consultation responses via virtual online meetings with various consultative fora undertaken and via the website and social media where details of the proposals and consultation events were published.
- 3.4 The proposals were scrutinised by the Children's and Young People Select Committee, Strong Communities Select Committee, Adult Select Committee, and Economy and Development Select Committee, the Schools Budget Forum and the Joint Advisory Group (JAG).
- 3.5 Furthermore, budget consultation was undertaken through a Countywide virtual budget livestream event, and virtual meetings with MyMates, Engage to change (young people) and Head Teachers.
- 3.6 Extracts of the draft minutes from the Committees are included as **Appendices A1 to A6** respectively and a summary or notes of the engagement events together with feedback received are included in **Appendices A7 to A8**.
- 3.7 In terms of public engagement the use of the website and social media as a mechanism for sharing information and getting feedback has continued with active engagement and responses received. An overview of the Council's budget engagement is included in **Appendix A8**.
- 3.8 As might be expected, responses to consultation varied. However, there was a broad acceptance and understanding of the overall shape of the budget proposals and set against the backdrop of significant financial and demand driven challenges faced. Residents understood that the Council continued to look to protect frontline services and in particular those most vulnerable in our communities. And they also recognized the strain on the Council at this time of responding to the pandemic and how this also influenced the nature of the budget proposals.
- 3.9 There were a number of questions clarified via the Select Committee meetings and other consultation meetings. Clarification was provided at meetings and via responses to pre-submitted questions made available on the Council's website. The budget presentation delivered at the consultation events was made widely available via the Council's website. And the Cabinet Member for Resources delivered a video message to explain the challenges being facing in 2022/23 and how the Council was looking to respond to them.
- 3.10 The process in general has worked well, with thorough debate having taken place through scrutiny and public consultation events. Although attendance was down from the previous year's consultation events, a number of residents commented that they benefitted from the ability to access the meetings virtually. Constructive feedback was again also provided on how the budget consultation could be improved and this will be taken on board as part of ongoing improvement in the process.
- 3.11 In respect of the capital budget proposals, general support was expressed about the need to continue to invest in schools whilst recognising that there are future pressures to be managed. Concerns were also raised with regards to overstretched infrastructure, the impact of ash tree dieback disease and level of reserves held.

- 3.12 Clarification around the future commitment to climate emergency and environmental issues was sought and how far future capital investment plans go towards meeting the challenges faced.
- 3.13 In terms of the key issues and concerns raised as part of the consultation, engagement and scrutiny process and which concern the revenue budget proposals specifically, these principally revolved around:
- A significant number of residents raising concern about the level of council tax increase proposed, especially in light of cost of living and inflationary pressures being experienced in households. However, there was a recognition that the choices available to the Council were limited in the face of significant pressures and inadequate funding being received from Welsh Government, especially on a per capita basis.
 - Reassurances around the risks and uncertainties that the Council was facing at this time and into the future. With particular concern around Homelessness, MonLife income losses and the impact on the Council's commercial investment portfolio.
 - Concerns raised around continued pressure on services such as in social care, operational frontline services and with children with additional learning needs.
 - Overriding support for the investment in the Adult social care budget and concerns around the growing impact of an ageing population on adult social services and the challenges that result from a fragile and unsustainable social care market in Wales.
 - Feedback via select committees, consultation events and online forms from residents questioning the level of funding that Monmouthshire receives from the Welsh Government and the fairness in the formula distribution.
 - Clarification was sought around future changes in the Waste & recycling service and the benefits that these would provide to service users.
 - Interest in the planned increases around fees and charges in Enterprise and Social care and to ensure those without sufficient means were not being adversely impacted by the increases.
 - Acceptance from the School Budget Forum and Head Teachers that schools budgets will see a cash increase and pay pressures will be funded as they impact schools and up to a threshold of a 3% pay award.
- 3.14 As stated above there was a general consensus reached by respondents that the funding formula used by Welsh Government to allocate funding to Welsh authorities disproportionately disadvantaged Monmouthshire and failed to recognise both the areas of deprivation within the County and its rurality. There was overriding support that the Council should continue to challenge Welsh Government on the need for a fairer funding formula that looks to take account of these issues.
- 3.15 As a result of the consultation and upon subsequent reflection of concerns raised, alongside further changes brought about by targeted work undertaken, it is recommended that the following revisions are made to the pressure and savings proposals:
- a) That the proposed council tax increase of 3.95% is reduced to 2.95%.
 - b) Further investment is made in the capital programme, and that will result in additional investment in our Infrastructure and in meeting the longer term housing needs of the Homeless.

- c) That the Commercial investment income budget pressure is reduced by £708k, reflective of revised expectations around tenancy levels for 2022/23, and that results in overall net pressure in respect of the commercial investment portfolio for 2022/23 being reduced to £42k, maintaining significant levels of net income to support frontline services.

PROVISIONAL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT

- 3.16 The Welsh Government published its draft budget on 20th December 2021. The overall increase in the Welsh Government draft revenue budget was £2.6bn (14%). Revenue spending will increase by £2.5bn (15%) and spending on capital will increase by £122m (5%). The Welsh Government's Budget provides indicative figures for future years, which means we return to a regime of multiyear settlements. Indicative grants allocations for 2023/24 and 2024/25 will help future financial planning across the MTFP. Unlike in recent years where such indicative figures for future years have not been available.
- 3.17 On 21st December 2021 the Minister for Housing and Local Government published the provisional local government finance settlement. There is an average increase in the revenue settlement (Aggregate External Finance) of 9.4% for 2022/23 on a like-for-like basis and including transfers that for Monmouthshire only related to a proportion of the Social Care Workforce Development grant transferring into the AEF. The Welsh Government has increased AEF for local authorities in Wales by £437m.
- 3.18 The Council in fact saw an increase in its AEF of 11.2%, above the all-Wales average of 9.4% and the highest percentage increase of any Welsh local authority. On the one hand this was welcome news as it enables some of the pressures needing to be accommodated in the budget proposals to be offset. And was significantly ahead of the original and prudent modelling assumption factored into the MTFP. However, the Council still remains rooted to the bottom of the table for funding per capita (£1,176 per capita).
- 3.19 The Minister's letter sets indicative, Wales-level, core revenue funding allocations in subsequent years which equates to an uplift in 2023/24 of 3.5% and 2024/25 of 2.4%. As the Minister points out, these figures are indicative and dependent on estimates of NDR income over the multi-year settlement period, and UK Government decisions. This is, however, a welcome step forward as noted above.
- 3.20 Whilst a significant proportion of pressures have been funded by this settlement there is a question mark over the actual pressures that will arise for pay. Welsh Government has been clear that authorities' budget planning must accommodate the cost of pay awards and in light of the settlement.
- 3.21 Welsh Government also confirmed that the settlement includes funding to enable authorities to meet the additional costs of starting to pay the Real Living Wage (RLW) of £9.90 an hour to social care workers from April 2022. The Council already commits to paying its paid workforce at the RLW. For commissioned care it is anticipated that market providers are already having to pay staff above RLW and in light of the well publicised challenges with recruitment and retention and at a time when Welsh Government is removing the funding support through its COVID hardship fund. The funding included in the settlement remains unencumbered within the settlement and therefore assists the Council in making further budget provision and contingency that allow the Council to suitably respond to challenges brought about by the fragility of the care sector and the current levels of unmet need.
- 3.22 Welsh Government have confirmed that the COVID hardship fund, that has met significant COVID pressures over the last two years, in the form of increased costs and income losses,

will come to an end at the end of the 2021/22 financial year. The consequence of this is that the ongoing impacts of the pandemic, either directly or indirectly, will need to be met by the Council unless specific grant funding from Welsh Government subsequently allows for such impacts to be met. The budget proposals make reference to continued risks around further potential unfunded pressures with homelessness, social care and leisure centre income. And to the extent that these risks materialise then further budget recovery action will need to be taken in 2022/23. The Council will continue to engage both WLGA and Welsh Government directly to ensure that Monmouthshire's circumstances are both known and understood.

- 3.23 On a like-for-like basis specific revenue grants will increase from £1.142bn to £1.146bn across Wales which is a slight increase of about 0.4%. Many of the grants remain unchanged from 2021/22 figures, and some are yet to be finalised. There are still a number of grant announcements to be made and this position is extremely disappointing as it makes planning for next year's budget even more difficult. It is hoped that the final settlement on 1st March will provide further clarification. The current position on Welsh Government specific grants (all Wales) is included in **Appendix C**. There are a number of significant grants where the Authority remains unclear as to the amount to be received and resultant terms and conditions attached.
- 3.24 A table showing each authorities position resulting from the provisional settlement is included at **Appendix B1** to this report. Monmouthshire again remains at the bottom of the table in terms of AEF per head of population. A response to Welsh Government regarding the Provisional Settlement is attached at **Appendix B2**.
- 3.25 Whilst no further changes to funding levels are anticipated as a result of the final settlement announcement by Welsh Government on 1st March any further changes to the budget will need be considered as part of the Council Tax resolution when it is considered by Full Council on 3rd March 2022.
- 3.26 There is still however a need to think differently about the even greater challenges over the medium term and this work and engagement will continue in the coming months, and notably with other local authorities, Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and where funding distribution and projections are concerned. Specifically, the Leader continues to garner support with the WLGA rural forum for an evidence based review of the funding formula to be undertaken to demonstrate how rural authorities are disadvantaged in the formula distribution.
- 3.27 Alongside this the ongoing financial challenges remain as always a dynamic situation. Subsequent to a new administration outlining its policy aims and ambitions post May a new Corporate Plan will inform and influence a full update of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Plan later in 2022 and part of the preparations leading into the 2023/24 budget process. This comprehensive update will include an ongoing assessment of pressures, risks and modelling assumptions. As well as savings proposals and options that together with a robust and updated capital receipts and reserves strategy enables the Council's finances to be put on a sustainable footing.

BUDGET PROCESS CONTEXT AND CHANGES

- 3.28 Subsequent to Cabinet's budget consideration on 19th January 2022, revenue budget proposals went on consultation and which looked to accommodate £10.41m of pressures by way of savings proposals of £1.55m and a one-off contribution from the Council's general reserves of £863k. Work has continued to review and revise existing and new savings and pressures in the light of further engagement and scrutiny. All the original proposals are available as part of the draft budget proposals. Details of revised savings

and pressures and the movement from draft to final proposals are included in **Appendix D** and **E**.

3.29 The table below illustrates the movements that have been seen as a result of the budget proposals being finalized and subsequent to public consultation, scrutiny and more up to date information being made available since the draft proposals were released on consultation on 19th January 2022.

Budget Reconciliation	Amount £'000
Draft budget proposals – budget shortfall	0
Revisions and additions to pressures	(299)
Revisions and additions to savings	(575)
Update to treasury and appropriation budgets	(250)
Update to full cost Corporate budgets	(347)
Reduction in council tax increase	608
Removal of one-off contribution from Council Fund	863
Final budget proposals – budget shortfall	0

3.30 The revisions and additions to pressures are summarised as follows:

- A £55,000 investment to increase capacity and expertise in the council's equality and Welsh language functions to ensure that all areas of the work are carried out in accordance with the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011 and Welsh Language Standards which apply to the authority.
- £263,000 to meet the cost of holiday pay entitlement under legislation for staff who regularly work over their contracted hours as part of their normal working pattern, or casual staff who are given standard working hours.
- A £668,000 revision to the pressure for employer national insurance contributions which will increase by 1.25%, reflecting the requirement of Central Government to collect and earmark the additional funds to be spent on the NHS and social care in the UK.
- A reduction in the Commercial investment income pressure of £408,000 reflecting revised expectations around tenancy levels at Castlegate and Newport Leisure Park for the 2022/23 financial year.
- A reduction in the pressure relating to the budget provision and contingency that will allow the Council to suitably respond to the challenges brought about by the fragility of the care sector and the current levels of unmet need. Further analysis around the trends in unbudgeted grant being received within this service, together with a strengthening of the reserve cover that will result from an anticipated under spend in 2021/22, has resulted in the pressure being revised downwards by £700,000.

- Due to the current positive position around the disposal cost of Waste recycles the Waste services budget pressure has been reduced by £100,000.
- The Council received final notice from the South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority of their precept for next year after the draft budget was released and this has now been revised downwards by £77,000 following final clarification.

3.31 The revisions and additions to savings are summarised as follows:

- An assessment of properties in temporary Council tax bands and likely new properties eligible for Council tax charging during 2022/23 has resulted in further income being forecast over and above the draft budget estimates of £275,000.
- Increases in wholesale electricity prices have driven up the rate that achievable for the units produced by our Solar Farm. We have recently received the results from the energy auction and there is potential for our turnover to increase by at least £300,000 in 2022/23.

3.32 Further changes to the budget proposals for 2022/23 include:

- As is the case ahead of the final budget proposals being prepared a full and further update is undertaken, based on most recent forecasts, of treasury budgets. This aligns with the work done in parallel in producing the Council's treasury strategy for 2022/23. As a result of the significant work undertaken by officers and treasury advisors the Council will be looking to make more continued use of short-term borrowing during 2022/23 and resulting from the continued low interest rate environment. The consequence of this has been a net reduction in anticipated treasury costs of £250,000.
- The modelling assumption for the non-teaching pay award has been revised downwards from 4% to 3.5%, reducing the estimated pressure by £347,000. Any increase in pay award above this will draw further on the Council's finances and therefore this remains a key risk. It is felt that the risk has been suitably mitigated and within the affordability constraints faced by the Council. However, a risk remains regardless given inflation and cost of living pressures playing out nationally. The Council awaits subsequent notification on pay from awarding bodies and that will now extend into 2022/23 and where pay awards are subject to consultation with trade unions.
- The increase in the Band "D" equivalent Council Tax for the County has been reduced from 3.95% to 2.95% and resulting from resident feedback and the budget consultation and scrutiny process. The consequence of this will be a reduction in council tax income of £608,000 in 2022/23 and has a continued impact on the MTFP going forward.
- The consequence of the adjustments results in the originally proposed one-off contribution from general reserves of £863,000 now no longer being required. This is welcomed and allows for the retained headroom within the Council Fund above minimum 4% thresholds to be reserved as cover against future financial risks and challenges.

3.33 Whilst no further changes to funding levels are anticipated as a result of the final settlement announcement by Welsh Government on 1st March, any further proposed changes to the budget proposals will be considered as part of the Council Tax resolution when it is considered by Full Council on 3rd March 2022.

3.34 It is worth noting that the ongoing financial challenges remain as always a dynamic situation. As stated in recommendation 2.9 further work will be undertaken to develop the MTFP and that will include an ongoing assessment of pressures, risks and modelling assumptions. Notably key risks remaining to be assessed and managed in 2022/23 and as yet unknown are:

- The Council is grateful to Welsh Government for the continued funding provided to local authorities via its COVID Hardship Fund to offset significant COVID related expenditure and income losses to date. However, the COVID Hardship Fund ceases with effect from the 31st March 2022 and Welsh Government have confirmed that the settlement makes allowance for the residual impacts that Councils will continue to bear. That being said clarification is still being sought around further specific grant funding and where the Council carries specific risks into 2022/23. Notably around homelessness pressures and where the fragility of the social care system is concerned. Reserve cover will be established and that looks to take opportunity of the now anticipated under spend for the current 2021/22 financial year and to ensure that provision is in place to cover any resultant and residual risk that cannot be managed by way of in-year budget recovery action.
- A residual financial risk relates to the pay awards for local government staff and teaching staff. The Minister has already made it clear when issuing the provisional settlement that provision had been made for pay awards in the settlement and that no further funding would be provided subsequently. The implications of pay awards in 2022/23 will therefore need to be accommodated within the Council's budget planning and through reserve cover in place as required.

Local government pay is nationally set by Local Government Employers (LGE) and Teachers pay in Wales is set by the IWPRB (Independent Welsh Pay Review Body). Pay budgets have been built on a modelling assumption and pay award of 3.5%, with funding for schools provided for all pay and pension related pressures up to a pay award of 3%. Any increase in pay award above this will draw further on the Council's finances and therefore this remains a key risk. It is felt that the risk has been suitably mitigated and within the affordability constraints faced by the Council. However, a risk remains regardless given inflation and cost of living pressures playing out nationally. The Council awaits subsequent notification on pay from awarding bodies and that will now extend into 2022/23 and where pay awards are subject to consultation with trade unions.

- Clarification is still being sought on levels of specific revenue and capital grant funding for next year. It was hoped that further detail is provided when Welsh Government released the final settlement on 1st March. Whilst further confirmation has been received around all-Wales grant allocation the Council is yet to receive confirmation of all of its specific allocations. This will be closely monitored in the coming weeks and any material impacts will be considered as part of in-year budget monitoring with recovery action being taken as required. Furthermore, and whilst the late and significant grant funding from Welsh Government is very much welcomed it does not aid financial planning over the medium term nor does it allow for effective decision making and where budget recovery action has to be taken to arrest over spends that are then subsequently offset by unexpected specific grant income.
- Demand-led pressures remain, as evidenced by the extent and level of pressures needing to be accommodated within these budget proposals. Ongoing budget monitoring and review of pressures will identify whether any further pressures need to

be managed. As stated this is a dynamic situation to which the Authority will respond as any situation evolves.

Council Tax

- 3.35 The increase in the Band “D” equivalent Council Tax for the County has been reduced from 3.95% to 2.95% and resulting from resident feedback and the budget consultation and scrutiny process. The revised increase of 2.95% is now being used as the planning assumption in the budget model and to apply for County purposes in 2022/23, reverting to a 3.95% increase for 2023/24 and in each of the subsequent 2 years.

OVERALL REVENUE BUDGET POSITION

- 3.36 The current revenue position for each of the next 4 years is included in **Appendix H2**. The proposed position for 2022/23 specifically is:

Services	Indicative Base 2022/23 £000	Indicative Base 2023/24 £000	Indicative Base 2024/25 £000	Indicative Base 2025/26 £000
Children & Young People	58,990	60,350	61,481	62,613
Social Care & Health	57,877	58,685	59,361	60,165
Enterprise	23,827	24,206	24,920	25,683
MonLife	4,430	4,676	4,913	5,157
Resources	7,023	7,292	7,509	7,732
Chief Executive's Unit	3,046	2,961	3,047	3,136
People & Governance	4,078	4,210	4,326	4,445
Corporate Costs & Levies	26,204	34,109	39,847	45,705
Sub Total	185,475	196,491	205,406	214,637
Transfers to reserves	188	63	63	63
Transfers from reserves	(494)	(88)	(88)	(88)
Treasury	7,050	8,123	8,586	9,168
Appropriations Total	6,744	8,098	8,561	9,143
Total Expenditure Budget	192,220	204,588	213,966	223,781
Aggregate External Financing (AEF)	(112,275)	(116,205)	(118,993)	(121,373)
Council Tax (MCC)	(62,596)	(65,069)	(67,639)	(70,311)
Council Tax (Gwent Police)	(14,191)	(14,752)	(15,334)	(15,940)
Council Tax (Community Councils)	(3,158)	(3,158)	(3,158)	(3,158)
Contribution to/(from) Council Fund	0	0	0	0
Sub Total Financing	(192,220)	(199,183)	(205,125)	(210,782)
(Headroom)/Shortfall	0	5,406	8,842	12,999

Note: An explanation of how services are grouped is included in **Appendix M**.

CAPITAL BUDGET

- 3.37 On September 19th 2019 Council approved the first full Capital Strategy, an annual requirement of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance that was updated in 2017. The Authority's Capital Strategy is required to define at a high level how the Authority ensures its capital plans:
- Contribute to the provision of local public services;
 - Are affordable, prudent and sustainable;
 - Demonstrate that existing assets are adequately maintained;
 - Are developed with a full understanding of the risks involved;
 - Are appropriate for the Authority and suit local circumstances; and
 - Have due regard for the long term financing implications and risks to the Authority.
- 3.38 In preparing the draft capital budget proposals for 2022/23 and the subsequent three years of the capital MTFP regard has been given to underlying principles of the current strategy and that remained fit for purpose.
- 3.39 An updated capital strategy for 2022/23 will be considered by Council alongside the treasury strategy at its meeting on 3rd March 2022. The draft revised strategy is appended for information at **appendix K**.
- 3.40 The capital MTFP and capital strategy seek to work towards a financially sustainable core capital programme, whilst balancing the need to deliver capital investment plans in line with policy commitment and need.
- 3.41 The draft capital budget proposals were prepared on this basis and were issued by Cabinet for consultation purposes at its meeting on 19th January 2022. They included a schedule of proposed further capital investment for consideration by Cabinet and through the consultation process.
- 3.42 During the financial year, any new schemes volunteered can only be added to the programme if the business case demonstrates either:
- That they are self-financing;
 - The scheme is deemed a higher priority than current schemes in the programme and therefore displaces it;
 - They do not compromise the core principles of affordability, sustainability or prudence
- 3.43 When considering the relative merits of projects and potential displacement, the priority matrix in the capital strategy will be applied, either endorsing or amending it for onward consideration by full Council.
- 3.44 The Welsh Government provisional funding settlement announced on 21st December 2021 highlighted a reduction of £762k in respect of core general capital grant for 2022/23. This is extremely disappointing, especially in light of the Councils limited recourse to internal resources in the form of capital reserves and receipts, or the additional revenue burden that would materialise from any resultant borrowing to meet the funding gap. This is expected to be a one-year reduction only and modelling assumptions assume a return to

previous levels for the latter 3 years of the capital MTFP. Any continued reduction in future years would have consequences on both capital and revenue budgets.

- 3.45 However, since the draft budget proposals were released the Council has been notified of a further allocation of general capital grant for 2021/22 of £1.917m and it is proposed that this will be carried over to mitigate in full the reduction of £762k, with the remaining amount contributing to the further capital investment recommended to be made during 2022/23.
- 3.46 The proposed changes to the capital programme since the draft proposals were released on consultation by Cabinet on January 19th, based on feedback from public consultation and scrutiny, more up to date information being made available, and clarification of the urgent capital risks impacting 2022/23 have resulted in the following increases in the capital programme:

Financial Year	Draft proposals £'000	Final proposals £'000	Increase £'000
2022/22	26,242	31,086	4,844
2023/24	10,538	13,796	3,258
2024/25	10,665	11,278	613
2025/26	10,665	11,178	513

- 3.47 The further recommended capital investment has been assessed using the principles of the Council's capital strategy, with the investment representing a requirement for more urgent and targeted investment and that unless addressed, will present significant Health & safety or legal implications for the Council. It therefore represents investment that is considered affordable, prudent and sustainable and that will prevent future additional cost burden falling upon the Council.
- 3.48 The further investment recommended is summarized below alongside the recommend financing envelope, and outlined in more detail in **Appendix I2**.

Capital Budget	Indicative Budget 2022/23 £000	Indicative Budget 2023/24 £000	Indicative Budget 2024/25 £000	Indicative Budget 2025/26 £000
Highways - additional infrastructure investment	627			
Tintern wireworks bridge	800			
Wye Bridge Chepstow	188	375		
Wye Bridge Monmouth	150	2,170		
Ash Dieback/Dangerous Trees	400	300	200	100
CCTV for bus fleet	200			
Infrastructure & Transport Schemes	2,365	2,845	200	100
ICT Desktop replacement	260	260	260	260
Network Estate replacement	116	50	50	50
SRS capital reserve contribution	61	61	61	61
Ransomware & security software	42	42	42	42
ICT Schemes	479	413	413	413
Match funding for Housing provision	2,000			
Other Schemes	2,000	0	0	0

Total Expenditure	4,844	3,258	613	513
Unsupported Borrowing - Tintern Bridge	(800)			
Unsupported Borrowing - Highways works	(627)			
Unsupported Borrowing - Wye Bridge Chepstow		(375)		
Unsupported Borrowing - Wye Bridge Monmouth		(2,170)		
Unsupported Borrowing - Match Funding (Housing)	(2,000)			
Unsupported Borrowing	(3,427)	(2,545)	0	0
2021/22 General capital grant	(1,154)			
Grants & Contributions	(1,154)	0	0	0
ICT Reserve - SRS capital reserve contribution		(61)	(61)	(60)
ICT Reserve - Ransomware & security software		(42)	(42)	(42)
ICT Reserve Funded	0	(103)	(103)	(103)
Capital Receipts - ICT Desktop replacement	(260)	(260)	(260)	(260)
Capital Receipts - Network Estate replacement	(2)	(50)	(50)	(50)
Capital Receipts - Ash Tree Die Back/Dangerous Trees		(300)	(200)	(100)
Capital Receipts	(262)	(610)	(510)	(410)
Total Funding	(4,844)	(3,258)	(613)	(513)

3.49 Investment in our Infrastructure and housing based assets commonly results in the economic benefits being derived over of the longer term, sometimes as long as 50 years+, and as such longer term loan funding can be sourced at competitive rates with limited annual revenue budget volatility. The Council derives greater revenue benefit by using capital receipts in affording replacement of short life assets, such as ICT and Network assets, given the avoidance of proportionately more significant borrowing costs.

3.50 The Council's borrowing costs remain sustainable within the context of the Authorities overall revenue budget in so much that they are fully provided for within the final Revenue budget and within the medium term financial plan. The borrowing costs will be spread over no more than, the lower of 50 years and the expected economic life of the resultant asset, so the assets will be paid for by the Council tax payers benefitting from them over the life of the assets.

3.51 The specific additions to the capital budget proposals for are:

- Investment in our Infrastructure and transport network through works to repair & strengthen our bridges at Tintern Wireworks, Wye Bridge Monmouth and Wye Bridge Chepstow; Highways refurbishment schemes to maintain the existing level of investment and address locally problematic issues; Management of Ash Tree dieback disease and associated dangerous trees; CCTV cameras for our PTU buses to support in future investigations into accidents and damage.
- Investment in our ICT and network estate using the identified asset replacement plan which will look to improve the resilience of our service delivery in light of increased demands on connectivity in the current working environment.
- Investment to address to longer term housing needs of the homeless within the County and that looks to create a more sustainable and cost effective approach following the change in Welsh Government policy.

3.1 The Summary Capital MTFP is shown in **Appendix I1**. Whilst the further planned investment in the Council's infrastructure goes a long way in meeting the requirement to maintain our existing estate, there still remains a considerable number of backlog pressures that sit outside of the core capital programme as indicated in **Appendix I8**, and

this will continue to have varying levels of risk associated with it. Cabinet have previously acknowledged and accepted this risk.

- 3.52 **Appendix I4**, the capital receipts summary shows the expected level of receipts and planned usage and highlights the balances available in the next few years. Future investment in capital schemes, is in part dependent on future success of achieving capital receipts and there are risks attached to some receipts materializing as shown in **Appendix I5**. The revised forecast receipt schedule is provided as exempt background papers to this report for Members approval as **Appendix I6**.
- 3.53 The value of Capital receipts forecast after 2022/23 drops off quite considerably which is reflective of the replacement local development plan (RDLP) not proceeding as quickly as envisaged in the original delivery agreement. This will have a substantial impact on the balance of receipts available to fund future capital investment demands. It is therefore important that reliance on capital receipts used to support capitalisation direction (to fund one-off revenue costs eligible to be met from capital resources) is seen as a short term measure only.

THE PRUDENTIAL CODE

- 3.54 Under the Prudential Code, local authorities are required to publish Prudential Indicators produced to demonstrate that capital programmes are prudent, sustainable and affordable in the longer term. The indicators for 2022/23 to 2025/26 are contained at **Appendix J** to this report, assuming eventual Council approval of Cabinet's budget and Council Tax recommendations.

THE ROBUSTNESS OF PROCESS AND RESERVES

- 3.55 The level of the Council Fund, The Council's general reserve, is at £8.9 million, subject to 2021/22 year-end, but at present it is within the range of 4-6% of net revenue budget and considered to be at a prudent level. The final revenue budget proposals do not now include a requirement to use any of the general reserve to balance the budget in 2022/23.
- 3.56 The Council tactically created headroom in its general reserve at the end of 2019/20 and based on this current assessment the headroom above the de minimum 4% threshold in general reserves stands at £1.912m.
- 3.57 The focus therefore turns to the uncertain outlook and future financial challenges and where the headroom in the Council Fund balance is reserved and if required to cover the following, and where mitigating budgetary recovery action is unable to manage such pressures on the Council's budget:
- Any budget pressure in 2022/23 resulting from pay award announcements in excess of the 3.5% modelling assumption in the final budget proposals;
 - Any continuing Covid-19 related pressures caused by the lasting impact of the pandemic, particularly in the areas of Homelessness, Adult social care, Leisure service demand and rental income;
 - Any one-off contributions needed in 2022/23 and to the extent that in-year budget recovery action is unable to mitigate service pressures and over spends;
 - To allow for any future reserve cover across the MTFP and beyond and as the Council looks to put its finances back on a sustainable footing.

- 3.58 Pre pandemic, net school balances had remained at low levels and had reduced to a net deficit balance of £435k. Receipt of unprecedented levels of grant support from Welsh Government during 2020/21 and 2021/22 have looked to ensure support for schools and their pupils during a period of significant disruption to learning. This has resulted in schools balances currently being forecast to be in surplus at the end of 2021/22 of £4.105m and despite significant investment plans in place this year.
- 3.59 Irrespective of the significant one-off funding given to schools, it is clear that the inherent structural budget deficits that led to a significant number of schools being in deficit over the past few years remain and these will require resolution regardless. It is expected that the additional funding made available to those schools will allow a period of transition and as to allow those underlying budgetary issues to be rectified without impacting on educational standards.
- 3.60 Continued emphasis is placed by LEA finance colleagues to agree budgets with schools that are sustainable to the resources available rather than passporting additional deficits to their school reserve. Recovery plans are in place for the two schools remaining in deficit and are being closely monitored by the LEA and relevant Cabinet members.
- 3.61 The total planned net earmarked reserve utilization in support of the 2022/23 revenue and capital budget is £0.41m. **Appendix G1** shows the call on and contributions to reserves for the 2022/23 budget and **Appendix G2** shows the reserve balances projected for the medium term. Total planned reserve utilization in support of current year revenue and capital budgets means that by the end of 2021/22 the balance of earmarked reserves is likely to be £10.1m. The further call in 2022/23 means that the earmarked reserves will fall to £9.7m, with the useable balance down to £6.57m.
- 3.62 Useable capital receipts also provide a limited one-off resource to support financing of the capital programme. In recent years the Council has also made use of Welsh Government's guidance allowing flexible use of capital receipts to meet one-off costs associated with service reform. The Council has needed to make use of this flexibility in 2019/20, 2020/21 2021/22, and similarly in 2022/23 and over the remaining three years of the MTFP. Useable capital receipts are forecast to reduce to £7.2m by the end of 2025/26 based on the capital MTFP. The continued use of capital receipts for this purpose is recognized as a necessary but unsustainable approach and has the added consequence of requiring the Council to fund any further and future capital investment through prudential borrowing where it cannot be met from other sources.
- 3.63 Under the provisions of the 2003 Local Government Act, the Responsible Financial Officer has to provide conclusions on the robustness of the budget process and the adequacy of reserves. Those conclusions are shown at **Appendix F**. The RFO opinion also includes an acknowledgement of the risks taken into account in producing the budget proposals for 2022/23 as well as those budgetary risks that will need to be managed going forward in the MTFP.
- 3.64 The effect of Cabinets revenue budget recommendations is shown at **Appendix H**. The effect of Cabinet's capital recommendations is shown at **Appendix I**. Final Council Tax setting is reserved for decision of Full Council on 3rd March 2022.

4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL:

- 4.1 Chief Officers and Directorates are required to consider and outline the options that have been considered for each of the budget savings proposals and pressures accommodated within the final budget proposals presented in this report.

4.2 The detail is contained in the original budget mandates that supported the drafted budget proposals. Where new or amended proposals have been considered as part of the final budget proposals these are available under **appendix E1 & E2**.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA:

5.1 The means of assessing whether the final budget proposals for 2022/23 have been successfully implemented is undertaken throughout the year via regular budget monitoring and periodic reports to Cabinet and then to Select committees for scrutiny.

5.2 Since the start of the pandemic the Council has been reporting on both Covid-19 and core budget variances, with the former being funded by Welsh Government to date through the Covid Hardship Fund. It is expected that reporting will revert back to previous practice in 2022/23 with the hardship fund due to close on 31st March 2022.

5.3 Subsequent to a new administration outlining its policy aims and ambitions post May a new Corporate Plan will inform and influence a full update of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Plan later in 2022 and part of the preparations leading into the 2023/24 budget process. This comprehensive update will include an ongoing assessment of pressures, risks and modelling assumptions. As well as savings proposals and options that together with a robust and updated capital receipts and reserves strategy enables the Council's finances to be put on a sustainable footing.

6. REASONS:

6.1 To make appropriate recommendations to Council on the revenue and capital budgets for 2022/23, and the resultant Council Tax recommended to be set for County purposes, taking into account the public consultation and scrutiny in January and February.

6.2 To sustain the capital programme and establish capital resources to support the programme by the sale of surplus assets where this is deemed necessary and appropriate.

6.3 As required by statute, to consider the Responsible Financial Officer's conclusions on the robustness on the budget process and the adequacy of reserves going forward.

6.4 To approve the Prudential Capital Indicators calculated by the Responsible Financial Officer.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

As identified within the report and appendices.

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

8.1 There is a requirement placed on Local Authorities to comply with the general equality duties set out in the Equality Act 2010 and the specific equality duties such as the statutory responsibilities to assess the equality impacts of their budgetary decisions. The Equality Act 2010 places a General Duty on Monmouthshire County Council to eliminate discrimination according to "protected characteristics" (age, religion or belief, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, sex and sexual orientation). Also we need to comply with the Welsh Language Act 1993 and the Welsh Language Measure 2011 through which the Welsh Language Commissioner has shaped the Welsh Standards which came into force from 30th March 2016.

8.2 The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act requires public bodies to improve social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing, by taking action in accordance with the sustainable development principle aimed at achieving the Wellbeing Goals. The authority was an early adopter of The Act and re-shaped its pre-decision evaluation tool to reflect the well-being goals and the principles which it sets out.

8.3 The Council has continued to respond to these issues by building considerations of equality, diversity and sustainability into the planning and delivery of its 2022/23 budget. It has done this by:

- Requiring Chief Officers to undertake a Future Generations evaluation of savings proposals they offered for their service area to contribute towards the Council's overall savings target. Where necessary this evaluation has since been updated to reflect the final budget proposals and individual evaluations are linked to each budget proposal.
- Producing an overall FGE assessment of the revenue budget proposals and publishing this as part of the revenue budget proposals for consultation. This is attached as **appendix L** and the assessment has been updated as a result of budget consultation and the final revenue budget proposals being presented to Cabinet for consideration.
- Undertaking a FGE assessment of the capital budget proposals and publishing this as part of the capital budget proposals for consultation.
- Enabling the Council's Cabinet Members to consider savings proposals with the benefit of the FGEs, and to make initial decisions based on this information. The budget proposals reflect Cabinet's key priorities and therefore key services that support equalities – such as social care and schools.
- Deciding that once the final shape of the budget is agreed by Council in March, Council service areas carry out more detailed work to mitigate and manage any equalities or Future Generation issues that have been identified.
- Including the FGEs as part of this report and published on the Council's website so that residents can understand the factors that went into the planning of the 2022/23 budget.
- Ensuring that where proposals will be the subject of further reports it is expected that further FGEs will be undertaken at that time and where savings are being made from decisions already taken then those implementing those decisions should consider mitigating any negative impacts where necessary.

9. **CONSULTEES:** Cabinet, Strategic Leadership Teams

10. **BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

- a) Directorate Budget builds, detailed capital programme and associated papers
- b) Draft revenue budget proposals, draft capital budget proposals – released on consultation by Cabinet on 19th January 2022
- c) Provisional Local Government Settlement
- d) The CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Expenditure

11. **AUTHORS:**

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Appendices:

- A1 Extract of draft minutes of Adults Select Committee – 24th Jan 2022
- A2 Extract of draft minutes of Strong Communities Select Committee – 25th January 2022
- A3 Extract of draft minutes of Children & Young People Select Committee – 31st Jan 2022
- A4 Extract of draft minutes of Economy & Development Select Committee – 3rd February 2022
- A5 Draft minutes of Schools Budget Forum – 20th January 2022
- A6 Draft minutes of JAG (Joint Advisory Group) – 24th January 2022
- A7 Summary of Head Teachers meeting – 28th January 2022
- A8 Overview of Monmouthshire County Council budget engagement, including feedback from:
MyMates livestream event – 27th January 2022
Budget livestream event – 27th January 2022
Engage to change (young people) event – 27th January

- B1 Provisional Settlement Data
- B2 Provisional Settlement – MCC response letter
- C Specific Grants 2022/23 (All Wales)
- D Summary of savings and pressures
- E1 New Revenue budget mandates
- E2 Briefing note – change in draft revenue budget pressures and savings
- F Responsible Financial Officers Opinion
- G1 Use of reserves for Revenue Budget Purposes
- G2 Reserve Balances
- H1 Reconciliation through the Revenue budget process
- H2 Revenue Budget Summary
- I1 Capital Budget Summary
- I2 New capital investment summary
- I3 Future Schools Capital Budget Summary
- I4 Capital Receipts Balances
- I5 Receipt Risk Factors
- I6 Detailed Capital Receipts (Exempt – supplied under separate cover)
- I7 Exemption form for Appendix I6
- I8 Backlog capital pressures and medium term Monlife Investment considerations
- J Prudential Indicators
- K Capital and treasury management strategies 2022/23
- L Overall Wellbeing and Future Generations Evaluation
- M Revenue budget service groupings

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Select Committee	date	(Draft) Minute
Adults Select Committee	24 th January 2022	<p>Cabinet Member Phil Murphy delivered the presentation.</p> <p>Tyrone Stokes, Finance Manager for Social Care and Health, summarised the pressures on Adults Services:</p> <p>Pressures within Social Care and Health that are pertinent to Adults Select amount to £2.3m. Of this, £1m is for Adult Social Care (SCH2), relevant to what is needed to provide the service next year. The majority of this pressure comes from the over-recruitment of carers to our in-house domiciliary care service, in order for us to provide domiciliary care to our clients due to the fragility in the external care market. The rest of the pressure is what's been identified through doing the forecast this year. Just over £100k is the reduction in the Social Care Workforce and Sustainability grant, which contributes to core services. The remainder is from the Adults Select share of the increase to the real living wage, which amounts to £1.25m.</p> <p>There are £120k of savings from increases in fees and charges; the majority of this relates to Adults services, particularly means-tested residential and non-residential services. Domiciliary care services are presently capped at £100 a week – this is the maximum that someone would be expected to contribute, according to the legislation. But there is no cap for residential care i.e. if someone is assessed that they can pay the full fees themselves, that is what will be levied.</p> <p>Phil Murphy, Tyrone Stokes, Eve Parkinson and Jonathan Davies answered the members' questions.</p> <p>Challenge: <i>Could you detail the difference between £900k for DFGs and £250k for Access for All?</i></p>

These are two different grants. The £900k was made up from the base budget (and increased to that last year) – we had temporarily made it up in previous years. DFGs are for disabled modifications, and Access For All is a separate budget.

Regarding Social Care and a shortage of carers, some have been asked if they'd like to obtain their own carers and get direct payments back. Is there a standard for the time between claiming the payment back and receiving it?

Direct payments haven't changed: they have been in for many years. When someone is assessed by the social worker they are given the option of whether they would like a direct payment, to be used to employ their own carer. Once the assessment is done, and the care plan agreed, we always pay 4-weekly in advance, never in arrears. There might be a slight delay while we go through the costing and they set up a bank account but that's always been the case, and the advance payment overcomes this.

What percentage of people go for their own carers and get direct payments? Has this increased recently?

Take-up is at roughly 200, 8-10% of what we provide in terms of our domiciliary care provision to clients. There has been a bit of increase over the last year in the request for direct payments which has presented some problems with capacity. We did have a backlog because there was such an increase and have put in a temporary member of staff until financial year end – they are getting on top of things quickly and returning to an even keel.

Without families taking on their own care package would we therefore have a serious problem?

We have 200 people arranging their own care but we also have people for whom we don't have care arranged. The Health Board has a scheme for those around hospital discharge called Step Closer To Home, whereby people are placed in a short-term residential placement for approximately 6 weeks, while their care arrangements are

made. Predominantly, this is for people who want to return home or looking for a longer-term placement somewhere without any current availability. 60+ people have gone via the Step Closer To Home route; mostly we have been able to get them home, but it is a continual challenge to do so.

It seems that finding care providers over the next 12 months will be a struggle and we will look to encourage more families to take on the care themselves, via the direct payments? There seems to be a huge shortfall in the budget.

With direct payments, not all of it is to employ families or friends to be carers – some people choose to have the money to pay the care agency themselves because there might be a specific carer whom they wish to employ, rather than the agency sending out the rostered carer.

Cases I know of are because they've been told there are no carers available, and they have to get their own.

Unavailability of carers is a national problem, not unique to Monmouthshire. One of the factors is care being seen as a career. The move to the real living wage by Welsh Government is helpful but is just one element – the care sector market problem is multi-faceted and has been going on for a while. Covid has made for a perfect storm, bringing everything together. We can't simply solve the problem next year – we will need a strategy for next year, and then the next 3-5 years. We will have meetings to look at how we provide care in a sustainable way, going forward. We have started conversations with our independent providers about what those models might look like. We are in a very challenging and complex situation but we do try to ensure that we can meet the most pressing demand in the best way possible. Unfortunately, we have had to go through caseloads and reduce care for some people so that we can meet the increase in demand but have only done so where it has been safe.

Could the Real Living Wage be further explained?

We had the National Minimum Wage, the minimum legal requirement that has been in place for many years. It was set at £8.91 per hour. The UK Chancellor increased it in his Autumn budget to £9.50, and the Real Living Wage – which is optional – was then increased from £9.50 to £9.90. Following the First Minister’s 21st December 2021 announcement, there was a move to the real living wage being delivered in Wales, with the first sector targeted being Social Care, covering adults and children. What we’ve costed is the impact of moving from the national minimum wage to the real living wage. The overall pressure is £1.9m for social care, of which £1.25m concerns adults. We’re looking to tie it into sustainability – we need to use it as a catalyst to open up the sustainability debate with our trusted partners about how we can sustain the care in Monmouthshire in the long term.

Finance for the Crick Road development is being met by Capital. What about grants?

This is a major partnership with Health and the utilisation of the Intermediate Care Fund that Welsh Government provides. This fund is in its final year, after which it will move into the Transformation Fund. In terms of securing those funds, we have worked tirelessly with our partners, and there is no risk moving forward into next year. To clarify, regarding the Capital budget: we have it covered but also there is funding through prudential borrowing as part of the scheme costings presented to councillors several years ago – we are still in keeping with that report.

Regarding potential borrowing, we don’t borrow for any particular scheme – we borrow when the market conditions are right to do so. So, we will end long-term borrowing to take advantage of short-term borrowing, or we’ll use internal monies at the right time of the year rather than specifically borrow and set an amount of money over an extended period that relates to one specific thing. So, we will have to borrow to maintain a lot of the Capital programmes but it won’t be for any one programme, specifically.

What is the percentage threshold for borrowing?

We have an authorised limit that we need to approve at the start of the financial year, as part of a managed Treasury strategy. The limit is always monitored so that we can't go above it. We currently have a fair bit of headroom within that – around £30m. The limit is reviewed as part of the strategy and will go to Council in March.

As Monmouthshire is a rural county, we must lose a lot of care time moving between clients. Have we some idea of how much care time is lost, and its effect on service provision?

Yes, being rural we have this travel time. We try to maximise the rotas, especially internally; for example, a carer in Usk won't be expected to go to Abergavenny and then back to Usk an hour later. We operate on a 'cluster' basis, minimising the amount of travel time. We also work with our external care sectors to try to ensure that the contract we provide them with has minimised lost productivity time.

Chair's Summary:

Thank you to officers for all of their hard work. The Budget is particularly difficult, and with an ageing population in Monmouthshire it is only going to get harder. The long-term vision is that it's getting very difficult to find carers and there is a massive shortfall in the budget. We would like to ensure that a Crick Road update is on future agendas.

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Select Committee	date	(Draft) Minute
Strong Communities Select Committee	25 th January 2022	<p>Cabinet Member Phil Murphy delivered the presentation, with additional comments from Jonathan Davies. Carl Touhig and Jonathan Davies answered the members' questions.</p> <p>Challenge:</p> <p><i>What will be the effect on waste and other services, such as grounds maintenance?</i></p> <p>Waste has particularly struggled throughout the pandemic, notably in not being able to carry out intended improvements. On a positive note, we have an underspend that will hopefully help next year's budget; however, because we haven't been able to roll out everything that would have made savings for next year, we will need that same money next year. We have seen a substantial move from people using the CA sites to having kerbside collections, which has pushed up our recycling rates significantly – well in front of Welsh Government targets this year, though that comes with an additional pressure on frontline services.</p> <p>In 2021, we implemented a staff succession and planning programme, training more people to be HGV drivers, senior loaders, helping new people to come into the service, etc. This comes with an additional cost but improves career prospects for those in the front line. the Re-use shops and Repair Cafes are going very well but they again involve a cost, and we haven't been able to maximise the income generation opportunities, due to the Covid lockdowns.</p> <p>The change to garden waste bins has been a massive success, greatly reducing the subsidy needed form the council to run that service but, again, the 'double-edged sword': the popularity of that service is pushing us into needing to acquire another vehicle. We didn't expect such success, with an increase of 2,000 customers. We will need to promote the service again, to get more customers to help to balance the books. Grounds maintenance workload has increased dramatically. We are trying new things all the time, such as No Mow May. Though there was a very good response to this from most people, it is still a work in progress. Recognising the difficulties of an ageing workforce, we have brought in progression succession planning to grounds maintenance, creating teams to do specific works, some of which generate income – but we are at our limit with these and need to invest in certain areas of the council.</p> <p>We have been very successful in drawing down grant funding for regeneration projects and improving our town centres but for the towns to continue looking their best, we need to maintain the infrastructure that we have put in. This adds a cost but is the right thing to do, particularly in encouraging visitors into our town centres.</p>

Ash dieback is hitting the whole county now, with a huge increase in the number of trees affected. This year we will bring in a new tree officer who will plot where all of the trees are. We have asked for Capital funding and can hopefully start to make a difference in the areas with a lot of ash dieback.

We went out to tender on the HWRC contract and transfer station: Suez has now taken over from Viridor. A lot of the principles that were put in place reduced the cost of the contract significantly – with an approximate £300k saving – and there is some income generation within the contract. So, we hope to see a bigger increase in income generation this year as well as the saving on the contract price.

There is mention of the reduction in crematorium service dividend of £46k – is that the amount of the reduction in the dividend, or the amount of dividend that we received from the crematorium service?

Yes, that is the amount of the reduction. We tended to receive around £140k per year in dividend, which is now going to change, for the reasons outlined: there's more competition, and there's less of a reliance on the crematorium service's built-up reserves. They are looking for a more sustainable way forward over the medium term, the first stage of which is reducing the dividend.

What might the 'different working arrangements' in Usk Post Office be?

We can't give a direct answer this morning but can come back to members with more detail.

Chair's Summary:

Thank you to officers. Putting together a budget in these difficult times is very demanding. Some services, such as Highways Maintenance and Waste are under considerable pressure. Our teams have been very successful in completing their duties, especially in light of staff shortages. There have been successful initiatives such as No Mow May, and secured grant funding for improvements to town centres, which have been effective. The Council has exhausted income generation to offset costs, so we are at the point of needing to invest in some of these services. This explains why costs have increased, and the committee recognises the challenging situation with the pandemic and previously, the flooding. We have been assured that everything that can be thought of is being carried out.

Select Committee	date	(Draft) Minute
Children and Young People Select Committee	31 st January 2022	<p>Cabinet Member Phil Murphy delivered the presentation with Nicola Wellington. Councillor Murphy, Will McLean, Tyrone Stokes and Jane Rodgers answered the members' questions.</p> <p>Challenge:</p> <p><i>Schools continue to receive grant funding at year end – could this committee have a report of what schools have spent these funds on, and the effect of that expenditure?</i></p> <p>There has been a considerable amount of grant funding to schools in recent years, and throughout the pandemic there have been significant funding streams such as the 'Recruit, Recover, Raise Standards' initiative. That is to support learners and help them to catch up and close the gap that potentially widened during the pandemic. We work closely with our colleagues in the Education Achievement Service to understand the impact of that expenditure – it would be a very good report to bring to this committee, yes.</p> <p><i>With school balances higher than in previous years, how will MCC ensure there is an appropriate balance between schools and other local authority expenditure, going forward?</i></p> <p>As we've gone through the year the authority has faced significant pressures in our ALN budget, which has been difficult for us to manage; in particular, the costs of children remaining in county. It's appropriate for us to work with the schools in a mature way to understand where the needs are – a great example of us doing that is the work that Nicola Wellington's been leading on revising the delegation methodology for additional needs funding. We hope to see more work like this in the future. Schools will probably see an uplift again in balances at the end of this year, which is likely to be inflated by year-end grants. Some of those will have specific spending criteria (and will therefore figure in the report requested in the first question), while others will go directly to the bottom line.</p> <p>It's imperative that we are very clear with the schools that when significant balances have accumulated, they have robust plans that represent effective spending on their schools. We are talking to the schools about how we can help them to do that, ensuring that they understand the full flexibility and potential of procurement, thinking about the circular economy, and if there's capital expenditure, that they do so in an informed way that meets obligations around planning, building control, etc. As we go forward, there will probably need to be a re-balancing of the money that schools hold themselves and the money that we are able to afford centrally to support them.</p>

The budget mentions the 21st Century Schools programme in relation to Abergavenny and Chepstow. Could you comment on progress?

We are reaching a crucial time concerning the new school in Abergavenny, with submission of the full business case imminent, as well as the submission for planning. On 19th January it was agreed to take the final step in the consultation regarding the closure of the two schools and opening of a new school. The call-in period ended on Friday so that will be enacted on 1st September 2023. As plans for Abergavenny progress, we are very aware of the development that we want to take place in Chepstow. We recruited a new member to the team, Tim Bird, as Educational Advisor – he is working with Cath Saunders (21st Century Project Lead) on Chepstow, and the potential there.

Budgetary pressures are ongoing and increasing. Can we have reassurance that there will never be a scaling back in the preventative approach to children being taken into care?

With Children's Services, the pressure is to allow us to still practise in the same way. With the budget pressure we are looking to recognise the change in the needs of the children, and even though we have some reassurance that the children looked after numbers are levelling out, we are getting more high costs – more 1-to-1 bespoke placements required. The £1.3m pressures broaden into 4 phases: looking to address the budgetary pressure for those children requiring high-cost bespoke placements (these tend to be out of county), stabilise our workforce, recognise the pressures that the court exhibits on us, and rewarding the pay structure to our kinship carers following some legal cases in other local authorities. We can give assurance that we are not looking to change the way that we practise. Our mandate is still early help and prevention right across the system, and we recognise that that's the way for us to build long-term sustainable and resilient families.

Regarding the Welsh Government settlement, are we being singled out because we're Monmouthshire, or is there a specific set of criteria?

No, it isn't because we're Monmouthshire. There are 50+ criteria such as the mix of housing, the type of roads that we have, areas of deprivation, etc. These criteria shift all the time. This year, the balance shifted so that we were the best funded, rather than the worst, but there is no guarantee that that will happen again. So, the settlement is determined by the way that the formulas move.

Chair's Summary:

		<p>Thank you to the Cabinet Member and officers. Many areas have been clarified for the committee. We have been reassured about ensuring balance regarding schools, which have had increased budgets but during a period of enormous difficulties. It's important to remember that children who have particularly suffered during the pandemic are generally those from more deprived backgrounds. The ALN pressures in the county are quite large. The new ALN formula should make for better funding and organisation. Chepstow is a major concern, particularly for residents there. The LAC pressure is always an area of concern – that budget has to be protected and is more unpredictable than those in other areas of CYP. The officers' comments about this area are very reassuring. We are glad to hear that Monmouthshire is not being treated any differently than other authorities by Welsh Government, and it is good to see that pay will be dealt with centrally. The committee is happy with the budget proposals brought before us today.</p>
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Select Committee	date	(Draft) Minute
Economy and Development Select Committee	3 rd February 2022	<p>4. Budget Scrutiny: Scrutiny of the budget proposals for 2022/23.</p> <p>Cabinet Member Phil Murphy delivered the presentation and answered the members' questions with Ian Saunders, Jonathan Davies, Frances O'Brien, Mark Hand and Cath Fallon.</p> <p>Challenge:</p> <p><i>Could we have an overview of the status of our reserves and how to potentially increase them in the future?</i></p> <p>We managed to increase our reserves over the last two years. They are approximately £7m. This administration has managed to stay within its budget throughout, and we hope to have a surplus by 31st March – if that is the case then we will be able to continue supporting our reserves. The big VAT return a few years ago did that, and there was a substantial surplus on the budget last year, putting in £4.6m. So, the reserves are holding up well, but it doesn't take much to put a large dent in them.</p> <p><i>Is MonLife providing an appropriate return on investment? Is it a sound financial decision?</i></p> <p>The problem with MonLife at the moment is that with Covid restrictions they are not able to get the normal footfall. With the improvements we are making to our leisure centres we're finding that memberships are going up substantially; Monmouth was already doing very well, Abergavenny is getting good reviews and Caldicot will have a substantial increase if the levelling up bid is successful in the second round. If we maintain those increases in footfall, they will cover themselves, which should provide comfort in terms of the long-term picture.</p> <p>The purpose of MonLife is wider than leisure centres, and the aspirations of health, well-being, mental wellness, etc. The future of these services was decided less than two years ago, the result of which was that the Council wanted an in-house model – examining the various models was a 4-year process. The return on investment from MonLife is notable, given the huge benefits it brings. Other councils that have outsourced have lost control of pricing options, whereas we are mostly able to keep our prices attainable for Monmouthshire families.</p> <p><i>Which fees are being increased and by how much?</i></p> <p>It is a huge list. Fees have been increased by as little as possible, where possible; 2.5% is the average. But some are set externally, so we have no choice regarding them. The full list is in the Cabinet papers linked on the agenda. The only areas where we are looking to increase fees are in Enterprise and Social Care.</p>

The commitment to climate emergency and environmental issues was mentioned – can we have details as to what that covers?

There is a wide range of things, such as electric cars, trials with hydrogen, the possibility of a second solar farm, the profits from reuse shops going to planting trees, etc. Over the next few years, we aim to transition our fleet – this is one of the key things – but also things like investments in grounds and biodiversity. Promoting and encouraging walking and cycling as part of Active Travel is also very important. Promotion is particularly important in this area, especially in schools and throughout communities, so that's where some of the funding needs to go, in order to reduce non-essential car journeys. One specific budget mandate proposal is for an additional post within the traffic and road safety team, to work closely with the highways side of the traffic and road safety and the active travel team, to look at improving safer routes to schools – hopefully that will provide alternative ways for children to get to school. We already offer a comprehensive programme within schools to encourage other modes of transport – that continues, and there is additional funding secured this year for adults' cycle training. Linked to the active travel work is town centre regeneration work, supporting outdoor trading and making them more people-friendly and less car-dominated.

Is the £1.22m Recycling and Waste budget pressure due to an increased number of residents using services? There is an £860k saving from retendering contracts – does that saving add to or offset that budget pressure?

Recycling rates have gone up substantially (particularly since the introduction of the booking system), which costs a lot more. The increased recycling and increased material that's being collected at the kerbside means that additional resources are needed i.e. vehicles and staff. There are also additional disposal costs. The saving is through the reprocurement of the household recycling contract from Viridor to Suez.

I've never had so many missed collection queries as in the last few months. Is there a reason? Did we not procure additional vehicles recently because the contract was running out or we needed different ones? Was this because of the increased rate of recycling?

Increased volumes of material being collected at the kerbside drive the requirement for additional staffing and vehicles. There have been missed collections as new staff become familiar with their rounds. We are conducting a system review to understand why we have such a high volume of demand coming in with regard to missed collections.

We have £781k pressures from investments not being realised. What are we doing to mitigate that? Is our investment strategy no longer fit for purpose, post-Covid? Do the pressures include Spyttly Retail Park and the potential loss of income at the Mitel building?

It does include both. The answer to this must be very guarded as a lot of commercially sensitive work is taking place. We are almost certainly going to be awarding companies space, particularly in Castlegate. A lot of work looks to be coming to fruition, but no more information can be given at this time.

There are pressures resulting from the incremental impact of treasury and borrowing costs – have we changed our strategy? What is the forecast? What is our future approach to borrowing and treasury management?

The treasury strategy for the next financial year is going to Governance and Audit committee on 28th February, which will explain much of our approach to borrowing for next year and will be received by full council on 3rd March. For 2-3 years we have been at the bottom of the treasury cost curve and in an incredibly low interest cost environment. Although that has helped us to maintain low treasury costs and benefitted the revenue budget, we also have to balance that position with having an eye on the medium term – we need to lock certainty into the revenue budget. Sometimes that comes at a short-term cost; for example, our borrowing over the last 12 months has been short-term in nature but there was an opportunity in December to take some 50-year borrowing with the Public Works Loan Board. We did so, borrowing at historically low rates which enabled us to lock in certainty for 50 years. We have commitments such as the Abergavenny 3-19 school, for which we will have to borrow to meet our share of the cost. We need to have a balanced strategy.

At the moment we have borrowing, which is slightly lower than our need, so we're using internal resources to fund an element of that, which continues to keep treasury costs low. The incremental borrowing cost is purely down to fund that capital expenditure that we're incurring in the medium term. While we are at the bottom of the treasury cost curve, we are taking steps to put in place some certainty, so that we aren't exposed to rising interest rates that could be on the horizon.

But £1.3m is over what we forecast – why is that?

It's not that it's £1.3m more than we forecast but the treasury budget is a full-cost budget, so one year is never going to be the same as another. What we see is that changing cost from one year to the next, because we've had to borrow for

certain schemes, rates have changed, etc. It was always a known factor; our capital plans haven't changed significantly over the last few years.

The report says we are going to pay our care staff more. How much has changed since the motion was brought forward in November to increase the pay of our social care staff? Does it apply to those with whom we contract i.e. private care agencies? It's a relevant question for this committee because the care sector is the largest growing sector of employment.

We are facing unprecedented increases from our care providers due to their requirement to pay at least the real living wage – in fact, they are having to pay more than that to attract and retain staff. It is generally pay-related pressures coming through the system. Eve Parkinson or Jane Rodgers would be best placed to provide any further detail.

A number of officers are funded by EU funding, which comes to an end in October. What is the risk that substitute funding won't become available?

The end of European funding will have an implication for a number of officers across the authority, at different stages over the next few financial years. We are doing a lot of work to map our staff, to understand their skills and see where they can be redeployed. But we are currently waiting to find out what is happening with the Shared Prosperity Fund and exploring what might be done with additional funding. A full response to this question will be sought from the relevant officers and circulated.

How many officers are affected by this?

In excess of 20 in Employment and Skills, as well as the Rural Development Programme team. It is hard to give definite numbers because some will move on to alternatively funded programmes.

Monmouthshire County Council

Directorate of Children and Young People

Schools Budget Forum Meeting Minutes

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 20th January
2022 via Microsoft Teams.**

Present:

Mrs A. Waters – Chair
Mrs S. Wright
Mr V. Evans
Mrs M. Harris
Mr P. Pavia
Mr W. McLean
Ms C. Haynes
Mr M. Stockham (Sub Mrs E. Lewis)
Mrs M. Powell
Mr T Thomas
Mr P. Nurcombe
Mr M. Belli
Mr S. McLester.

Observers

Mr T. Herbert

Advisors:

Mrs N. Wellington
Mr S. Hughes
Mrs S. Evans
Mr G. Peel.

Other persons present:

Cllr P. Murphy – item 4
Mr P. Davies – item 4

4. Consultation on the budget proposals for 2022-23.

Cllr P. Murphy was welcomed to the meeting to outline the budget proposals. The main points outlined are below:

- Over the last 4 years saving of £18.2m have been made however there are still £10.41 demand led pressures and £4.96m pay pressure in the 2022-23 budgets.
- While there has been an increase in the funding from Welsh Government this is not enough to meet the total pressures.
- Services will continue to be challenged to sustain themselves rather than see a closure of a service that matters.
- To balance the budget there is a need to use reserve funding of £862k.

- Members are considering a council tax increase of 3.95% to meet the pressures. This would take the council tax bill for a band D house to £1,434.47 which is just above the Welsh average of £1,402.51.
- Core funding has increased by 11.2% from Welsh Government which is above the Welsh average of 9.4%.
- Monmouthshire gets the least funding per head of population at £1,176 with the Wales average being £1,611.
- The budget proposed will see all pay and pension pressure met up to 3% and respond to the pressure in ALN.
- The pressures for CYP are £1,038,000.
- Members were given details of all the pressures facing Monmouthshire totalling £10.4m.
- Saving of £1.6m will be made with none in CYP.
- The details of the CYP pressure are below:
 - *Investment in services to accommodate revenue pressures:*
 - CYP (£1.009m)
 - £244k Recoupment pressure
 - £277k Independent placement costs.
 - £138k Other LA placement costs.
 - £298k ALN support for MCC schools
 - £15k ALN transport
 - £37k SENCOM
 - Schools (£1.256m)
 - £876k Teacher's pay (2.67%)
 - £351k non-teaching pay (3%)
 - £29k Monmouth rates
 - *Pay increases to be held centrally and distributed when final award is paid.*

The pay award will be funded up to a maximum of 3%, anything above that will need to be funded by schools delegated budgets.

Members were reminded of the current consultation for the ALN formula and asked to respond.

The budget consultation ends of 16th February 2022.

The Chair thanked Cllr Murphy and opened for questions from members to respond to the budget for 2022-23.

There were no questions, members requested that the pay award funding is held centrally and distributed once the pay award has been agreed. This proposal was accepted.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Joint Advisory Group County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance Monday, 24th January, 2022 at 2.00 pm

PRESENT: County Councillor P. Murphy (Chairman)
County Councillor P. Pavia (Vice-Chairman)

County Councillors: A. Easson and J. Higginson

Also in attendance: J. Davies (UNISON), R. Garner (UNISON), R. Gibbs (GMB), Z. Elsmore (NASUWT), A. Haigh (NEU), P. Strong (NEU), A. Sandles (NEU), K. James (NEU), S. Hamer (NAHT) and M. Lewis-Stephens (UCAC)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Matt Phillips	Chief Officer People and Governance and Monitoring Officer
Peter Davies	Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer, Resources
Sally Thomas	Head of HR
Toni Pugsley	Human Resources (HR) Advisor
Richard Williams	Democratic Services Officer

APOLOGIES:

A. Woodman (UNISON), H. Roberts (GMB), F. Middleton (NASUWT), N. Owen (NASUWT) and M. Sims (ASCL)

1. Declarations of Interest

None received.

2. Monmouthshire County Council's Draft Budget Proposals 2022-2023

The Cabinet Member for Resources, County Councillor P. Murphy, provided a presentation regarding Monmouthshire County Council's Draft Budget Proposals 2022-2023.

It was noted that the consultation period will end on 16th February 2022 and final budget proposals will go to Cabinet on 2nd March 2022 and to Full Council on 3rd March 2022.

The Trade Union side requested information relating to the savings that the County Council had realised and incorporated into the 2021/22 budget that resulted from the closure of Mounton House. In particular, information relating to the pupils who were being supported at Mounton House before it closed and how they were supported post closure, as well as information regarding the costs associated with this support post closure of Mounton House and whether schools were funded for these consequential increase in costs.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Joint Advisory Group County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance Monday, 24th January, 2022 at 2.00 pm

The Chief Officer for Resources highlighted that the closure of the school came into being at the same time as the ALN review and the revised in-County model of provision was being established and where the associated costs of the latter were also built into the previous budgets.

The Chief Officer for Resources informed the Joint Advisory Committee (JAG) that he would obtain clarification on these matters and would circulate this information to JAG.

3. Performance Management Policy for Teachers

We received a report regarding the Performance Management Policy for Teachers.

We agreed with the recommendation of the report that the revised Performance Management Policy for Teachers be accepted and commended to governing bodies for adoption as soon as possible.

4. Model Pay Policy for Schools 2021

We received a report regarding the revised Model Pay Policy for Schools 2021.

We agreed with the recommendation of the report that the revised Model Pay Policy for Schools 2021 be accepted and commended to Governing Bodies for adoption as soon as possible.

5. Special Leave Policy for School Based Employees

We received a report regarding the revised Special Leave Policy for School Based Employees 2022.

We agreed with the recommendation of the report that the revised Special Leave Policy for School Based Employees 2022 be accepted and commended to Governing Bodies for adoption as soon as possible.

6. Items for discussion from the Trade Union Side:

6.1. Discussion regarding outsourcing supply teachers and T.A.'s to agencies and not from a central county list

The Trade Union Side made reference to a letter from the Wales TUC to the Education Minister which stated that Wales should remove outsourcing in Education.

Concern was expressed that supply teachers and teaching assistants were the most detrimentally affected education workers throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Trade Union Side asked that Monmouthshire County Council considers removing the use of agencies and that supply staff be employed with schoolteacher pay and conditions.

In response, it was noted that Monmouthshire County Council does not have a supply register. However, some supply teachers and support staff are employed by the Authority

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Joint Advisory Group County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance Monday, 24th January, 2022 at 2.00 pm

directly. Currently, there 107 teachers employed as supply teachers and receive schoolteacher pay and conditions. They are also automatically enrolled into the pension scheme and receive the same training as employed members of staff. The Authority also currently employs 44 support staff.

The Authority uses the National Framework Agencies and very few agencies are used outside of that framework. A robust system exists. On a quarterly basis reports are received and these are assessed to ensure that those agencies are on the National Framework.

HR business Partner meetings are held regularly with Headteachers whereby supply workers and agency use is discussed to ensure that these are on the National Framework.

Of the 107 teachers employed as supply teachers, HR staff agreed to check how many of them are employed as part time and would report back to the Trade Union Side.

It was considered that a regional supply register scheme would be a better way forward to address the issues raised. The Trade Union Side highlighted some 'Best Practice' models that are currently operational, for example, Northern Ireland.

7. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2021 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

8. Next Meeting:

Monday 4th April 2022 at 10.00am.

The meeting ended at 3.00 pm.

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Headteachers Meeting Budget Consultation 28th January 2022.

Cllr P. Murphy was welcomed to the meeting to outline the budget proposals.

The last 4 years have seen significant saving of £18.2m however there are still demand led pressures of £10.41 and nearly £5m in pay pressures.

The funding from Welsh Government has increased and this is welcomed, it has not been enough to meet all the pressures faced.

Services are still challenged to ensure that they are sustained rather than closing and to help balance the budget £862k has been taken from reserves to support.

Members are considering a proposed increase of 3.95% council tax which would increase the amount paid for a band D property to £1,434.47 which is slightly above the Wales average of £1,402.51.

Monmouthshire remains the lowest funded per head of population at £1,176 with the Wales average being £1,611.

The current budget proposal will see all the pay and pension pressures met up to a maximum of 3% for pay and it also see the current pressure for ALN fully funded.

In total the pressure for CYP is £1,038,000 and the total pressures for Monmouthshire are £10.4m. To offset some of these there are savings of £1.6m being offered up by services.

The pressures for CYP are:

- *£244k Recoupmnt pressure*
- *£277k Independent placement costs.*
- *£138k Other LA placement costs.*
- *£298k ALN support for MCC schools*
- *£15k ALN transport*
- *£37k SENCOM*

- *Schools (£1.256m)*
- *£876k Teacher's pay (2.67%)*
- *£351k non-teaching pay (3%)*
- *£29k Monmouth rates*
- *Pay increases to be held centrally and distributed when final award is paid.*

The pay award will be funded up to a maximum of 3%, anything above that will need to be funded by schools delegated budgets.

The budget consultation ends of 16th February 2022.

There were no questions, it was agreed that the pay award would be held centrally and distributed once the final agreement has been made.

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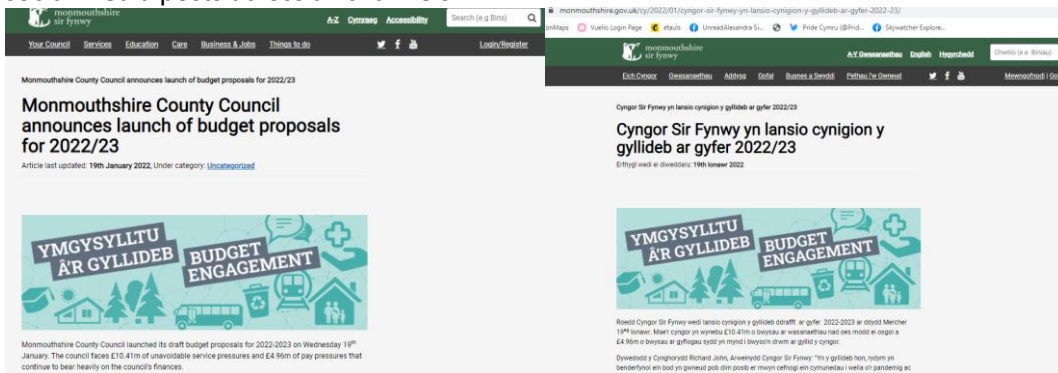
Monmouthshire County Council Budget Engagement 2022-2023 Report of engagement activities

Compiled after consultation closed 16/2/22

21ST December 2021 - Monmouthshire County Council welcomes news of increased funding for the forthcoming financial year to support service pressures. Press release issued to all local news outlets, uploaded to Monmouthshire.gov.uk's front page and social media posts across all channels.

19th January 2022 – Monmouthshire Council announced its proposed budget for 2022/2023
Announcement of beginning of consultation period.

Press release issued to all local news outlets, uploaded to Monmouthshire.gov.uk's front page and social media posts across all channels.



A cross-section of the published articles:

18/1/22 [Your Council Leader column](#) focussed on the budget

19/1/22

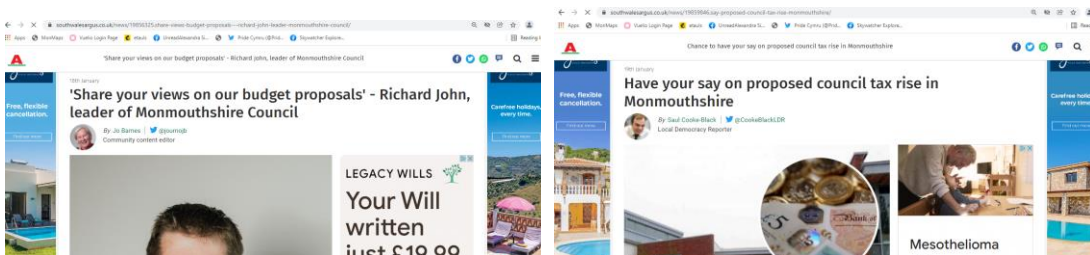
[The South Wales Argus](#)

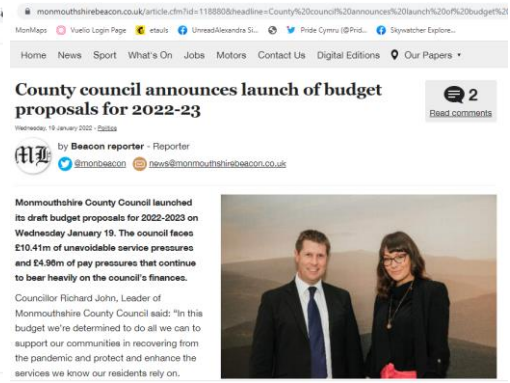
[Business Wales](#)

[Monmouthshire Beacon](#)

[Abergavenny Chronicle](#)

[Business Wales](#) second article





PUBLIC CONSULTATION

19th January 2022-16th February 2022

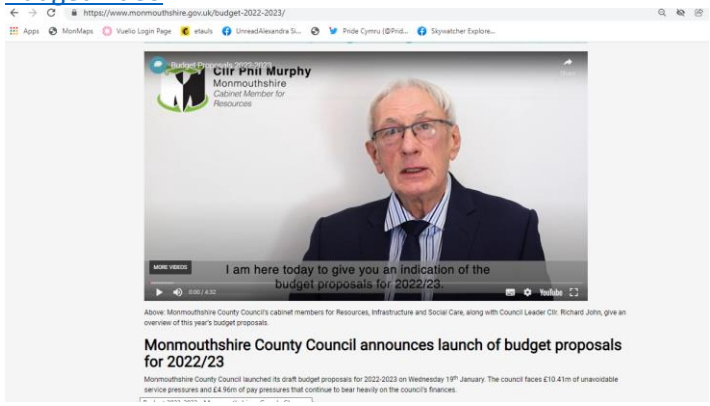
*All material bilingual

Landing page on MCC's website: [monmouthshire.gov.uk/budget-2022-2023](https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/budget-2022-2023)

Hosting all news releases, full budget proposals and supporting documents, links to register for a countywide livestream, survey to capture feedback on proposals and video giving an overview of the proposals.

All subscribers (c.15k people) of the MyMonmouthshire digital newsletter were sent information and links to all the consultation material, including the survey, and a reminder to register for the Budget Livestream

[Budget video](#)



Thursday 27th January 6.30pm – Countywide livestream

Questions were both pre-submitted and raised during the event. All were answered by Cllr Phil Murphy and Peter Davies during the livestream.

Monmouthshire
6h · 🌐

BUDGET LIVESTREAM TONIGHT 📺👉

You still have time to register for tonight's budget livestream. Find out more about the proposals and ask questions at the 6.30pm session.
Link here: <https://bit.ly/3GHEJOY>

Monmouthshire
Yesterday at 09:00 · 🌐

Why not register for the Budget Livestream at 6.30pm on 27/1/22. Find out more at: www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/budget-2022-2023/

Cllr Richard John
Monmouthshire
Leader

This proposed budget delivers on our core priorities of offering children the best possible start in life, with more money for schools

Monmouthshire
25 January at 09:01 · 🌐

JOIN THIS WEEK'S BUDGET LIVESTREAM

If you want to find out more about the proposed budget for 2022-2023 why not join our Budget Livestream on 27th January at 6.30pm.

Register via the website (prior to 5pm on the day) and you'll be sent a link to join.
Visit <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/budget-2022-2023/> to read the proposals, register for the livestream and share your feedback. If you miss the livestream, a recording of it will be available to watch on our website after the event.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.GOV.UK
Budget 2022-2023 - Monmouthshire
Monmouthshire County Council announces launch of budget proposals for 2022/23 Monmout...

Tweet activity

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BUDGET LIVESTREAM TONIGHT 📺👉

You still have time to register for tonight's budget livestream. Find out more about the proposals and ask questions at the 6.30pm session.
Link here: <https://bit.ly/3GHEJOY>
pic.twitter.com/2VRsFZAA7I

Impressions	472
Total engagements	13
Likes	4
Detail expands	4
Retweets	3
Link clicks	1
Profile clicks	1

Tweet activity

Monmouthshire @MonmouthshireCC
📺👉

TOMORROW – You still have time to register for tomorrow's BUDGET LIVESTREAM. Find out more about the proposals and ask questions at the 6.30pm session.

Info here: <https://bit.ly/3GHEJOY> pic.twitter.com/S1kAan0ws9

Impressions	1,019
Media views	273
Total engagements	15
Media engagements	7
Link clicks	3
Detail expands	3
Replies	1
Likes	1

Write a comment...

All comments

Ange Dhenin
What about the traffic congestion in Chepstow and why not reopen the high street in Chepstow to help ease traffic for those that travel to work; 3.95% rise in council tax is going to hit families hard in addition to the already escalating cost of living... See more

Like Reply 1w Edited

Author
Monmouthshire
Ange Dhenin Please feed your comments in via the survey on the website so they are included in the consultation feedback. Thank you.

Like Reply 1w Edited

Deilyn Niblett
How do u expect people to keep paying out all the time every year's its the same really getting fed up with it now

Like Reply 1w

Write a comment...



Monmouthshire @MonmouthshireCC · Jan 26

276

YFORY – Mae dal gennych amser i gofrestru ar gyfer ffwrdd fyw'r gyllideb yfory. Dysgwch fwy am y cynigion a gofynnwch gwestiynau yn y sesiwn am 6.30pm.

Dolen yma: bit.ly/3GHEj0Y pic.twitter.com/RE2NyqecSq

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Os hoffech gael rhagor o wybodaeth am y gyllideb arfaethedig ar gyfer 2022-2023 beith am ymuno â'n Ffrwd Fyw ar y Gyllideb ar 27ain Ionawr am 6.30pm. Cofrestrwch drwy'r wefan (cyn 5pm ar y diwrnod) a byddwch yn cael dolen i ymuno bit.ly/3GHEj0Y pic.twitter.com/1auuNoKvNC

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If you want to find out more about the proposed budget for 2022-2023 why not join our Budget Livestream on 27th January at 6.30pm. Register via the website (prior to 5pm on the day) and you'll be sent a link to join bit.ly/3GVfv5K pic.twitter.com/PB5APJOhQy

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Monmouthshire 19 January at 13:00

This year's budget consultation has been launched. Visit <https://bit.ly/3Kqg20p> to read about the proposals, feedback via the survey and register to join our livestream event on Thursday 27th January 2022 at 6.30pm.

Cllr Phil Murphy
Monmouthshire
Cabinet Member for Resources

We get £1,176 per person, some £435 per head below the Welsh average



BUDGET FEEDBACK SURVEY

During the consultation 51 people had completed the survey. This figure was lower than expected given the amount of promotion we have given to the survey.

Question 1 – Do you agree or disagree with the service pressures being accommodated for Education and Schools, notably around children with additional learning needs? **62.7% agreed.**

Question 2 – key phrases

7 respondents (47%) answered **schools** for this question.



Question 3 – Do you agree or disagree with the proposals for Social Care and Health, both in terms of the service pressures being accommodated in Children's and Adult Services, and the proposed increase in fees and charges? **50.9% agreed.**

Question 4 – key phrases:

7 respondents (44%) answered care for this question.



Question 5. Do you agree or disagree with the services pressures being accommodated for Enterprise, and that significantly relate to service pressures being accommodated with Recycling & Waste, and Transport? **62.7% disagreed.**

Question 6 – key phrases:

3 respondents (23%) answered garden waste for this question.



Question 7: We are looking to make one-off use of limited reserves and capital receipts in order to support the budget this year and to allow service pressures to be accommodated and to less the burden on council tax payers. Do you agree or disagree with this approach? **92.1% agreed.**

Question 8: We propose a 3.95% increase in Council Tax as a result of the significant financial challenges faced. Accepting that the Council Tax Reduction Scheme will provide support to those on low income and benefits, and 25% discount to single people. Do you agree or disagree? **82.3% disagreed.**

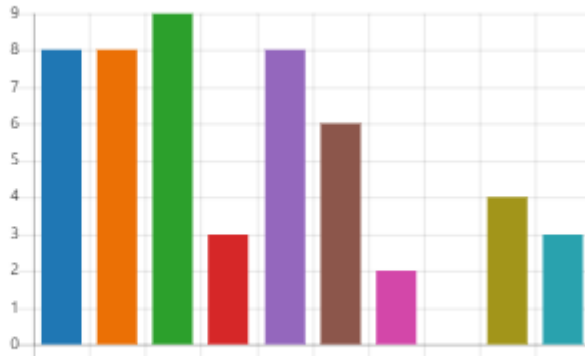
Question 9: key phrases:

20 respondents (51%) answered council tax for this question.



Question 10: Where do you live – please state your nearest town or village

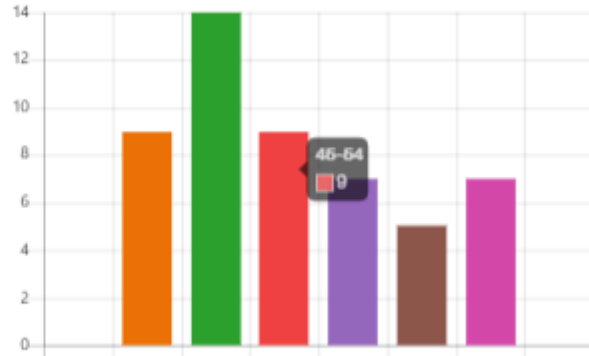
Abergavenny	8
Caldicot	8
Chepstow	9
Gilwern	3
Magor & Undy	8
Monmouth	6
Raglan	2
Tintern	0
Usk	4
Other	3



Question 11: What age group do you fall within?

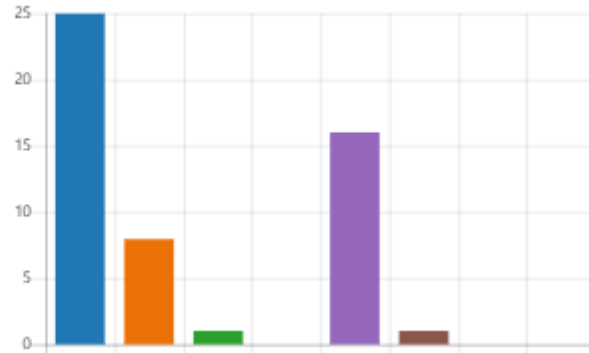
The largest response was from the 35-44 group, that made up 27.4% of those that responded.

16-24	0
25-34	9
35-44	14
45-54	9
55-64	7
65-74	5
75-84	7
85+	0



Question 12: Nationality. 49.01% of those who responded stated they were Welsh.

Welsh	25
English	8
Scottish	1
Irish	0
British	16
EU Citizen	1
Non-EU Citizen	0
Other	0

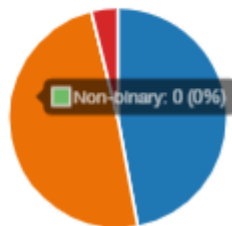


Question 13: What gender do you identify as?

13. What gender do you identify as

[More Details](#) [Insights](#)

Female	24
Male	25
Non-binary	0
Prefer not to say	2



Question 14: Disability is defined by the Equality Act 2010 as: A physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-

to-day activities. The disability could be physical, sensory or mental and must be expected to last at least 12 months. Do you consider yourself to have a disability as defined by the Equality Act? **7 of the 51 responders replied 'yes' to this question.**

Question 15: We would like to know your views on the effects that the proposals would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English. What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

10 respondents (40%) answered **Welsh language** for this question.



Question 16: Please also explain how you believe the proposals could be improved so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?

10 respondents (42%) answered **Welsh** for this question.



Welsh Local Government Revenue Settlement 2022/23

Provisional Settlement

Table 1a: Change in Aggregate External Finance (AEF), adjusted for transfers, by Unitary Authority (£'000s)

Unitary Authority	2021-22 Final Aggregate External Finance	2022-23 Provisional Aggregate External Finance	Percentage difference	Rank
Isle of Anglesey	104,872	114,549	9.2%	12
Gwynedd	195,905	213,210	8.8%	17
Conwy	167,356	183,308	9.5%	5
Denbighshire	159,060	173,637	9.2%	15
Flintshire	212,608	232,174	9.2%	14
Wrexham	189,233	207,060	9.4%	7
Powys	192,088	210,257	9.5%	6
Ceredigion	110,006	119,419	8.6%	19
Pembrokeshire	179,422	196,253	9.4%	8
Carmarthenshire	285,262	311,597	9.2%	11
Swansea	353,571	386,585	9.3%	9
Neath Port Talbot	237,289	258,068	8.8%	18
Bridgend	212,755	232,364	9.2%	13
The Vale of Glamorgan	168,128	186,011	10.6%	3
Rhondda Cynon Taf	407,050	441,433	8.4%	21
Merthyr Tydfil	101,493	110,616	9.0%	16
Caerphilly	292,712	317,453	8.5%	20
Blaenau Gwent	120,657	130,795	8.4%	22
Torfaen	146,560	160,117	9.3%	10
Monmouthshire	101,003	112,275	11.2%	1
Newport	240,957	265,612	10.2%	4
Cardiff	492,095	544,715	10.7%	2
Total unitary authorities	4,670,080	5,107,507	9.4%	

Table 1c: Aggregate External Finance (AEF) per capita, by Unitary Authority, 2022-23

Unitary Authority	2022-23 Final Aggregate External Finance Funding (£'000s)	Final Aggregate External Finance per capita (£)	Rank
Isle of Anglesey	114,549	1,640	12
Gwynedd	213,210	1,703	7
Conwy	183,308	1,549	17
Denbighshire	173,637	1,808	4
Flintshire	232,174	1,476	20
Wrexham	207,060	1,517	18
Powys	210,257	1,586	13
Ceredigion	119,419	1,678	10
Pembrokeshire	196,253	1,554	15
Carmarthenshire	311,597	1,644	11
Swansea	386,585	1,551	16
Neath Port Talbot	258,068	1,787	5
Bridgend	232,364	1,571	14
The Vale of Glamorgan	186,011	1,372	21
Rhondda Cynon Taf	441,433	1,818	2
Merthyr Tydfil	110,616	1,816	3
Caerphilly	317,453	1,744	6
Blaenau Gwent	130,795	1,881	1
Torfaen	160,117	1,701	8
Monmouthshire	112,275	1,176	22
Newport	265,612	1,679	9
Cardiff	544,715	1,480	19
Total unitary authorities	5,107,507	1,611	



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

Cyngor Sir Fynwy
Neuadd y Sir, Y Rhadyr, Brynbuga,
Sir Fynwy
NP15 1GA
Monmouthshire County Council
County Hall, Y Rhadyr, Usk,
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Web/Gwefan: www.monmouthshire.gov.uk
Our Ref/EinCyf:
Date/Dyddiad: 18th February 2022

Simon Edwards
Local Government Funding Policy Branch
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Dear Mr Edwards

Re: Local Government Provisional Settlement 2022/23

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Provisional Settlement announced on 21st December 2021.

Cabinet released its draft budget proposals out for public consultation and scrutiny on 19th January 2021 for a four-week period. At the meeting Cabinet endorsed this response to the provisional settlement and that provides the views of members.

Given the current pandemic and the restrictions that remain in place the Council will be looking to engage with key stakeholders and the public through its website, social media and via virtual budget consultation events.

In terms of the settlement itself it was welcome news to find that the Council has received confirmation from Welsh Government that it will receive an 11.2% increase in its core funding next year, ahead of the 9.4% average for Wales and where councils across Wales had settlement increases ranging from 8.4% to 11.2%.

It was pleasing to note that the role of local government has been recognised by Welsh Government for a second year in succession and applaud the openness and approachability of the Minister in allowing the settlement to be suitably informed.

Notwithstanding the positive settlement the services of the Council continue to be under continued, significant and increasing pressure, exacerbated further by the direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic. The above average increase will at the very least give the Council some additional flexibility to respond to the unprecedented strain on the Council's finances and to the choices it makes when setting the budget for next year. To that end there are a number of points that we would like to constructively make in response to the consultation on the provisional settlement:

a) One notable aspect of concern in the settlement announcement is the position being taken by Welsh Government with regards to pay awards. A significant question mark still arises over the pressures that will arise for pay awards. This leaves the Council in a difficult position and at the behest of the pay awarding

bodies for teachers and local government staff and that could result in further pressures falling on the Council to fund pay awards at a time when inflationary pressures in

the wider UK economy and where specifically forecasts by the Office for Budget Responsibility are suggesting wage and salary rises of 4% for 2022/23. The letter from the Minister that accompanied the provisional settlement confirmed that the settlement includes funding for the 2022/23 pay deal and furthermore states that no further funding will be provided in year and once pay deals are confirmed.

Given the current financial challenges faced this is not acceptable and we call on Welsh Government to disclose the pay assumptions upon which it has constructed the settlement and to make available further in-year funding if the pay awards are ahead of these assumptions. The current situation leaves the Council having to ensure that provision is made for this heightened wage and pay forecast from the Office for Budget Responsibility and to the detriment of making further investment in frontline services.

b) It is encouraging to note that Welsh Government is starting to recognise the strain on social care and the care sector across Wales, one highlighted and magnified further by the pandemic. The specific grant funding received during the current financial year is welcomed and assists in partly mitigating the unbudgeted pressure that the Council is continuing to wrestle with. The Council continues to see increases in complexity and demand across adult and children's services. Set against a backdrop of an ever fragile care sector where recruitment and retention challenges are leading to increased hours of unmet need.

It is noted that Welsh Government has included an undisclosed level of funding in the settlement to allow councils to ensure that social care workers are paid at least in line with the Real Living Wage. Whilst welcomed the reality however is one where care providers are already having to pay above Real Living Wage in order attract and retain care workers, recognising the role that social workers and carers play in supporting the most vulnerable in our society. The consequence of this market dynamic on local authorities is increasing budget pressures caused by increasing rates from care providers.

This together with the pay pressures noted above are all but absorbing the increase in funding brought about by the settlement and therefore leaving the Council having to consider a council tax increase for 2022/23 in order to sustain other essential frontline services.

We urge Welsh Government to come up with a sustainable roadmap and fully funded plan for social care in Wales. One which recognises the equal importance and role of the NHS and social care. Where sufficient challenge is placed on both the NHS to spend significantly more of their budget on preventative work and on Welsh Government to understand and acknowledge the role that social care has in supporting vulnerable people in more appropriate community care settings and at reduced cost.

c) Alongside the settlement announcement and whilst understanding why the COVID Hardship Fund is coming to an end in March assurances are still sought that specific grant funding streams in 2022/23 will be suitably targeted and sufficient to

cover the remaining and residual effects of the COVID pandemic. A key example being the extent of to which the Council has been unable to secure temporary homelessness accommodation and continues to have to meet significant B&B and other associated costs. These resulting from Monmouthshire's unique circumstances that result in a lack of available temporary home accommodation. I would urge Welsh

Government to ensure that increased levels of Homeless Prevention Grant being suggested for 2022/23 is appropriated distributed in line with need and that grant conditions are suitably flexible to enable councils to meet costs that would have been claimed previously via the COVID Hardship Fund. Without such funding the Council will again be left in a position of having to take hard and difficult decisions and regardless of the good news offered by the provisional settlement.

d) It is worth noting that Welsh Government does not appear to have made any specific provision for the small but growing number of children in unregistered placements in Wales and where there is no identifiable market provision across the UK. This has been the subject of a number of high profile court cases that have found the local authority as holding the responsibility to provide a solution. These cases are notoriously expensive and without market provision require a Council to source or acquire suitable accommodation to provide such children with adequate temporary and permanent supported accommodation. We ask Welsh Government to work with local authorities such that the associated risks and costs are understood across Wales and such as to allow such exceptional costs to be more effectively managed and met.

e) The Council very much welcomes the indicative all-Wales funding increases for 2023-24 and 2024-25. This will greatly assist medium-term financial planning and is timely as Councils move towards a new administrative term in May. We urge Welsh Government to engage early in the Spring and Summer with local authorities and the WLGA in order to inform and influence the settlement outcomes for future years.

We hope that this above average increase is not short lived and given that the Council has historically and to date been the worst funded Council in Wales. In fact, the Council remains firmly rooted to the bottom of the table for the amount of funding per head of population it receives from Welsh Government. The positive settlement received does nothing to remedy the underlying unfairness of the funding formula and distribution model. The variation between the top, average and bottom per capita is just too large. Whether this is based solely on AEF or includes council tax income raised by councils.

The level of reserves held by a minority of councils continues to be very high, Monmouthshire finding itself very much at the other end of the spectrum with de minimis levels of reserves held. An opportunity to take account of this in the distribution and/or allocation of specific grants should be taken.

Finally a question remains as to whether as part of the tax reforms being considered by Welsh Government as to whether it is sensible to review council tax banding as a discrete exercise without also considering the local government distribution at the same time.

f) As a rural authority Monmouthshire is confronted by particular challenges in offering services like social care, waste collection, transport and highways across a wide area. Indeed, the council has recognised these difficulties by prioritising the maintenance of locally accessible services to combat rural isolation. Monmouthshire again calls on the Welsh Government to base funding on a fairer system, acknowledging the problems rural counties face when providing services. There are also a range of preventative services that will not survive unless the Welsh Government has a long hard look at the way it allocates money across the totality of public services.

g) Turning to specific grant funding support we ask that Welsh Government provide early notification of grant awards to assist financial planning for next year. Furthermore,

and given the extraordinary challenges brought about by the pandemic, the Council asks Welsh Government to give consideration to allow local authorities the flexibility to carry forward unspent revenue and capital grant allocations. Councils across Wales have again had to focus on the response to the pandemic and ensuring that vital services are maintained. The natural consequence of this is that capacity and resources are stretched which impacts on delivery of Welsh Government and the Council's policy objectives that are funded from specific grants.

h) Monmouthshire also supports and encourages the transfer of specific grants into the settlement and is disappointed that more progress has not been made in this regard. There is no evidence of any major transfer of hypothecated grants into the settlement. Furthermore, I would urge Welsh Government to review existing grant terms and conditions and where current criteria are set in a way that prevents grant being spent or in line with the needs of our communities.

If there are opportunities to put more grants into the final settlement this would be welcomed providing it continues to be distributed on the same basis as the original grant to prevent large changes at a very late stage in the process.

i) On capital account we welcome the fact that Welsh Government's response to climate change and the nature emergency being embedded into everything it does. That clearly aligns with the Council's own commitments and ambitions. The Council does however seek early clarification on funding that will be made available to support the change need by the Council and its communities. Noting that whilst it is welcomed that a £20m Local Government Decarbonisation Fund will be established the real concern that this will not be coming on stream until 2023-34.

Unlike with the revenue settlement it is disappointing and concerning to see a reduction in both General Capital Grant and specific capital grant funding. The Council has placed reliance on this funding to support its capital programme in recent years. The Council like others in Wales faces a number of significant unfunded capital pressures. The Council does not have the benefit of significant useable capital receipt balances to support its capital programme and therefore

without the necessary funding support from Welsh Government this results in the Council having to consider further borrowing to enable the most pressing capital investments, risks and pressures to be addressed. Which in turn adds even further to the aforementioned pressures on the revenue account.

One specific and notable concern of the reduced capital settlement for 2022/23 is the consequence that this has on Council's ability to maintain an already creaking road network. Early clarification from Welsh Government on further funding to support highways road maintenance is requested. Regardless of Welsh Governments stated policy position with regards to the cessation of funding for new road building there is still a need for the existing road network and associated infrastructure to be maintained or modified.

We urge Welsh Government to give consideration to a fairer capital settlement for local authorities in Wales and to afford local authorities with the flexibility that would be given through increases in General Capital Funding rather than specific grants. The need to invest in priority areas such as 21st Century Schools, climate emergency, homelessness provision, waste management, flood prevention and infrastructure remains high, with WG support remaining a critical success factor.

Despite the welcome news that came with the provisional revenue settlement the future funding prognosis remains of real concern and given that the expectations and demands on local council services are continuing to grow and as evidenced by some of the pressures and risks that I have referenced above.

It is important that the WG recognises the need for difficult decisions, is supportive of local authorities facing difficult times and does not promote undeliverable policy expectations or at the very least ensures an adequacy of funding to support their delivery.

As Wales as a nation comes out of the pandemic this is a time for us all to work together to minimise the consequences on the most vulnerable in society and to send clear and consistent expectations to the public we exist to serve.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Philip Murphy – Cabinet Member

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu yn y ddwy iaith. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis.

Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

The Council welcomes correspondence in English or Welsh or both, and will respond to you according to your preference. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay.

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Welsh Local Government Settlement 2022/23

Provisional Revenue - Indicative Estimate

Table 7: List and estimated amounts of Grants for total Wales by Ministerial portfolio (£000s)

Portfolio and Grant Name	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Total Education and Welsh Language (of which below)	536,559	526,948	537,093	546,113
Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant (RCSIG) [Note 20]	172,570	158,000	158,000	158,000
Pupil Development Grant	111,030	123,000	123,000	123,000
Sixth Form Provision	98,852	98,852	98,852	98,852
Recruit Recover Raise Standards - the Accelerating Learning Programme	68,848	37,500	32,000	23,000
Additional Learning Needs [Note 21]	16,155	14,155	14,155	14,155
Transition support for Minority Ethnic and Gypsy, Roma, Traveller learners [Note 21]	11,000	11,000	TBC	TBC
PDG Access [Note 21]	10,454	10,454	10,454	10,454
Youth Support Grant	10,056	10,056	10,056	10,056
Teachers pay in schools	6,418	0	0	0
Reducing Infant Class Sizes Grant - Revenue [Note 22]	6,000	2,500	0	0
Local Authority Post-16 Education Provision – Adult Learning Provision	5,657	5,657	5,657	5,657
Grant to support and promote a whole school approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing	3,829	3,829	3,829	3,829
Foundation Phase Nursery (FPN) Funding	3,768	3,768	3,768	3,768
Additional Learning Needs Transformation grant	3,200	1,980	1,980	TBC
Small and Rural Schools Grant [Note 23]	2,500	0	0	0
Welsh-medium immersion	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200
Elective Home Education [Note 21]	1,757	1,757	1,757	1,757
Online Individual Development Plan Grant	1,000	1000	1000	1000
SEREN	854	854	TBC	TBC
Promote and Faciliate the use of the Welsh Language	386	386	386	386
Supporting adopted children in Education	27	TBC	TBC	TBC
Free School Meals [Note 24]	0	40,000	70,000	90,000
Total Climate Change (of which below)	307,218	279,841	275,137	271,229
Housing Support Grant	166,763	166,763	166,763	166,763
Bus Services Support	60,482	62,595	62,595	62,595
Mandatory Concessionary Fares	24,900	24,900	24,900	24,900
Sustainable Waste Management Grant	16,400	TBC	TBC	TBC
Food and Residual Waste Treatment Gate Fee Support	13,300	RSG	0	0
Cardiff Harbour Authority	5,610	5,400	5,400	5,400
Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management	4,700	4,700	4,700	4,700
Coastal Risk Management Programme	3,650	7,558	3,909	0
Road Safety Grant	2,900	1,900	1,900	1,900
Affordable Housing Grant	2,515	2,515	2,515	2,515
Youth Discounted Travel (My Travel Pass)	1,780	2,000	2,000	2,000
Anglesey Airport Grant Funding	800	800	TBC	TBC
Transforming Towns Revenue Programme - South East Wales	680	0	0	0
Active Travel Fund	549	0	0	0
Transforming Town Programme - North Wales	485	0	0	0
Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being in Wales Grant (ENRaW)	399	98	TBC	TBC
Implementation of measures to tackle nitrogen dioxide exceedance	373	156	0	0
Transforming Towns Revenue Programme - South West Wales	272	0	0	0
AONB Sustainable Development Fund - Revenue	250	250	250	250
Transforming Towns Capital Programme - Mid Wales	136	0	0	0
Rural Housing Enabler	60	60	60	60
Local Energy Service	55	0	0	0
South Wales Regional Aggregate Working Party (RAWP)	50	50	50	50
Waste Planning Monitoring Report - North Wales and South East Wales	48	49	49	49
North Wales Regional Aggregate Working Party (RAWP)	25	25	25	25
Smart Living	20	0	0	0
Waste Planning Monitoring Report - South West Wales	16	22	22	22
Total Finance and Local Government (of which below)	177,969	180,131	178,131	182,931
Children and Communities Grant (CCG) [Note 25]	148,401	151,631	149,631	154,431
Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief - (non-Covid Element) [Note 26]	27,700	27,700	27,700	27,700
Child Burials	800	800	800	800
Local Government Digital Transformation Fund [Note 27]	543	0	0	0
Electoral Reform Support Grant	525	0	0	0
Total Health and Social Services (of which below)	127,753	137,759	140,870	141,870
Childcare Offer	57,906	80,750	84,750	86,250
Social Care Workforce Grant [Note 28]	50,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
Early Years Intergration Transformation Grant	3,000	TBC	TBC	TBC

To fund emergency respite services for unpaid carers [Note 29]	2,940	0	0	0
Childcare Offer- Administration Grant	2,851	3,250	3,250	3,250
Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)	2,815	TBC	TBC	TBC
Adoption Services	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300
Additional Support Grant - Childcare Offer	1,510	2,000	2,000	2,000
All Wales Play Opportunities grant - Playworks Holiday project, a holiday hunger Initiative	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Foster Wales	576	559	0	0
Funding for local authorities to support age friendly communities	550	1,100	1,100	1,100
National Approach to Statutory Advocacy for Children and Young People	550	550	550	550
Connected Communities, Loneliness and Social Isolation Fund	500	500	500	0
Play Wales Strategic Policy Grant	360	TBC	TBC	TBC
Implementation of the Performance and Improvement Framework	330	330	0	0
Young Carers ID card	193	150	150	150
National Adoption Service	185	185	185	185
Funding to support the placement of UASC [Note 23]	80	0	0	0
Safeguarding Boards - training	60	60	60	60
Maintenance of Wales Safeguarding Procedures	25	25	25	25
Contact Services [Note 30]	21	0	0	0
Total Mental Health and Wellbeing (of which below)	26,130	26,081	26,081	26,081
Substance Misuse Action Fund	25,063	25,063	25,063	25,063
Substance Misuse Action Fund - Complex Needs	1,018	1,018	1,018	1,018
Substance Misuse Action Fund - Naloxone	49	TBC	TBC	TBC
Total Social Justice and Social Partnership (of which below)	5,791	6,272	6,272	6,272
Period Dignity	2,501	2,501	2,501	2,501
Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence - Revenue Grant	1,579	1,579	1,579	1,579
Community Cohesion	1,100	1,090	1,090	1,090
Funding in relation to Household Support Fund - tackling food poverty	500	0	0	0
Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence - Perpetrator Element	111	111	111	111
Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence - Needs Based Funding	0	971	971	971
Armed Forces Day	0	20	20	20
Total Rural Affairs & N.Wales, & Trefnydd (of which below)	683	970	1,682	1,664
LA Animal Health & Welfare Framework	576	970	1,682	1,664
TB Enforcement Grant	107	TBC	TBC	TBC
Total Arts and Sport, & Chief Whip (of which below)	787	288	288	288
Culture and Sports Grant	787	288	288	288
Total Economy (of which below)	53	135	5	0
Feasibility Study West Pier Swansea	20	0	0	0
Pembrokeshire County Council: Grant Support towards a feasibility study	18	0	0	0
Neath Port Talbot Economic Recovery Plan	10	0	0	0
Promotional Material for Port Talbot Enterprise Zone	5	0	0	0
Event Wales Grant Scheme	0	135	5	0
Total Covid-19 Finance and Local Government (of which below)	708,853	105,000	0	0
Local Government Single Emergency Hardship fund	368,053	0	0	0
Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief (Covid Element) [Note 26]	340,800	105,000	0	0
Total Covid-19 Health and Social Services (of which below)	97,300	0	0	0
Social Care Recovery Grant	75,500	0	0	0
Child Development Fund	8,000	0	0	0
All Wales Play Opportunities grant - Winter of Wellbeing	6,000	0	0	0
All Wales Play Opportunities grant - Summer of Fun	5,000	0	0	0
Intervention fund for supporting child and family well-being to safely divert cases from child protection registration	2,800	0	0	0
Total Covid-19 Education and Welsh Language (of which below)	24,366	0	0	0
Covid Recovery Grant 2021-22	9,000	0	0	0
Local Authority Post-16 Education Provision – Learner Recovery and Progression Funding	8,770	TBC	TBC	TBC
Local Authority Post-16 Education Provision – Transition Funding	4,084	TBC	TBC	TBC
Youth Support Grant - additional mental health and emotional wellbeing funding	2,500	0	0	0
Learner Transition (Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr Tydfil)	12	TBC	TBC	TBC
Total Covid-19 Climate Change (of which below)	58,450	0	0	0
Bus Emergency Support	58,450	0	0	0
Total Covid-19 Social Justice and Social Partnership (of which below)	1,330	0	0	0
Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence - COVID 19 Response	971	0	0	0
Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence COVID 19 Restart	358	0	0	0

Total Covid-19 Arts and Sport, & Chief Whip (of which below)	145	0	0	0
Local Government Cultural Service	145	0	0	0
All Grants (excluding Covid-19 grants)	1,182,941	1,158,424	1,165,559	1,176,447
All Grants excluding Covid-19 grants, TBC and RSG transfers (for like-for like comparison)	1,141,587	1,146,471		
Total Covid-19 grants	890,443	105,000		
Total Covid-19 grants excluding TBC (for like-for like comparison)	877,578	105,000		

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Ref	Pressure/Saving by Directorate	Draft Pressure £000	Movement	Final Pressure £000	Draft Saving £000	Movement	Final Saving £000
CYP	Children & Young People	1,038	0	1,038	0	0	0
SCH	Social Care & Health	4,599	(700)	3,899	(120)	0	(120)
ENT	Enterprise	2,536	(100)	2,436	(959)	0	(959)
MonLife	MonLife	156	0	156	0	0	0
CEO	Chief Executives Unit	81	55	136	(33)	0	(33)
PG	People & Governance	124	0	124	0	0	0
RES	Resources	1,066	(408)	658	0	(300)	(300)
CORP	Corporate Costs & Levies	814	854	1,668	(442)	(275)	(717)
	Totals	10,413	(299)	10,114	(1,554)	(575)	(2,129)

Ref	Children & Young People	Final Pressure £000	Movement	Final Pressure £000	Draft Saving £000	Movement	Final Saving £000
CYP1	Non pay - SENcom contract inflation	37		37			0
CYP2	Additional learning needs - Independent placements	277		277			0
CYP2	Additional learning needs - Out of County placements	138		138			0
CYP2	Additional learning needs - School action plus	298		298			0
CYP2	Additional learning needs - Shortfall in recoupment income	244		244			0
CYP2	ALN related transport	15		15			0
CYP3	Monmouth Comprehensive rates	29		29			0
	CYP Totals	1,038	0	1,038	0	0	0

Ref	Social Care, Health & Safeguarding	Final Pressure £000	Movement	Final Pressure £000	Draft Saving £000	Movement	Final Saving £000
SCH1	Children's services - high cost residential placements	500		500			0
SCH1	Children's services - kinship carers rate increase in line with legislation	272		272			0
SCH1	Children's services - legal fees relating to court proceedings	238		238			0
SCH1	Children's services - agency staffing increase	295		295			0
SCH2	Adult social care - additional staff required to meet care demands	1,004		1,004			0
SCH4	Additional Animal Health Officer	40		40			0
SCH5	Public protection - environmental health staffing	223		223			0
SCH6	Fees & Charges			0	(120)		(120)
SCH7	SCWS grant reduction	124		124			0
SCH8	Budget provision and contingency to support fragility in care sector	1,903	(700)	1,203			0
	SCH Totals	4,599	(700)	3,899	(120)	0	(120)

Ref	Enterprise	Final Pressure £000	Movement	Final Pressure £000	Draft Saving £000	Move ment	Final Saving £000
ENT2	PTU staff and contracts	306		306			0
ENT3	Fleet maintenance	338		338			0
ENT4	Waste services - increase in demand offset by service efficiencies	1,222	(100)	1,122	(856)		(856)
ENT4	Grounds Maintenance - Increases in service demand (offset by street lighting energy savings)	273		273	(90)		(90)
ENT5	Placemaking, Regeneration, Highways & Flooding Civil Parking Enforcement Service Pressure (£75k) Traffic & Road Safety - Safe Routes to school post (£29k) Other Staff pressures within unit (£23k)	128		128			0
ENT6	Schools catering income	72		72			0
ENT6	Non pay - Catering contract	68		68			0
ENT8	Strategic Operations Team - Additional posts	67		67			0
ENT9	Building Cleaning - Deep Clean team staffing	62		62			0
ENT10	Discretionary Fees & Charges			0	(13)		(13)
	ENT Totals	2,536	(100)	2,436	(959)	0	(959)

Ref	MonLife	Final Pressure £000	Movement	Final Pressure £000	Draft Saving £000	Move ment	Final Saving £000
ML1	MONLIFE - Contract inflation	49		49			0
ML2	MONLIFE - Staffing pressures (Play Co-ordinator, Rights of Way officer, Youth Officer)	87		87			0
ML5	Car parking Charges at Caldicot Castle	20		20			0
	MonLife Totals	156	0	156	0	0	0

Ref	Chief Executive's Unit/People & Governance	Final Pressure £000	Movement	Final Pressure £000	Draft Saving £000	Move ment	Final Saving £000
CEO1	Community Hubs - Shortfall in library and room hire Income (£36.5k) Contact Centre - Temporary Staff Uplift to cover increase in call demand. (£44k), will come back out in 23-24	81		81			0
CEO2	Equalities & welsh language staffing		55	55			0
PCE0003	Reversal of previous pressure - GOVDEMSUP - Contact Centre - Additional staff to cope with booking system at HWRC			0	(33)		(33)
	CEO Totals	81	55	136	(33)	0	(33)

Ref	People & Governance	Final Pressure £000	Movement	Final Pressure £000	Draft Saving £000	Move ment	Final Saving £000
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P&G1	Democratic Services - Uplift in Members Allowance	124		124			0
	PG Totals	124	0	124	0	0	0

Ref	Resources	Final Pressure £000	Movement	Final Pressure £000	Draft Saving £000	Move ment	Final Saving £000
RES2	Rental income - NLP & Castlegate	650	(408)	242			0
RES2	Rental income - Magor	100		100			0
RES2	Rental income - Markets	31		31			0
RES6	Property services - Capital fee income	139		139			0
RES8	Housing Benefit - Shortfall in Subsidy claimable for Rehabilitation unit.	32		32			0
RES9	Revenue & Benefits Shared Service - Increase in staff costs and TCBC contribution	34		34			0
RES10	ICT - service & insurance pressures	80		80			0
RES11	Solar farm income increase			0		(300)	(300)
	RES Totals	1,066	(408)	658	0	(300)	(300)

Ref	Corporate	Final Pressure £000	Movement	Final Pressure £000	Draft Saving £000	Move ment	Final Saving £000
CORP2	Non pay inflation - Energy	446		446			0
CORP3	Fire precept - estimated increase	188	(77)	111			0
CORP4	Employers national insurance contribution	96	668	764			0
CORP6	Coroners levy	24		24			0
CORP7	Archives levy	14		14			0
CORP8	Reduction in Crematorium service dividend	46		46			0
CORP5	Increase in Capitalisation directive			0	(442)		(442)
CORP9	Holiday pay for regularised overtime		263	263			0
CORP10	Council tax base increase			0		(275)	(275)
	CORP Totals	814	854	1,668	(442)	(275)	(717)

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2022/23 Initial Saving and Pressure Proposal Form

The Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) for the proposal should complete forms

Proposal Title	Equalities and Welsh Language	Senior Responsible Officer:	Matthew Gatehouse
Your Ref No:	CEO2	Operational Lead Officer:	Matthew Gatehouse
Version No:		Directorate:	CEOs
Date:	31/1/22	Section:	Policy, Scrutiny and Customer Experience

Note: The Senior Responsible Officer is expected to be a Chief Officer or Head of Service in most circumstances. The operational lead officer is the lead officer responsible for bringing the proposal together and who would ultimately be held accountable for operational delivery.

1. Proposal Scope and Description Please include a brief description of the proposal being explored and the core objectives.

To increase capacity and expertise in the council's equality and Welsh language functions to ensure that all areas of the work are carried out in accordance with the Equality Act 2010, The Welsh Language Act 1993 and The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

The investment will create additional strategic capacity for equality, diversity and inclusion, ensuring that this work is aligned with key policy objectives on social justice, poverty and health inequalities, while progressing commitments in the Strategic Equality Plan to ensure the council has a diverse workforce and an inclusive workplace.

It will result in an increase in staffing from 1.0 to 2.0 FTE. The existing Equality and Welsh Language Policy Officer (Band 1) will be replaced by a Welsh Language Officer on a lower band, and a new strategic post will be created and assume responsibility for the overall area of work, aligning closely with teams including Partnerships, HR, Performance and Social Justice. Pay Bands for the new posts will be subject to job evaluation but it is assumed this will result in a net increase of £54,666 inclusive of on-costs.

The proposed changes will ensure that these areas are aligned with the council's ambitious policy agenda as described in the latest *Plan on a Page*, and take a more proactive approach to the production and challenge of integrated impact assessments that accompany Council, Cabinet and ICMD recommendations, reducing the risk of either Act being used as a basis for legal challenge of decisions.

Finally, the investment will enable the organisation to respond to increasing number of challenges regarding the implementation of the Welsh Language Standards and become more proactive in our approach to identify and remedy potential problems before they occur, for example by conducting mystery shopper exercises and working across the organisation to grow Welsh language capabilities of staff in customer facing roles.

2. Supporting Data and Evidence: Please confirm supporting evidence for the identified saving and/or pressure. Or to discount any saving being available. Append any further information as necessary.

Over the past eighteen months the authority has received a number of challenges from the Office of the Welsh Language Commissioner, giving an indication that citizens are increasingly aware of the Welsh Language Standards. The interest in the language is incredibly positive and bodes well for the council's commitment to support the Welsh Government ambition of having a million Welsh speakers by 2050 as well as the objectives in our own Welsh Language Strategy. Unlike the authority's internal complaints policy, there is no scope for informal resolution of complaints raised through the Commissioner, meaning staff capacity diverted into investigations and formal processes, reducing capacity for more strategic work and promoting the language.

With a single post covering equalities and Welsh language, the growing volume of regulatory and compliance work is impacting on the authority's capacity to work proactively in the space of equality, diversity and inclusion. The council has made clear policy commitments towards social justice and has a morale as well as a legal responsibility to progress the equality agenda. Recent evidence shows high levels of income inequality in the county with Monmouthshire having 21 of the 200 most unequal areas (at Lower Super Output Level) in Wales, more than any other authority.

3. Budget Impact In this section please include the savings and pressures identified and the overall budget impact resulting from this proposal. This must cover each year implicated.

Service area	Current Budget £'000	Proposed Cash Pressure £'000	Proposed Cash Saving £'000	Target year				Total Budget Change Proposed £'000
				2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	
Equalities and Welsh Language	132	55						55

4. External Funding: Has this proposal considered the opportunities for external funding? If yes, what funding avenues have been identified?

Funding Identified	Source	Current status (i.e. confirmed, in application, etc)
Some income has been generated by carrying out translation for partner organisations, this is used to offset our own translation costs and is considerably below what would be needed to fund a post	Partner Organisations	confirmed

5. Corporate Alignment: How does this proposal contribute and align with the current Corporate Plan objectives and have the relevant evaluations been considered and completed? Please consider any implications this proposal may have on our current policies.

Question	Y/N	Comments/Impact
Does this proposal align with the MCC Corporate Plan ?	Y	Aligns with objective 16 of the Corporate Plan, specifically Promote equality and diversity and ensure opportunities are genuinely available to all
Has an initial Wellbeing & Future Generation Assessment being undertaken?	N	
Will an option appraisal be required?	N	
Will this proposal require any amendments to MCC policy?	N	

6. Additional Impacts What are the expected impacts of implementing this proposal? Please include the potential impact on other service areas

Description	Who is effected?	Is this impact positive or negative?
Reduced time dealing with complaints related to Welsh language standards	Could potentially be any MCC department	positive
Enhanced strategic capacity to develop work in key areas of council policy	Initially departments including People Services, Partnerships and Community Development. Ultimately this will benefit communities	positive

7. Mitigation (for budget pressures only) – What mitigation has been identified to reduce the budget pressure proposed? What further steps could be taken to mitigate the pressure further and what are the consequences of this action?

- Closer work with the Social Justice Innovation Manager to reduce inequalities in communities through progression of the authority’s ambitious social justice agenda
- Closer working with the Head of Human Resources to ensure strengthening of actions to promote equality, diversity and inclusion in the workplace
- Improved use of data analysis to ensure that work is more targeted
- Use of mystery shopper to ensure that Welsh Language Standards and complied with across the authority, reducing the risk of interventions being required by the Commissioner

8. Additional Considerations:

Question	Y/N	Comments/Impact
Will this proposal have any staffing implications?	Y	This will result in the creation of one additional post and will be implemented in tandem with the voluntary retirement of the current Equality and Welsh Language Policy Officer
Will this project have any legal implication for the authority?	N	

9. Up-front Investment Requirement

Describe any additional skills, resource and capability needed in order to carry out the proposal successfully. For example, new/additional expertise that will require additional investment etc.

Any additional capability required	Where will this come from	Any other resource/ business need (non-financial)
n/a		

10. Consultation Describe any initial consultation that has been or needs to be undertaken in order to inform this proposal and any further consultation that will be required throughout proposal delivery

Consultee	Description	Date (delivered/planned)
n/a		

11. Key Risks and Issues

Are there any potential barriers and risks that will need to be managed in delivering the outcomes expected from investing in or recognising the pressure identified, including any negative impacts identified in section 6 that need to be accounted for. Also, set out the steps that will be taken to mitigate these risks.

Barrier or Risk	Strategic/ Operational	Reason why identified (evidence)	Risk Level (High, Medium or Low) Based on a score assessing the probability & impact	Mitigating Actions
Potential difficulties recruiting suitable candidates	operational	Competitive job market	M	Implement wide-reaching recruitment campaign

12. Assumptions

Describe any key assumptions made that underpin the justification for the option.

Assumption	Reason why assumption is being made (evidence)	Decision Maker
Continued external focus and internal strategic importance placed on Welsh Language Standards	Rising level of correspondence and interest in ensuring compliance with the standards from the Welsh Language Commissioner and Residents	n/a
Continuation of the council's current policy commitment to tackling inequality	Cross-party recognition / support for tackling inequality as evidenced by motions / questions at council.	Cabinet

13. Measuring and monitoring performance

How do you intend to measure the impact of this proposal? This will include budget measures and further possible measures that cover process, staff and customers. Targets need to be set over the duration of the proposal where appropriate.

Focus - Budget/Process/Staff/Customer	Indicator	Target 2022/23	Target 2023/24	Target 2024/25	Target 2025/26
Customer	Progress against a wide range of issues identified in the Equality and Human Rights Commission Report 'Is Wales Fairer'				
Staff	Number of Welsh speaking staff	>45	>48	>52	>55
Staff	A more diverse workforce (measures tbc)				

14. Additional considerations:

Question	Y/N	Comments/Impact
Will this proposal require procurement of goods, services or works?	N	
Will this proposal impact on the authority's built assets?	N	
Will this proposal present any collaboration opportunities?	Y	Potential to collaborate more effectively with other authorities across Wales on equalities issues. In particular those in Gwent who make up the new regional Public Service Board
Will this project benefit from digital intervention?	Y	The potential has not yet been fully explored

Change in budget pressures & savings

In addition to new specific service pressure and savings mandates, the final budget has incorporated changes to some of the draft pressures and savings put forward. The following briefing note provides details of those revisions.

BUDGET PRESSURES

		Draft £000	Movement £000	Final £000
SCH8	Budget provision and contingency to support fragility in care sector	1,903	(700)	1,203

Welsh Government have confirmed that the settlement includes funding to enable authorities to meet the additional costs of starting to pay the Real Living Wage (RLW) of £9.90 an hour to social care workers from April 2022. The Council already commits to paying its paid workforce at the RLW. For commissioned care it is anticipated that market providers are already having to pay staff above RLW and in light of the well publicised challenges with recruitment and retention and at a time when Welsh Government is removing the funding support through its COVID hardship fund. The funding included in the settlement remains unhypothecated within the settlement and therefore assists the Council in making further budget provision and contingency that allow the Council to suitably respond to challenges brought about by the fragility of the care sector and the current levels of unmet need.

Since the draft budget proposals were circulated the Authority has received notification of further unbudgeted in-year grant to support Social care sustainability. The receipt of unbudgeted grant has been a trend in this service over the past few years and the pressure for 2022/23 has been revised downward at final budget stage to reflect this trend.

		Draft £000	Movement £000	Final £000
CORP3	Fire precept - estimated increase	188	(77)	111

The Council received final notice from the South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority of their precept for next year after the draft budget was released. The forecast increase originally included of £188,000 has now been revised downwards following final clarification.

		Draft £000	Movement £000	Final £000
CORP4	Employers national insurance contribution 1.25% rise	96	668	764

From 6 April 2022 to 5 April 2023 National Insurance contributions for MCC as an employer will increase by 1.25%, reflecting the requirement of Central Government to collect and earmark the additional funds to be spent on the NHS and social care in the UK. From April 2023, these increases will be legislated separately as a “health and social care” (H&SC) levy and NIC rates will return to 2021/22 levels.

The original estimated pressure was based upon preliminary details of the revised legislation and this has since been remodelled following receipt of the final requirements.

		Draft £000	Movement £000	Final £000
CORP9	Holiday pay for regularised overtime	0	263	263

The Authority is reviewing staff that work “over and above” their contracted hours, and those staff working casual hours over holiday pay entitlement. If staff work over their contracted hours as part of their normal working pattern, or casual staff are given standard working hours, they are entitled to accrued holidays.

However, the practices that operate within the Authority have not always accurately recorded and provided staff in this situation with their full holiday entitlement, and we are reviewing the situation for those holidays to be calculated and payment made in lieu. Also moving forward a system will need to be put into operation that does address holiday pay for this work sector.

The preferred option moving forward is to split the analysis into 1) staff on casual employment and 2) staff on contracted hours working “over and above” and pay a percentage based on hours worked to be calculated as below: -

Casual staff – the option is to calculate holiday pay based on the number of paid holidays in the year as a percentage which equates to 12.07%, based on 5.6 weeks holiday during the working year.

Contracted staff – As above with the percentage being 9.06% based on 8 weeks holiday during the working year.

		Draft £000	Movement £000	Final £000
RES2	Rental income - NLP & Castlegate	650	(408)	242

At the time of acquiring Castlegate business park, we were aware that a tenant had the ability to exercise a break clause in March 2022, which would have a significant impact on the rent roll. The tenant has now served notice to exercise the break, which will result in a loss of rental and additional landlord expenditure to meet the void service charge costs. The consequence of this pressure in 2022/23 was originally estimated at £1,089,274.

Newport Leisure Park was significantly impacted during the pandemic as the leisure sector was subject to closure periods and following re-opening initially social distancing limited capacity. Whilst the leisure

sector is starting to bounce back, the loss of several tenants and the ongoing trading position was originally projected to be a shortfall of £99,933 against the net income target of £400,000.

It is proposed that our investment sinking funds are combined and used to reduce the overall impact of the projected loss, the estimated balance of the sinking fund at end of 21/22 is £539,056. If all of this amount is used then the combined pressure will reduce to £650,151

Since the draft budget proposals were released there has been a reduction in the Commercial investment income pressure of £408,000 reflecting revised expectations around tenancy levels at Castlegate and Newport Leisure Park for the 2022/23 financial year.

		Draft £000	Movement £000	Final £000
ENT4	Waste services - increase in demand offset by service efficiencies	1,222	(100)	1,122

Due to the current positive position around the disposal cost of recyclates it was decided to reduce the budget pressure by £100,000. This area can be very volatile and there is a risk that this position could change as we go through the year.

BUDGET SAVINGS

		Draft £000	Movement £000	Final £000
CORP10	Council tax base increase	0	(275)	(275)

An assessment of properties in temporary Council tax bands and likely new properties eligible for Council tax charging during 2022/23 has resulted in further income being forecast over and above the existing draft budget proposals.

		Draft £000	Movement £000	Final £000
RES11	Solar farm income increase	0	(300)	(300)

Increases in wholesale electricity prices have driven up the rate that we can get for the units produced by our Solar Farm. We have just recently received the results from the energy auction and with the rate that we achieved there is potential for our turnover to increase by £300,000 in 22/23.

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Appendix F - Responsible Financial Officers Opinion

1.1 The 2003 Local Government Act imposes a number of statutory duties on a Council's Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). Guidance on these duties is contained within LAAP Bulletin 55 and CIPFA's updated Statement on the Role of the Finance Director, compliance with which has been supported by the Council's Governance & Audit Committee. The primary duties are for me, as RFO, to provide a view on the robustness of the budget process, budgetary risk and the adequacy of reserves and balances.

Robustness of the budget process

1.2 In terms of robustness of the budget process, I have placed reliance on the work carried out by members of the Strategic Leadership Team in their Directorates involving budget managers and devolved accountants. The process has been undertaken properly and rigorously with notable elements of good practice. These include;

- The use of the Councils Medium Term Financial Planning tool as an integral part of budget planning.
- Cabinet ownership of budget principles and assumptions through the development of the Medium Term Financial Plan and budget proposals.
- Anticipating likely and known events through the application of appropriate indices for base costs.
- Applying rigour via Directorate Management Teams, Chief Officers, Strategic Leadership Team and Cabinet Member scrutiny.
- Comparing year on year budgets by using 2020/21 outturn and 2021/22 budget monitoring data.
- Looking at a unit cost analysis for services against other Welsh authorities where necessary.
- Providing Select Committees with opportunity to look at and scrutinize current budgets, gaining an understanding of the budgets within the remit of their Select committee.
- Providing Cabinet and Select Committees with the assumptions underlying the Medium Term Financial Plan.
- Consulting on budget proposals through virtual public meetings, the website and social media, via the MyMonmouthshire digital newsletter, as well as through a Countywide virtual budget livestream event, and virtual meetings with MyMates, Engage to change (young people) and Head Teachers.
- Communicating emerging Settlement considerations to Cabinet members.
- Being clear on risks and assumptions within budget proposals and identifying the links with the corporate priorities of the Council and as set out in the Corporate Plan and the accompanying set of strategic aims and as set out in [Looking Ahead, Delivering Now: Our Strategy to Summer 2022](#).
- Ensuring all members are involved in the budget setting process by establishing that budget and Council Tax settings is a function of full Council.

1.3 There are a number of explicit risks in the budget proposals now presented given the continued strain on services, the continued impact of the pandemic and the uncertainties next year and into the medium term. Risks have been identified as the budget proposals have been put together and are captured as part of the MTFP model. Outlined below are the key risks and how they are being managed:

- The extent of significant and ongoing additional costs and income losses that result as a consequence of the pandemic and the extent to which Welsh Government don't continue to fully fund such shortfalls as a result of its COVID Hardship Fund ending in March 2022. The Council has benefitted and is grateful to Welsh Government for the extent of the funding to meet such costs. However, a number of significant risks remain and that are carried into 2022/23 in relation to the fragility of the social care sector, pressures resulting from the lack of temporary homeless accommodation and footfall and memberships for our leisure centres not returning to pre-pandemic levels. In the event that full funding is not forthcoming further savings and recourse to one-off use of reserves may need to be considered as part of a budget recovery plan.
- Continued increase in demand and evidenced based pressures in relation to the financial impact of increasing demand and complexity in children's social services, demographic changes such as increasing elderly population, changes in pupil numbers, increase in special educational need provision has been included in the current budget process. The extent of these pressures in both the current year and next year are significant and increasing. Given the current year position against the budget in many of these areas, these potential pressures will require careful monitoring over the course of the financial year so that problems can be highlighted early and any appropriate corrective action taken.
- Directorates are being required to manage some pressures within their service areas as only significant pressures have been highlighted and included in the budget build. Whilst individually these pressures are relatively small in total there is a considerable pressure to be managed alongside the achievement of the budget saving proposals contained as part of this budget.
- A number of the savings and pressure mandates incorporated into the budget proposals involve the generation of income, changes to current structures, systems and processes, consideration of alternative delivery models or have implications for service design involving community, other partners and entities. These savings involve higher levels of risk than those which broadly maintain current arrangements. At the practical level these risks begin with the income targets not being achieved, possibility of slippage and disruption in the transition from old to new arrangements resulting in further pressures to be managed in the year in which savings are budgeted to be made. Clearly robust and timely monitoring of the delivery of the savings and budgetary control over expenditure will be critically important in order to manage the potential for these risks to materialise.
- The need to ensure that the Authority manages within its in-year revenue and capital budgets as the consequence of any resultant overspend removes the ability to replenish reduced levels of earmarked reserve and places an additional risk that Council Fund levels will be compromised below 4%-6% financial planning assumption traditionally volunteered to Members as prudent. Robust budget monitoring arrangements are in place and corrective action will be taken as needed by the Strategic Leadership Team in consultation with Cabinet Members as required.

- Some of the significant pressures evident during in-year monitoring have been addressed as specific pressures in the 2022-23 budget proposals, and furthermore adjustments needed to be made in respect of savings previously volunteered to members and supported by them but that are now not deemed deliverable.
- Late notification of grant funding streams being removed or reduced. There are still significant specific grant streams that the Council relies upon, that have either not yet been communicated by Welsh Government, have been received late in the budget process or where the impact of notifications is awaiting further clarification. This is particularly an issue where the expenditure backing this grant has an effect on the financing of permanent staff. These will need to be managed on a case by case basis, with the default position being that if the grant ceases the activity also ceases unless a business case can be built that justifies the maintenance of the activity, the expenditure and identifies a means of funding this expenditure following the loss of grant income.
- No allowance for non-pay inflation is afforded in the proposed budget, despite CPI predictions over the medium term, forecast to peak at 4% for 2022 before retreating to 2.6% in 2023 and then to 2.0% over the medium term. Unless recognised as specific pressures in the budget proposals services will not receive budget to cover the full extent of inflation factors next year if they turn out as expected. This puts further pressure on service budgets to find efficiencies savings to manage this shortfall. There is an expectation that this would need to be managed within overall directorate budgets.
- Irrespective of the significant one-off funding given to schools and the surplus balance now held, it is clear that the inherent structural budget deficits that led to a significant number of schools being in deficit over the past few years remain and these will require resolution regardless. It is expected that the additional funding made available to those schools will allow a period of transition and as to allow those underlying budgetary issues to be rectified without impacting on educational standards. Continued emphasis is placed by LEA finance colleagues to agree budgets with schools that are sustainable to the resources available rather than passporting additional deficits to their school reserve. Recovery plans are in place for those schools remaining in deficit and are being closely monitored by the LEA and relevant Cabinet members.
- Treasury estimates established in the budget are based on cashflows, timing of capital spend, forecast interest rate levels and capital receipts occurring as planned. Mitigation has already taken place through long term borrowing being undertaken in 2021/22 at preferential rates and in order to manage interest rate risk and fluctuations.
- Whilst the Council is not playing a reliance on commercial income generation its commercial activities do naturally present commercial risks. The governance arrangements in place through Investment Committee and the Governance & Audit Committee ensure that investments are made on the basis of sound recommendation resulting from robust business cases. Investment performance is monitored by Investment Committee, through budget monitoring reports but explicitly by Audit Committee on an annual basis.
- The risks on the capital side are largely caused by limited additional capital receipts being foreseen by colleagues during the next MTFP window, placing an additional emphasis on borrowing going forward, at a time when revenue headroom to afford

borrowing is compromised by the extent of annual savings necessary to achieve a balanced budget. The continued need to make use of flexible use of capital receipts to fund revenue costs associated with service reform results in a further depletion of available capital receipts. As such the Council will need to move towards a more sustainable budget strategy over the medium term and therefore a significant reduction and subsequent removal over the medium term is planned.

- There are a significant amount of unbudgeted capital pressures and investment plans which can bear on the Council's limited capital resources if policy commitments are made to add further to the capital programme or risks materialize and that require the Council to act to respond to failures in the operational nature of assets.

1.4 Whilst the above risks in the 2022/23 budget have been identified, the main budgetary risks going forward in for the MTFP will also need to be managed and outlined are as follows:

- The increasing challenges with sustaining and maintaining existing service delivery and in line with the priorities outlined in the Council's corporate plan, and that will be updated post May to align with the priorities of an incoming administration
- The implications and impact on public services and that result from the longer term impact of the pandemic on Monmouthshire's communities and wider economy
- The risk and uncertainty around funding settlements projected for the medium term. Whilst indicative Welsh Government core funding increases have been provided for 2023/24 and 2024/25 these remain subject to change
- The impact of inflationary pressures and interest rate rises, both on the Council and its communities
- The risk of pay awards being greater than modelled budget assumptions and not being fully funded by UK and Welsh Government
- The financial, service and strategic implications of service redesign and transformation needed to deliver savings over the medium term
- The national and local emphasis on carbon reduction
- The deteriorating condition of local roads, associated infrastructure and property
- The ageing population
- Continued uncertainty in financial markets
- Low economic activity leading to increased demand for some services and reduced income in others.

Adequacy of reserves

1.5 The MTFP has established the principles for general and earmarked reserve utilization. The level of the Council Fund reserve stood at £8.9m at the start of 2021-22, excluding delegated school balances. The latest month 9 financial monitoring information to be shared with Cabinet on 2nd March indicates a favourable non-COVID forecast under spend

of £2.2m, resulting for significant late Welsh Government grants and further in-year budget recovery action. Furthermore, the forecast is predicated on Welsh Government fully funding COVID related cost pressures and income shortfalls.

- 1.6 Any further adverse volatility in service costs and pressures, the delivery of the in-year budget recovery plan or shortfall in Welsh Government COVID funding could affect the extent to which a further contribution can be made to reserves at the end of 2021-22. However, late notification and receipt of specific grant funding from Welsh Government, together with reasonable assurance that Welsh Government will fund COVID costs and income losses, have greatly assisted in mitigating this risk going into year-end.
- 1.7 Based on a budgeted net expenditure (excluding Police and Community Council precepts) and before financing totalling £174.87m, an £8.90m balance equates to 5.09% cover, which sits in the middle of the range of 4-6% of net revenue budget and is considered to be at a prudent level.
- 1.8 Based on this current assessment the headroom above the de minimum 4% threshold in general reserves stands at £1.912m. This headroom was created tactically as part of the 2019/20 outturn strategy. The latest in-year forecast and the final budget proposals are not suggesting any need to call on general reserves.
- 1.9 The focus therefore turns to the uncertain outlook and future financial challenges and where the headroom in the Council Fund balance is reserved and if required to cover the following, and where mitigating budgetary recovery action is unable to manage such pressures on the Council's budget:
 - Any budget pressure in 2022/23 resulting from pay award announcements that exceed the 3.5% modelling assumption in the final budget proposals
 - Any other pressures that result in 2022/23 and that cannot be contained through budget recovery action, notably the aforementioned risks in 1.3 above
 - Any one-off contribution to support the 2023/24 budget proposals
 - To allow for future reserve cover across the MTFP and beyond
- 1.10 Pre pandemic, net school balances had remained at low levels and had reduced to a net deficit balance of £435k. Receipt of unprecedented levels of grant support from Welsh Government during 2020/21 and 2021/22 have looked to ensure support for schools and their pupils during a period of significant disruption to learning. This has resulted in schools balances currently being forecast to be in surplus at the end of 2021/22 of £4.105m and despite significant investment plans being implemented during the year by schools.
- 1.11 And previously noted and irrespective of the improvement in school balances it is clear that the inherent structural budget deficits that led to a significant number of schools being in deficit over the past few years remain and will require resolution regardless. It is expected that the additional funding made available to those schools will allow a period of transition and as to allow those underlying budgetary issues to be rectified without impacting on educational standards.
- 1.12 The 2022/23 budget anticipates some limited use of earmarked reserves to support the revenue and capital budget proposals. Earmarked reserves have been established over time for use for designated purpose over time, and whilst not currently earmarked for use provide a level of contingency for some of the risks associated with the budget recommendations highlighted in this report.

- 1.13 The total planned net earmarked reserve utilization in support of the 2022/23 revenue and capital budget is £0.41m. Total planned reserve utilization in support of current year revenue and capital budgets means that by the end of 2021/22 the balance of earmarked reserves is likely to be £10.1m. The further call in 2022/23 means that the earmarked reserves will fall to £9.7m, with the useable balance down to £6.57m. And forecast to fall further based on anticipated and known reserve utilization to £6.0m at the end 2025/26.
- 1.14 Useable capital receipts also provide a limited one-off resource to support financing of the capital programme. In recent years the Council has also made use of Welsh Government's guidance allowing flexible use of capital receipts to meet one-off costs associated with service reform. The Council has made further use of this flexibility in 2022/23 and over the remaining three years of the MTFP. Useable capital receipts are forecast to reduce to £7.2m by the end of 2025/26 based on the capital MTFP. The continued use of capital receipts for this purpose is recognized as a necessary but unsustainable approach and has the added consequence of requiring the Council to fund any further and future capital investment through prudential borrowing where it cannot be met from other sources.
- 1.15 My judgement, taking into account the current budget forecast, the 2022/23 budget proposals, the medium term outlook and its associated risks and notably around funding certainty, is to certify that reserves are adequate presently. Both in terms of the quantum of earmarked reserves as well as the General Reserve. However, given that the financial outlook is not set to improve significantly into the medium term, and fundamentally remains uncertain it is vital that the reserve position continues to be closely monitored. This will require continued sound budget management in future years and close Cabinet scrutiny of any further proposals to make use of reserves.
- 1.16 Extra savings may need to be drawn up and communicated to members after the budget process, if the 2021-22 outturn position or in-year forecasts in 2022-23 indicate at any stage a Council Fund balance falling below 4%. Alongside this a review of the reserves policy will be undertaken subsequent to 2021/22 outturn and in readiness for the budget strategy and plan for 2023/24 and over the MTFP period. Which will be developed and be informed by an updated corporate plan produced by an incoming political administration.
- 1.17 The schedule of reserves estimated at the end of the financial year is included as an appendix to the budget report.

Peter Davies

Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer for Resources (S151 Officer)

Responsible Financial Officer

Reserve	31st March 2022	Budgeted Contributions To	Budgeted Contributions From	31st March 2023
Council Fund (Authority)	(8,906,782)			(8,906,782)
School Balances	(3,418,120)			(3,418,120)
Total Council Fund	(12,324,903)	0	0	(12,324,903)

Earmarked Reserves:

Invest to Redesign	(1,342,645)	(125,000)	25,000	(1,442,645)
IT Transformation	(589,046)	0	103,000	(486,046)
Insurance and Risk Management	(935,332)	0	0	(935,332)
Capital Receipt Generation	(365,079)	0	51,000	(314,079)
Treasury Equalisation	(590,024)	0	0	(590,024)
Redundancy and Pensions	(768,721)	0	88,038	(680,683)
Capital Investment	(625,340)	0	0	(625,340)
Priority Investment	(1,700,000)	0	200,000	(1,500,000)
Sub Total Earmarked Reserves:	(6,916,187)	(125,000)	467,038	(6,574,149)
Museums Acquisitions Reserve	(52,884)			(52,884)
Elections Reserve	(273,183)	(35,000)	130,000	(178,183)
Grass Routes Buses Reserve	(166,084)	(5,000)		(171,084)
Youth Offending Team	(150,000)			(150,000)
Building Control trading reserve	9,950			9,950
Covid19 Hardship Fund Equalisation Reserve	(819,000)			(819,000)
Sustainability - PV Invertor Replacement	(15,000)			(15,000)
CYP maternity	(100,865)			(100,865)
Plant & Equipment reserve (Highways)	(183,541)			(183,541)
Homeless Prevention Reserve Fund	(58,267)			(58,267)
Solar Farm Maintenance & Community Fund	(110,000)	(23,000)		(133,000)
Newport Leisure Park Reserve	(188,056)		188,056	0
Castlegate Reserve	(312,361)		312,361	0
Local Resilience Forum Reserve (Gwent PCC Tfr)	(153,685)			(153,685)
Rural Development Plan Reserve	(621,041)			(621,041)
Sub-Total Service Specific Reserves	(3,194,018)	(63,000)	630,417	(2,626,601)
Total Earmarked Reserves	(10,110,205)	(188,000)	1,097,455	(9,200,750)
Total useable revenue reserves	(22,435,107)	(188,000)	1,097,455	(21,525,652)

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Budgeted useable reserve balances

Financial Year ending	2022 £000	2023 £000	2024 £000	2025 £000	2026 £000
<u>Council Fund</u>					
Council Fund (Authority)	(8,907)	(8,907)	(8,907)	(8,907)	(8,907)
School Balances	(3,418)	(3,418)	(3,418)	(3,418)	(3,418)
Sub Total Council Fund	(12,325)	(12,325)	(12,325)	(12,325)	(12,325)
<u>Earmarked Reserves</u>					
Invest to Redesign Reserve	(1,343)	(1,443)	(1,443)	(1,443)	(1,443)
IT Transformation Reserve	(589)	(486)	(383)	(280)	(177)
Insurances & Risk Management Reserve	(935)	(935)	(935)	(935)	(935)
Capital Receipt Generation Reserve	(365)	(314)	(314)	(314)	(314)
Treasury Equalisation Reserve	(590)	(590)	(590)	(590)	(590)
Redundancy and Pensions Reserve	(769)	(681)	(593)	(505)	(417)
Capital Investment Reserve	(625)	(625)	(625)	(625)	(625)
Priority Investment Reserve	(1,700)	(1,500)	(1,500)	(1,500)	(1,500)
Service Specific Reserves	(3,194)	(2,627)	(2,690)	(2,753)	(2,816)
Sub Total Earmarked Reserves	(10,110)	(9,201)	(9,073)	(8,945)	(8,817)
Total Useable Revenue Reserves	(22,435)	(21,526)	(21,398)	(21,270)	(21,142)

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	January 2022 Cabinet proposals							Final Settlement Changes		March 2022 Cabinet and Final budget recommendations to Council			
	Adjusted Base Budget 2021/22	Proposed savings	Identified Explicit Pressures	Budget Assumptions	Corporate Adjustments incl. reserves	Council Tax Income	Proposed Budget 2022/23	Adjustment to AEF	Settlement pressures / adjustments	Changes to Pressures	Changes to Savings	Final amendments	Final budget recommended
Net Expenditure Budgets													
Children and Young People	56,575		1,038	1,339	50		59,002				(11)	58,991	
Social Care and Health	52,643	(120)	4,599	1,450	124		58,696			(700)	(119)	57,877	
Enterprise	21,211	(959)	2,535	1,026	225		24,038			(100)	(112)	23,827	
Monlife	3,968		156	343			4,467				(37)	4,430	
Resources	6,378		1,066	303	20		7,767			(408)	(300)	(36)	7,023
Chief Executive's unit	2,704	(33)	81	123	130		3,005			55	(14)	3,046	
People & Governance	3,809		124	164			4,097				(19)	4,078	
Corporate Costs & Levies	24,238	(442)	814		71		24,682			854	(275)	944	26,205
Sub Total	171,525	(1,554)	10,413	4,749	620	0	185,753	0	0	(299)	(575)	597	185,476
Appropriations	6,417				883		7,300				(250)	7,050	
Contributions to Earmarked reserves	195				(7)		188					188	
Contributions from Earmarked reserves	(172)				(323)		(494)					(494)	
Total Net Proposed Budget	177,966	(1,554)	10,413	4,749	1,174	0	192,747	0	0	(299)	(575)	347	192,220

Funding Budgets

Aggregate External Financing (AEF)	(101,483)			(10,792)			(112,275)						(112,275)
Council Tax (MCC)	(60,078)					(3,126)	(63,204)				608		(62,596)
Council Tax (Gwent Police)	(13,451)						(13,451)				(740)		(14,191)
Council Tax (Community Councils)	(2,954)						(2,954)				(204)		(3,158)
Council Fund Contribution	0				(863)		(863)				863		0
Total Funding	(177,966)	0	0	(10,792)	(863)	(3,126)	(192,747)	0	0	0	0	527	(192,220)
Headroom/(shortfall)	0	(1,554)	10,413	(6,043)	311	(3,126)	0	0	0	(299)	(575)	874	0

	Council Tax 2021/22						2022/23 tax base	Council Tax 2022/23	%age increase
Council tax recommendations	1,434.47						47,372.80	1,476.79	2.95%

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Revenue Budget Summary

Services	Adjusted Base 2021/22 £000	Indicative Base 2022/23 £000	Indicative Base 2023/24 £000	Indicative Base 2024/25 £000	Indicative Base 2025/26 £000
Children & Young People	56,575	58,990	60,350	61,481	62,613
Social Care & Health	52,643	57,877	58,685	59,361	60,165
Enterprise	21,211	23,827	24,206	24,920	25,683
MonLife	3,968	4,430	4,676	4,913	5,157
Resources	6,378	7,023	7,292	7,509	7,732
Chief Executive's Unit	2,704	3,046	2,961	3,047	3,136
People & Governance	3,809	4,078	4,210	4,326	4,445
Corporate Costs & Levies	24,237	26,204	34,109	39,847	45,705
Sub-Total	171,525	185,475	196,491	205,406	214,637
Transfers to reserves	195	188	63	63	63
Transfers from reserves	(172)	(494)	(88)	(88)	(88)
Treasury	6,417	7,050	8,123	8,586	9,168
Appropriations Total	6,441	6,744	8,098	8,561	9,143
Total Expenditure Budget	177,966	192,220	204,588	213,966	223,781
Aggregate External Financing (AEF)	(101,483)	(112,275)	(116,205)	(118,993)	(121,373)
Council Tax (MCC)	(60,078)	(62,596)	(65,069)	(67,639)	(70,311)
Council Tax (Gwent Police)	(13,451)	(14,191)	(14,752)	(15,334)	(15,940)
Council Tax (Community Councils)	(2,954)	(3,158)	(3,158)	(3,158)	(3,158)
Contribution to/(from) Council Fund	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total Financing	(177,966)	(192,220)	(199,183)	(205,125)	(210,782)
(Headroom)/Shortfall	0	0	5,406	8,842	12,999

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Capital Budget	Indicative Budget 2022/23 *	Indicative Budget 2023/24	Indicative Budget 2024/25	Indicative Budget 2025/26
Property Maintenance	1,653,357	1,653,357	1,653,357	1,653,357
Property Maintenance Fees	236,194	236,194	236,194	236,194
Upgrade School Kitchens	39,725	39,725	39,725	39,725
Asset Management Schemes	1,929,276	1,929,276	1,929,276	1,929,276
Access for all - Schools	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Abergavenny 3-19 School	13,631,287	0	0	0
School Development Schemes	13,681,287	50,000	50,000	50,000
Footway Reconstruction	190,453	190,453	190,453	190,453
Street Lighting Defect Column Programme	171,408	171,408	171,408	171,408
Reconstruction of bridges & retaining walls	449,041	449,041	449,041	449,041
Safety fence upgrades	76,181	76,181	76,181	76,181
Signing upgrades & disabled facilities	38,091	38,091	38,091	38,091
Flood Alleviation Schemes	386,427	386,427	386,427	386,427
Structural Repairs - PROW	38,091	38,091	38,091	38,091
Carriageway resurfacing	1,136,540	1,136,540	1,136,540	1,136,540
Road safety & trafficman programme	129,508	129,508	129,508	129,508
Highways OPS: Minor improvements	812,000	812,000	812,000	812,000
Highways - additional infrastructure investment	627,000			
Tintern wireworks bridge	800,000			
Wye Bridge Chepstow	188,000	375,000		
Wye Bridge Monmouth	150,000	2,170,000		
Ash Dieback/Dangerous Trees	400,000	300,000	200,000	100,000
CCTV for bus fleet	200,000			
Infrastructure & Transport Schemes	5,792,740	6,272,740	3,627,740	3,527,740
Capital Region City Deal	330,400	602,900	730,200	730,200
Regeneration Schemes	330,400	602,900	730,200	730,200
County Farms Maintenance	300,773	300,773	300,773	300,773
County Farms Schemes	300,773	300,773	300,773	300,773
Disabled Facilities Grant	900,000	900,000	900,000	900,000
Access For All	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Inclusion Schemes	1,150,000	1,150,000	1,150,000	1,150,000
SRS Data Hall Migration	203,000			
ICT Desktop replacement	260,000	260,000	260,000	260,000
Network Estate replacement	116,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
SRS capital reserve contribution	61,000	61,000	61,000	61,000
Ransomware & security software	42,000	42,000	42,000	42,000
ICT Schemes	682,000	413,000	413,000	413,000
Vehicle Leasing	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Vehicles Leasing	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Capitalisation Directive	2,649,500	507,500	507,500	507,500
Capitalisation Directive	2,649,500	507,500	507,500	507,500
County Farms Fixed Asset Disposal Costs	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Area Management	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Match funding for Grant supported schemes	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Match funding for Housing provision	2,000,000			
Other Schemes	3,070,000	1,070,000	1,070,000	1,070,000
Total Expenditure	31,085,977	13,796,190	11,278,490	11,178,490
Supported Borrowing	(2,431,000)	(2,431,000)	(2,431,000)	(2,431,000)
Unsupported (Prudential) Borrowing	(19,966,687)	(5,522,900)	(3,105,200)	(3,105,200)
Grants & Contributions	(3,592,731)	(2,438,000)	(2,438,000)	(2,438,000)
Reserve & Revenue Contributions	0	(103,000)	(103,000)	(103,000)
Capital Receipts	(3,595,559)	(1,801,290)	(1,701,290)	(1,601,290)
Vehicle Lease Financing	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)
Total Funding	(31,085,977)	(13,796,190)	(11,278,490)	(11,178,490)
(Surplus) / Deficit	0	0	0	0

* The budget figures quoted for 2022/23 do not currently include the impact of any further decisions that may be made on capital investment being brought forward as part of separate reports to Cabinet & Council in March 2022

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Capital investment approved for funding

Ref	Scheme	Summary	Investment Criteria	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	Total £'000
S1	Wye Bridge Chepstow	<p>Works into refining the assessment and investigation of potential load mitigation measures are currently underway. This will primarily involve material testing and the design of suitable traffic management measures which will involve limiting the amount of vehicles allowed on the bridge at any one time and reducing the weight limit from 7.5t to 3.0t.</p> <p>It is expected that additional Capital funds will be required in the 2022-23 financial year to implement the traffic management measures and undertake necessary crack repairs. It is also proposed to install permanent strain gauges and monitoring stations as part of the ongoing management of the structure.</p>	H&S, Legal, S2S, AMP, INF	188	375			563
Page 205 S2	Wye bridge Monmouth & Flood Arches Remedial Works	<p>Long standing issues concerning the bridge abutments and scour action from the river flows. The adjacent flood relief structure also has a long standing issue where the downstream parapet has a noticeable lean over the majority of its length and the main arch ring is showing signs of separation.</p> <p>Recent flood events have escalated the need for the investigations in 22/23 and remedial works in 23/24 (the cost for which is estimated and will be fully informed by the findings of the investigations). Repairs to the flood arches are need to coincide with development of the Wye Active Travel bridge and associated connecting paths which is projected for construction in 23/24.</p>	H&S, Legal, S2S, AMP, INF	150	2,170			2,320

Ref	Scheme	Summary	Investment Criteria	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	Total £'000
S3	Tintern Wireworks bridge	<p>The structure was assessed for pedestrian loading as per the requirement to the code of practice and 3T vehicular loading due its current access arrangement with the residence on the Gloucestershire side. The main girders were found to be working with inadequate safety factors under the pedestrian and 3T vehicular loading.</p> <p>After securing funding GCC commissioned Atkins to develop a refurbishment scheme which includes repairs to the piers, strengthening, deck replacement and vehicle containment and the associated assessment work to fully understand the manner in which some of these works can be undertaken. These works are now currently proposed to commence onsite in April/May 2022. As a jointly owned structure additional Capital monies are required as MCC's 50% contribution to the repairs.</p>	H&S, Legal, S2S, AMP, INF	800				800
S4	ICT Desktop replacement	<p>SRS have produced an asset replacement plan to identify IT equipment that will need replacing over the next 4 years.</p> <p>Desktop estate - planning is currently done on an estate of 1601 devices being used and is a number driven directly by MCC requirements. We typically advise partners to refresh their laptop / desktop estate every four years. When year five arrives, the devices really start to struggle and performance is hampered as we are starting to see now. Partners may choose a longer period of time to sweat these assets over which is not an issue, it is important to recognise we will continue to support them in year five but performance issues can be expected. Cost reflects replacement of 400 devices pa.</p>	Legal, AMP, INF	260	260	260	260	1,040

Ref	Scheme	Summary	Investment Criteria	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	Total £'000
S4	Network Estate replacement	<p>PSBA capital work required as part of the data centre move requested by the Strategic Board at the January 2020 Board meeting. For MCC this is in relation to the PSBA configuration required in the new data centre location.</p> <p>Edge switch networking - MCC have 99 network edge switches and approx. 292 wireless access points across their corporate infrastructure. The end of life points of these switches, as set by the support available from Cisco for updates and patches has passed several years ago but there are still switches with an EOL at November 2021.</p> <p>The recommendation from the SRS (through working with the Estates team) is to replace key building infrastructure in 2021-22 financial year which equates to 47 edge switches and 155 Wireless Access Points. The cost of this is currently estimated at £183K in 21-22 and £116k in 22-23. Cisco pricing and delivery is incredibly volatile at the moment due to global supply chain issues and dollar rate fluctuations.</p>	Legal, AMP, INF	116	50	50	50	266
S4	SRS capital reserve contribution	<p>Cabinet report 07/10/2020 (SRS data hall move) - Identified that the capital equipment required has an expected life of between five and ten years, and it would be prudent for partners to build up a capital reserve to fund the future replacement to mitigate substantial Capital outlay. To cover the next 15 years of refresh the partners would need to allocate £397,000 to the capital reserve.</p> <p>The authority's share of this would be £61,000 per annum. It is proposed that this is incorporated into base capital MTFP such that adequate budget provision can be set aside for capital refresh of equipment and to avoid significant one-off pressures occurring at the end of equipment life cycle.</p>	Legal, AMP, INF	61	61	61	61	244

Ref	Scheme	Summary	Investment Criteria	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	Total £'000
S4	Ransomware & security software	Additional budget to pay for cybercrime software that has been identified as being essential to continuing system security as per Cabinet report 6th November 2021 :- Ransomware £18k SIEM/SOC software £24k	Legal, AMP, INF	42	42	42	42	168
Page 208	CCTV buses	Passenger Transport runs a fleet of minibuses and 10 coaches to deliver home to school transport, community transport and scheduled bus services. A small number of these vehicles have CCTV fitted within the vehicle which has enabled the service to use the recordings to review incidents following complaints or damage. The recordings can provide an objective account of what transpired and provide safeguarding for PTU staff and passengers.	H&S, S2S	200				200
		It is proposed that CCTV cameras are fitted in all PTU vehicles and the resulting data will be used to support investigations including accidents, complaints, and damage. Should the bid be successful tenders will be sought for a cloud based solution which will enable the footage to be instantly accessible if required.						
S6	Additional highways refurbishment	£627k capital investment reflective of the reduction in Highways refurbishment grant in 2022/23, and to enable a number of small highway refurbishment schemes to be prioritised before the extent of repairs (and cost) increases. These small projects exceed emergency pothole filling repairs but are unlikely to reach to top of the resurfacing programme for many years. This fund will enable these locally problematic complaints to be addressed.	H&S, Legal, S2S, AMP, INF	627				627

Ref	Scheme	Summary	Investment Criteria	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	Total £'000
S7	Ash dieback/Dangerous trees	<p>Ash dieback is prevalent across Monmouthshire and is of particular concern along the highway network and green open spaces. Ash is self-seeding and widespread in the county. It is important that the effects of ash dieback are planned for and managed, especially in safety-critical locations. The majority are located along the priority routes and will impact highway network infrastructure should they fail.</p> <p>As well as ash dieback MCC have a large amount of Victorian parks and street trees require identification, logging and may need additional maintenance.</p> <p>Long term management of established trees and woodland will have more positive impact on climate change and nature emergency than newly planted whips. The whips may take many years to establish before they provide the same levels of benefit of these mature trees.</p>	H&S, Legal	400	300	200	100	1,000
S8	Match funding for Housing provision	<p>Although day-to-day the number of people and families presenting to us as homeless continues to be consistent with recent years, the situation in Monmouthshire is particularly acute, due to an increased demand in accommodation requirements, but with a lack of both temporary and permanent accommodation available to be offered to them. This presents significant challenges for the Council with currently unprecedented numbers of people in temporary accommodation (as at 10th February 2022, 90 people were in B&B and a further 90 in temporary accommodation, with 54 'new applicants' potentially waiting for Temporary Accommodation).</p> <p>The reason for the situation is due to the limited supply of suitable temporary and move on accommodation, resulting in an unavoidable increase in the use of B & B, which is further compounded by the availability of B & B's willing to take on</p>	H&S, Legal, CORP, Third	2,000				2,000

Ref	Scheme	Summary	Investment Criteria	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	Total £'000
		<p>homeless people when operating continually at capacity in a year-round tourist destination, leading to inconsistent availability. These expensive B&B accommodation costs, coupled with necessary B&B security costs and a loss of Housing Benefit Subsidy are leading to significant revenue budget pressures.</p> <p>Up until now the B&B costs, security costs and housing benefit shortfall have been funded via the WG Covid Hardship Fund due to WG's recognition that this pressure is a consequence of WG's policy shift and requirement of LA's to ensure people are housed in suitable temporary and then permanent accommodation. However, these costs are unlikely to be covered going forward resulting in a negative budget situation.</p> <p>Capital borrowing headroom is therefore required to enable the Council to identify longer term solutions to help solve the County's temporary accommodation and social housing issues, focusing on acquisition and retrofitting in areas encumbered by the Phosphates hiatus, alongside new build opportunities where land supply allows.</p> <p>It should be noted that this budget will create borrowing headroom and will be funding of last resort and where we are unable to manoeuvre and secure other funding streams (for example Social Housing Grant) to deliver the same effect.</p> <p>Whilst acquisitions of this nature may not provide any financial return on investment, it will enable the Council to offset some of the current and future revenue budget risks presenting by providing cost reduction and avoidance opportunities.</p>						
	Total			4,844	3,258	613	513	9,228

Approved Capital investment criteria

Ref	Aspect	Indicative Rank
H&S	Health & safety works (life & limb works)	1
Legal	Legal & regulatory obligations	1
Rev	Allow a balanced revenue budget to be set, or a net deficit in revenue spending to be positively addressed	2
Corp	Deliver corporate plan priorities	2
Third	Attract significant 3 rd party or private match funding to the County	3
S2S	Spend to save transformational works (including flexible use of capital receipts)	3
INC	Spend to earn net income – rents, interest and dividends	3
Sust	Create sustainable income streams – business rates and council tax	3
AMP	Asset management plan outcomes	4
INF	Addresses major infrastructure investment	4

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Band B Schools Programme Summary

Band B Schools Programme	Financial Year 2021/22	Financial Year 2022/23	Financial Year 2023/24	Financial Year 2024/25	Financial Year 2025/26
	Revised Budget	Indicative Budget £	Indicative Budget £	Indicative Budget £	Indicative Budget £
Expenditure:					
Abergavenny 3-19 Band B Schools Team	28,425,383 572,302	13,631,287			
Total Expenditure	28,997,685	13,631,287	0	0	0
Financing:					
Welsh Government - Band B funding	(27,949,999)	0			
External Grant & Contribution Funding	(27,949,999)	0	0	0	0
Receipts - Band B Schools Team	(182,348)				
Capital Receipts	(182,348)	0	0	0	0
Borrowing - Abergavenny 3-19 Borrowing - Band B Schools Team	(475,384) (389,954)	(13,631,287)			
Unsupported Specific Borrowing	(865,337)	(13,631,287)	0	0	0
Total Financing	(28,997,685)	(13,631,287)	0	0	0
(Surplus) / Deficit	0	0	0	0	0

Footnote: The budget will be subsequently updated to align with the Full Business Case and that will subsequently be brought back to Council for approval.

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Forecast Useable Capital Receipts

<u>General Receipts</u>	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance as at 1st April	9,581	13,503	11,108	10,311	8,714
Less: capital receipts used for financing	(3,582)	(2,311)	(1,294)	(1,194)	(1,094)
Less: capital receipts used to support capitalisation directive	(2,208)	(2,650)	(508)	(508)	(508)
	3,791	8,542	9,306	8,609	7,112
Capital receipts Received	2,596	0	0	0	0
Capital receipts Forecast	7,115	2,565	1,004	104	104
Forecast Balance as at 31st March	13,503	11,108	10,311	8,714	7,217

<u>Low cost home ownership and Homefinder receipts</u>	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance as at 1st April	182	252	252	252	252
LCHO receipts received	70	0	0	0	0
Less: capital receipts used for financing	0	0	0	0	0
	252	252	252	252	252
Capital receipts Received / Forecast	-	-	-	-	-
Forecast Balance as at 31st March	252	252	252	252	252

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Capital Receipts Risk Factor

The analysis below provides a summary of the receipts and the respective risk factors associated with realising the receipt:

Capital Receipts Risk Factor	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Education Receipts					
Low / completed	374	0	0	0	0
Medium	0	0	0	0	0
High	0	0	0	0	0
Total Education Receipts	374	0	0	0	0
County Farm Receipts					
Low / completed	0	0	0	0	0
Medium	0	0	0	0	0
High	0	200	0	0	0
Total County Farm Receipts	0	200	0	0	0
General Receipts					
Low / completed	2,838	615	104	104	104
Medium	0	1,250	0	0	0
High	0	0	0	0	0
Total General Receipts	2,838	1,865	104	104	104
Strategic Accommodation Review					
Low / completed	0	0	0	0	0
Medium	0	0	900	0	0
High	0	0	0	0	0
Total Strategic Accommodation Receipts	0	0	900	0	0
Dependent on Outcome of LDP					
Low / completed	0	0	0	0	0
Medium	6,500	500	0	0	0
High	0	0	0	0	0
Total LDP Receipts	6,500	500	0	0	0
TOTALS					
Low / completed	3,212	615	104	104	104
Medium	6,500	1,750	900	0	0
High	0	200	0	0	0
Total Capital Receipts Forecasted to be Received in Year	9,712	2,565	1,004	104	104

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(Exempt) - Individual capital receipts forecast

ASSET FOR DISPOSAL 2021/22 onwards	Latest Comment	Received 2021/22	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
		£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Education Receipts								
Gilwern Old School	SOLD. 02/07/21 - sale completed. 14th May 21. Total receipt (including deposit) of £373,737	374	0	0	0	0	0	374
Subtotal Education Receipts		374	0	0	0	0	0	374
County Farm Receipts								
Penarth Farm (Llanishen 1)	10/09/21 - Site constrained by existing tenancy and site layout. Risk of being deallocated. Remainder of site promoted for solar development in RLDP	0	0	200	0	0	0	200
Subtotal County Farms Receipts		0	0	200	0	0	0	200
General Receipts								
Portal Road, Monmouth, 2-acre Development, phase 2	07/12/21 - offer accepted, awaiting exchange. Bidder reviewing ability to accommodate coach parking on site. Inability to do so may cause delays or reduce forecasted receipt.	0	0	1,250	0	0	0	1,250
Abergavenny Cattle Market	Deferred Capital receipts profiled April 2018	0	100	100	100	100	100	501
Deferred capital receipts		0	4	4	4	4	4	
Land at Llanfair Discoed, 5	Completed.	15	0	0	0	0	0	15

ASSET FOR DISPOSAL 2021/22 onwards		Latest Comment	Received 2021/22	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
			£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Education Receipts									
Land adjoining Uplands House, Portskewett. NP26 5TY (Parkwall Hilston Park	Completed.	This disposal is to be ringfenced for Outdoor Education	18	0	0	0	0	0	18
		07/05/21 - offer accepted for £2,041,000 (combined value for main house and lodge). 02/07/21 - Lodge to complete within 7 days. Main house subject to appeal. 10/09/21 - Both properties sold. 40% of receipt paid on main house. Remainder paid in 6 monthly instalments over 12 months. 07/12/21 - forecasting adjusted for instalments, 6 monthly from point of completion.	994	511	511	0	0	0	2,016
6 Leechpool Holdings - Cottage	Completed.	10/09/21 - offer accepted. Due to complete within next 2 weeks.	253	0	0	0	0	0	253
30 Leechpool Holdings - Cottage	Completed.	10/09/21 - completed	303	0	0	0	0	0	303
Church View, Trellech - Cottage	Completed.	10/09/21 - offer accepted. Due to complete within next 4-6 weeks	400	0	0	0	0	0	400
Chepstow Cemetery	Completed.		12						12
Llanfoist Cemetery Lodge	Completed.	10/09/21 - completed	228	0	0	0	0	0	228
Subtotal General Receipts			2,223	615	1,865	104	104	104	4,996

ASSET FOR DISPOSAL 2021/22 onwards	Latest Comment	Received 2021/22	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
		£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Education Receipts								
Strategic Accommodation Review								
Severn View Care Home	06/01/21 - Delays in on site construction (associated with Covid) of replacement Care Home at Crick could delay date of sale.	0	0	0	900	0	0	900
Subtotal Strategic Accommodation Review		0	0	0	900	0	0	900
Dependent on Outcome of LDP								
Land at Undy (Rockfield Farm), phased disposal - phase 1 (resi)	11/02/22 - Terms of sale agreed, aiming for completion prior to 31/03/22	0	6,500	500	0	0	0	7,000
Subtotal Dependant on Outcome of LDP		0	6,500	500	0	0	0	7,000
Total Forecast Capital Receipts		2,596	7,115	2,565	1,004	104	104	13,470

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**SCHEDULE 12A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE OF DOCUMENTS**

Meeting and Date of Meeting: Cabinet 2nd March 2022

**Report: Final revenue and capital budget proposals 2022/23 – Appendix I6
Individual Capital receipts forecast**

Author: Jonathan Davies, Acting Assistant Head of Finance

I have considered grounds for exemption of information contained in the background paper for the report referred to above and make the following recommendation to the Proper Officer:-

Exemptions applying to the report:

Appendix I6 – detailed indication of the value of future individual capital receipts.

Non-disclosure reason – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information).

Factors in favour of disclosure:

Openness & transparency in matters concerned with the public.

Prejudice which would result if the information were disclosed:

In communicating **Appendix I6** intact, the Council would be undermining its negotiating position with regard to future capital receipts by communicating the likely value it would accept in the sale of particular assets.

My view on the public interest test is as follows:

Factors in favour of disclosure are outweighed by those against.

Recommended decision on exemption from disclosure:

Maintain exemption from publication in relation to report

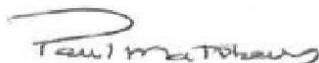
Signed:



Name: Jonathan Davies
Post: Acting Assistant Head of Finance
Date: 16th February 2022

I accept the recommendation made above

Signed:



Name: Paul Matthews

Post: Chief Executive Officer
Date: 16th February 2022

Backlog capital pressures presenting in the medium term

Ref	Capital Pressure	Forecast Pressure	Investment criteria (see appx 4)	Responsible Officer
P1	Property Maintenance requirements for both schools & non-schools as valued by condition surveys carried out some years ago. The existing £2m annual budget mainly targets urgent maintenance e.g. health & safety, maintaining buildings wind & watertight, etc., and is insufficient to address the maintenance backlog. A lack of funding means maintenance costs will rise; that our ability to sell buildings at maximum market rates will be affected ; Our ability to deliver effective services will be affected and a Loss of revenue and poor public image.	22,000,000	H&S, Legal, AMP	Deb Hill Howells
P2	Disabled adaptation works to public buildings required under disability discrimination legislation.	5,000,000	Legal	Deb Hill Howells
P3	School Traffic Management Improvements - based on works carried out on similar buildings.	450,000	H&S	Deb Hill Howells
P4	School fencing improvements	450,000	H&S	Deb Hill Howells
P5	Modification works to school kitchens to comply with Environmental Health Standards. Without additional funding school kitchens may have to be closed and additional costs for transporting meals incurred, possibly causing disruption to the education process.	150,000	H&S	Deb Hill Howells
P6	Bringing County highways to the level of a safe road network. This backlog calculation figure has been provided by Welsh Government The reduction and shortfall in revenue budgets over recent years for maintaining our highways and associated infrastructure has resulted in a concerning backlog and the need for a major injection of funding to address the situation. In order to halt the deterioration of MCC roads and footways, a minimum annual investment of £2.5M for each year over the next 3 years will be required. This is in addition to any specific grant funding from Welsh Government, which if awarded will be for the purpose of reducing the backlog and improving the overall condition of the highway network.	80,000,000	H&S, Legal, INF	Mark Hand/ Paul Keeble
P7	Transportation/safety strategy –Air Quality Management, 20 m.p.h legislation and DDA (car parks)	1,200,000	Legal	Mark Hand/ Paul Keeble

Ref	Capital Pressure	Forecast Pressure	Investment criteria (see appx 4)	Responsible Officer
P8	<p>Investing in infrastructure projects needed to arrest road closures due to whole or partial bank slips (Grant risk) - The following schemes have formed grant bids and if unsuccessful will present a pressure on the Authority.</p> <p>A4136 Staunton Road Stabilisation, Treehouse Redbrook Stabilisation, R35 Undy Flood Recovery, Old Mill Lane Llanvair Discoed, Pandy Mill Shirenewton Retaining Wall, A472 Usk Flood Wall Strengthening, Cymyoy Embankment, St Brides Brook,</p>	3,150,000	H&S, INF	Mark Hand/ Paul Keeble
P9	<p>Redbrook Road Rail structure remedial maintenance forecast to be due in 2024/25. Costs shared 50/50 with Gloucester.</p>	550,000	H&S, INF	Mark Hand/ Paul Keeble
P10	<p>A4077 Gilwern Viaduct substandard structure. £2m to repair, £8m to replace - Timing depends on inspection results, however currently expected to present a pressure in 2023/24.</p>	2,000,000	H&S, INF	Mark Hand/ Paul Keeble
P11	<p>Reprovision or repair of Chain Bridge - Cost prediction is indicative at present. Without remedial work, the structure will continue to deteriorate. The current 40T maximum limit will have to be further reduced restricting access to the Llanoyo area especially for heavy vehicles. Options evaluated from repairing sufficiently to maintain 40t limit, to converting to footbridge and reprovisioning. Pressure currently expected in 2023/24.</p>	1,300,000	H&S, INF	Mark Hand/ Paul Keeble

Ref	Capital Pressure	Forecast Pressure	Investment criteria (see appx 4)	Responsible Officer
P12	<p>Public Rights of Way to bring the network up to statutorily required, safe and more accessible standard and maintain this. Based on updating the assessment completed to inform the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, reflecting that the backlog of issues is growing. Includes signage, drainage and surfacing, stiles and gates and known bridge replacement need. This is as a provisional figure as surveys and assessments of bridges and structures are on-going. It excludes larger structures requiring bespoke solution and specific rights of way structural issues, such as works required on both the Wye Valley and Usk Valley Walks (300k), and any flood damage whose costs cannot be recovered from Welsh Government grant (70k+). [MonLife]</p>	6,000,000	H&S, Legal, Corp, INF	Matthew Lewis
P13	<p>Countryside access sites – to maintain countryside visitor and heritage sites to a safe standard includes stonework on scheduled ancient monuments, access works, river protection works, and repairs to car parks. Excludes Clydach Ironworks SAM restoration costs and further pressures as a result of the spread of ash dieback. [MonLife]</p>	500,000	H&S, Legal, Corp, INF, Third	Matthew Lewis
P14	<p>Clydach Ironworks– to comprehensively restore the Scheduled Ancient Monument from its “at risk” status and provide visitor access – further external grant being sought</p>	2,500,000	H&S, Legal, Corp, INF, Third	Matthew Lewis
P15	<p>Highways refurbishment and repairs (Grant risk) - to offset the end of the WG grant and to fund small schemes. Should the WG grant continue, this pressure can be reduced accordingly.</p> <p>20/21 was the last confirmed year of the WG highways refurbishment grant amounting to £630k/yr, although it was paid in 21/22. There is no certainty that the grant will continue. Without this funding our progress on the evidence based programme will be limited, with the spend reduced from £1.93m to £1.3m.</p>	630,000 pa	H&S, INF	Mark Hand/ Paul Keeble
P16	<p>Church Road resurfacing (Grant risk) - Only required if grant funding is not secured for 2022/23 for Church Road phase 2.</p>	150,000	INF	Mark Hand/ Paul Keeble

MonLife Investment Considerations in the medium term

Ref	Investment Consideration	Forecast Investment	Investment criteria (see appx 4)	Responsible Officer
I1	Gilwern Site – redevelopment of site, major refurbishments (part of CRF bid)	1,500,000	Corp,	Ian Saunders
I2	Monmouth Museum / Shire Hall / Museum Storage - Reconfiguration to create new cultural and heritage destination including redisplay of the Nelson collection and addressing museum collections storage; feasibility study completed part of Monmouth LUF bid and other grant funding being sought (heritage lottery / WG etc.)	3,500,000	Corp, Third, INF	Ian Saunders
I3	Caldicot Leisure Centre Redevelopment (Feasibility and cost certainty completed). Part of LUF bid	8,500,000	Corp	Ian Saunders
I4	Abergavenny Leisure Centre Phase 2 Redevelopment	10,000,000	Corp	Ian Saunders

2022/23 prudential indicators

Capital Expenditure & Financing £m	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Budget	2025/26 Budget
Capital expenditure	84.3	29.6	12.3	9.8	9.7
Financed by:					
External Sources (Grants & External Contributions)	43.4	3.6	2.4	2.4	2.4
Own Resources (Capital receipt and reserves)	7.4	3.6	1.9	1.8	1.7
Borrowing & other Debt	33.5	22.4	8.0	5.6	5.6
Total Financing	84.3	29.6	12.3	9.8	9.7

Gross Debt Forecast compared to CFR £m	2021/22 Estimate	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate
Debt (Inc. PFI, leases, right of use assets)	165.5	182.5	183.3	185.8	189.1
Capital Financing Requirement (Total)	192.7	232.1	232.7	230.7	228.6

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Authorised & Operational Borrowing Limits	2021/22 Estimate	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate
Authorised limit - borrowing	246.5	268.2	269.1	268.1	267.1
Operational boundary - PFI, leases & right of use assets	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4
Authorised Limit - total external debt	250.9	272.6	273.5	272.5	271.5
Operational Boundary - borrowing	216.3	238.0	238.9	237.9	236.9
Operational Boundary - PFI, leases & right of use assets	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Operational Boundary - total external debt	219.2	240.9	241.8	240.8	239.8

Proportion of financing Costs to net revenue stream	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate
Interest £m	3.6	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.5
MRP £m	6.4	6.7	7.3	7.6	7.7
Total Financing costs	10.0	10.6	11.4	11.7	12.2
Net Revenue Stream (£m)	155.1	168.9	179.3	187.6	196.3
Proportion of net revenue stream %	6.45%	6.29%	6.38%	6.24%	6.21%

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Capital Strategy & Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23

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Treasury & Capital Strategy

- 1.1. Treasury management is the management of the Authority's cash flows, borrowing and investments, and the associated risks. The Authority has borrowed and invested substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of financial risks are therefore central to the Authority's prudent financial management.
- 1.2. Treasury risk management at the Authority is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2017 Edition (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Authority to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year. In addition, the Welsh Government (WG) issued revised Guidance on Local Authority Investments in November 2019 that requires the Authority to approve an investment strategy before the start of each financial year. This report fulfils the Authority's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the WG Guidance.
- 1.3. This Council regards the successful identification, monitoring and control of risk to be the prime criteria by which the effectiveness of its treasury management activities will be measured. Accordingly, the analysis and reporting of treasury management activities will focus on their risk implications for the organisation, and any financial instruments entered into to manage these risks.
- 1.4. This Council acknowledges that effective treasury management will provide support towards the achievement of its business and service objectives. It is therefore committed to the principles of achieving value for money in treasury management, and to employing suitable performance measurement techniques, within the context of effective risk management.
- 1.5. This Capital strategy gives a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of local public services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future financial sustainability.
- 1.6. Decisions made now on capital and treasury management will have financial consequences for the Authority for many years into the future. They are therefore subject to both a national regulatory framework and to local policy framework, summarised in this report.
- 1.7. The Council's borrowing driven by investment decisions based on its Capital strategy will be affordable, sustainable and prudent and consideration will be given to the management of interest rate risk, refinancing risk and budgetary risk. The source from which the borrowing is taken and the type of borrowing should allow the Council transparency and control over its debt.

1.8. The Council's primary objective in relation to investments remains the security of capital. The liquidity or accessibility of the Authority's investments followed by the yield earned on investments remain important but are secondary considerations.

2. **Governance & reporting**

2.1. Council delegates responsibility for the monitoring and scrutiny of its treasury management policy, strategy and practices to the Governance & Audit Committee and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the Section 151 officer or deputy, who will act in accordance with the policy and strategy and follow CIPFA's Standard of Professional Practice on Treasury Management.

2.2. The responsibility to approve the Capital strategy and the annual Treasury management strategy (including the investment strategy and MRP policy statement) remains with full Council.

2.3. Responsibility for treasury decisions ultimately remains with the Council, however the Council recognises the value in the use of treasury advisors to support the management of risk and to access specialist skills and resources. Support provided by its current advisors Arlingclose Limited includes advice on timing of decision making, training, credit updates, economic forecasts, research, articles and advice on capital finance.

2.4. Revised strategy: In accordance with the WG Guidance, full Council would be asked to approve a revised Treasury Management Strategy should the assumptions on which this report is based change significantly. Such circumstances would include, for example, a large unexpected change in interest rates, in the Authority's capital programme or in the level of its investment balance, or a material loss in the fair value of a non-financial investment identified as part of the year end accounts preparation and audit process.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Capital strategy gives a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of local public services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future financial sustainability.
- 1.2. Decisions made now on capital and treasury management will have financial consequences for the Authority for many years into the future. They are therefore subject to both a national regulatory framework and to local policy framework, summarised in this report.
- 1.3. It highlights that in the current climate of financial constraints and a continued Medium Term Financial Projection (MTFP) revenue budget gap, that expenditure on capital needs to remain within affordable limits. Demand for capital resources remains high and therefore inevitably, prioritisation of projects, leveraging in other sources of funding and working with partners remain key to meeting this demand.
- 1.4. The strategy highlights the key risks and considerations:
 - Capital expenditure plans for the Council need to be affordable, prudent and sustainable.
 - The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan includes the revenue costs for the financing of the current capital programme to 2025/26. This will exclude any borrowing for schemes which are self-financing over the life of the project.
 - If the level of capital expenditure funded by borrowing is required to be increased from that approved in the current programme it would need to be sanctioned by full Council.
 - Useable capital receipts provide a limited one-off resource to support financing of the capital programme. In recent years the Council has also made use of Welsh Government's guidance allowing flexible use of capital receipts to meet one-off costs associated with service reform. The Council has needed to make use of this flexibility in 2019/20, 2020/21 & 2021/22 and plans to do similarly in 2022/23 and over the remaining three years of the MTFP. Useable capital receipts are forecast to reduce to £7.2m by the end of 2025/26 based on the capital MTFP. The continued use of capital receipts for this purpose is recognized as a necessary but unsustainable approach and has the added consequence of requiring the Council to fund any further and future capital investment through prudential borrowing where it cannot be met from other sources.
 - As per the agreed framework (detailed in the report) the current programme needs to be maintained within the agreed limits, therefore not putting additional pressure on the capital financing budgets that have been included in the 2022/23 revenue budget.

- Within the context of significant demands for capital resources and limited availability, there is the need to develop our use of the various strategic plans across the organisation which drive the need for capital investment and develop alternative strategies to meet demand so the Councils own capital programme is prioritised within an affordable framework. This will include clearer and corporate visibility and assessment of demand for schools, highways and other operational assets.
- Approval of capital expenditure funded through borrowing locks the Council into committing revenue funding over a very long period (as long as 60 years). With Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) budgets increasing over the medium-term, the Authority needs to ensure its capital plans remain affordable and sustainable.
- The prudential indicators, including borrowing limits, are in line with the final budget proposals presented to Cabinet and Council in March 2022.

1.5. The strategy will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis alongside the Treasury Management Strategy given both strategies are intrinsically linked.

2. The Prudential Code

2.1. The objective of the Prudential Code is to ensure, within a clear framework, that the capital expenditure plans of local authorities are:

- **AFFORDABLE** - Total capital investment of the authority remains within sustainable limits. A local authority is required to consider the resources currently available to it and those estimated to be available in the future, together with the totality of its capital plans and income and expenditure forecasts in assessing affordability.
- **PRUDENT** – The full Council set an authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt, these need to be consistent with the authority’s plans for affordable capital expenditure and financing, and with its treasury management policy statement and practices. Authorities should consider a balance between **security, liquidity and yield** which reflects their own risk appetite but which prioritises security and liquidity over yield.
- **SUSTAINABLE** – taking into account the arrangements for repayment of debt (including through MRP) and consideration of risk and the potential impact on the authority’s overall financial sustainability in the medium to longer term.

And that treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice and in full understanding of the risks involved and how these risks will be managed to levels that are acceptable to the organisation.

2.2. The Code requires the Capital strategy to set out the long term context for capital expenditure investment decisions.

3. Property asset management

3.1. The Corporate Landlord Division of the Resources Directorate is the custodian of the Council's Asset management strategy in place, to ensure that the assets forming the Council's Property Estate continue to meet the needs of the Authority in the long term. As asset lives could be 60 years or more, for practical purposes, expenditure requirements for a minimum of 10 years should be assessed to prevent any deferred repair work increasing the total life costs of the assets. The main elements of the Asset Management strategy which are key to the Capital strategy are:

- A complete and accurate asset register is held & will be maintained. This will include Land & Buildings, Community assets, Heritage assets, Investment Properties and operational structures such as Sewerage pumping works.
- The required functionality & operational life of assets will be identified as a benchmark for condition assessments (e.g. from Corporate Plan)
- An increasing use of Condition surveys information (5 year rolling programme on key assets) to improve liability and responsibility data and facilitate improved decision making
- Maintenance and major works are identified from the surveys with timings optimised in order to minimise total asset life costs including maintenance and running costs
- Health and Safety works are flagged as a priority
- The Capital and Revenue spend levels per year will be identified and fed into the budget setting processes with the aim of not deferring spend which would increase extent of emergency works and total life costs
- Where costs and/or timing cannot be predicted with a reasonably high level of certainty an average forecast cost / timing should be used for planning purposes. Where the likelihood of occurrence as well as cost is highly uncertain, accounting good practice advocates a contingency plan should be put in place e.g. a preliminary design & program of works prepared, the required budget spread over several years and an earmarked reserve built up from annual repair budget
- Where an asset is held purely to generate income, as part of the business case, the recurrent expenditure required on those assets to maximise net income, will be identified and proposed for addition to budgets.
- The cost profile generated from the above process will be fed into the 4 year Capital Budget decision making process.
- Surplus assets and part assets have & will continue to be identified and an option appraisal carried out to determine if the asset should be sold to generate a capital receipt, developed and sold for a higher receipt, used to generate revenue income or transferred to a 3rd party for the benefit of the community. Under any of these scenarios, end of life costs will need to be more transparently determined and budgeted.

4. Infrastructure asset management

4.1. Unlike property assets, Infrastructure assets are managed by the various divisions of Enterprise Directorate. They will still need to assess what expenditure is required over a minimum of 10 years to minimise the total life cost of their assets. To ensure that the Highways Network and other Infrastructure assets held by the Authority continue to meet the long term needs of the County and the Authority, the Authority will:

- Look to maintain a complete and accurate asset register for Highways Network Assets & any other assets maintained by the team including adjacent land, flood alleviation facilities and substations. The Council's infrastructure database hasn't historically had the same corporate importance as the property asset register, as it isn't used to substantiate data or support revaluations in the annual statement of accounts. An exercise will be necessary to confirm quality of data within the Highways system to support 10 year reporting of works.
- For the majority of these assets, the expectation is for necessary repairs and maintenance to keep the assets in working condition for the foreseeable future i.e. well beyond 10 years. If this is not the case, the required operational life should be recorded.
- The minimum acceptable level of condition must be defined for each asset or part asset. This is likely to be the level of condition below which lifecycle costs start to increase.
- Service officers have traditionally forecast a backlog of highways repair of circa £80m, but without explicit review. Condition surveys are carried out periodically, by a mixture of Scrim testing (skid resistance) or inspections at a predefined frequency dependent upon the type of road so deterioration of assets below the minimum standard is documented and can be forecast. This information will also be used to indicate if the number of assets falling below the minimum standard is increasing year on year indicating that budgets available need to be increased. The impact of varying budgets over the last 10 years should also be investigated to inform this process.
- Traffic & pedestrian surveys will be carried out at a periodically to better assess the future life of the assets. It is acknowledged that weather has a significant impact on the life of assets and that weather patterns are changing. This cannot be controlled but must be taken into account.
- Ensure that Health and Safety works are prioritised.
- One off major works expected to be required will also be identified with a latest completion date and estimated cost. This may include large one offs which are outside the normal workload of the Operations & Design teams.
- The maintenance and major works required on an annual basis to minimise total asset life costs are identified from the surveys and used to propose budgets required for budget setting for the next 10 years. The impact on total life costs, should sufficient budget not be allocated, should also be reported to members to inform decision making, as an improvement to simply identifying an unsubstantiated backlog of repairs.
- Where costs and/or timing cannot be predicted with a high level of certainty, (similar to property assets), an average forecast cost / frequency for groups of similar assets is advocated, and use of contributions to earmarked reserve encouraged to afford the volatility of as yet unquantified significant one off future works

5. Investments for Service purposes

- 5.1. The Council has historically incurred the majority of its capital expenditure on the assets required to provide its services such as schools, highways and corporate facilities.

- 5.2. However it may also invest in other entities for the wider economic and societal benefits of its communities or businesses. This may include making loans or (more recently) considering taking an equity interest in local bodies or the Council's subsidiaries & joint ventures which in turn contribute to services to Monmouthshire residents. It may also include providing guarantees to other bodies. In light of the public service objective, the Council traditionally is willing to take more risk on these investments than it would with more traditional treasury investments, which are more highly regulated, however any such arrangement should only be entered into if such investments are assessed to break even after all costs are taken into account or if the benefits of the scheme are considered to be worth the net cost.
- 5.3. Decisions on service related investments (e.g. vibrant homes loans afforded through WG repayable grant or economic development loans) can be made by the relevant service manager provided a 100% loss can be covered by the managers existing budgets. Should additional budget/funding be required in the event of a default, then before making the service expense/investment, the Section 151 officer is required to be consulted and where member approval is felt necessary that the details and risks involved presented to Cabinet for approval. The criteria and limits laid down in the strategy for treasury Investments can be used as a comparator to measure risks against. Most loans and shares are capital expenditure and unless undertaken through the Commercial Investment delegation to Investment Committee, such decision requires approval of full Council to be added to the capital programme.
- 5.4. A list of investments for service purposes including loans and guarantees will be maintained by the Treasury team and they will be assessed at least annually and reported as part of the annual accounts and include:
- £40,000 of seed share capital was provided to SRS Business Solutions Ltd in 2011/12 alongside an equal amount from Torfaen County Borough Council
 - Foster carer loans
 - Low cost home ownership equity interest.

6. Commercial Activities

- 6.1. Following a sustained period of financial austerity and with financial support for local public services declining, the Council has invested in commercial property and other commercial investments to support ongoing revenue budgets and promote wider economic regeneration within the County and its borders.
- 6.2. Early in 2017/18 the Authority completed the construction of a Solar Farm for £5m.
- 6.3. In 2018/19, as part of a wider approved commercial investment budget of £50m and following creation of an Investment Committee to oversee this, the Council purchased a large unit at Castlegate Business Park for £8m and completed the purchase of Newport Leisure Park for £21m.

- 6.4. In 2020/21 secured loan funding of £1.9 million for a 10-year term was made to a Special Purpose Vehicle (Monmouthshire Broadband Limited). The loan is secured against the network assets held and totals £1.15m to date which is to be used to build a mixed wireless and fibre-optic access network to improve broadband speeds across Monmouthshire.
- 6.5. Given the ongoing pressures, risks and challenges presenting as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, further investment into new commercial investment opportunities has been paused for the short-term.
- 6.6. Commercial investments will be revalued at least annually as part of the ongoing review of the Commercial investment portfolio, and the performance of these assets assessed regularly through the service budget monitoring of Corporate Landlord service, via reporting to the Investment Committee and annually to Governance & Audit Committee.
- 6.7. With the increased financial returns expected on investment available from commercial investment, the Council naturally accepts higher risk compared with traditional treasury investments. Risk exposures for property investments include a fall in capital value, vacancies, poor tenant performance, rent increases below inflation, lack of market appeal/obsolescence/cost to rectify and changes in legislation. For other non-treasury investments such as loans and equity, risks also include – fall in market value, poor repayment performance and insolvency/costs of debt recovery.
- 6.8. The Council has adopted a very prudent approach to the financial management of its commercial assets, in ensuring that business cases are predicated on affording the related borrowing before providing a net return to assist with revenue budget setting. It has also elected to treat such investments as capital expenditure and incur an explicit annual minimum revenue provision in affording the related borrowing, whereas draft Welsh Government guidance permits flexibility to defer financing considerations to when property is sold, providing that the selling price can reasonably be anticipated to be greater than purchase price.
- 6.9. To date, commercial investments have focused primarily on property acquisition so the risks are managed by corporate landlord service assisted by external professionals where necessary. They will manage asset maintenance and the tenant/landlord interface including collecting income. They will review cashflows and assess/forecast the value, quality and diversity of the investments in order to propose any modifications required to the portfolio to increase return and/or reduce risk.
- 6.10. In order that commercial investments remain proportionate to the size of the authority and in keeping with principles of affordability, prudence and sustainability, the approved commercial investment budget was limited to £50m.
- 6.11. In the event that a property holding is deemed to be underperforming or fails to meet the related debt repayment costs, a regular review will be undertaken to see if it is possible to:

- Retain the asset and increase net returns
 - Dispose of the asset at a net profit compared to purchase price
 - Retain the asset for future capital gains
 - Maximise return on capital in another way
- 6.12. The Authority will continue to identify any of its historical investment properties which could provide a valuable capital receipt over and above the value to the Authority of holding the asset.
- 6.13. The responsibility and accountability to manage the risks associated with any non-property related commercial investments will rest with the service that has advocated the investment case, and they will retain the responsibility to update Investment Committee periodically with performance against the business case presented, and assist in the annual report preparation to Governance & Audit Committee.
- 6.14. Decisions on commercial investments are made by the Investment Committee in line with the criteria and limits within the Asset Management Strategy.
- 6.15. Further details of the selection process for commercial investments, the limits agreed with Council and details of the identification and management of the risks associated with commercial investments are in the Asset Management Strategy, Asset Investment Policy and other supporting documents.

7. Other Assets

- 7.1. In addition to the Council Property Estate and the Infrastructure Assets, the Authority also owns and rents Heritage Assets, Vehicles and Plant & Equipment
- 7.2. Currently no formal review is undertaken to confirm the benefit of retaining the Heritage assets portfolio. The introduction of the capital strategy applies a more regular assessment of need against liability. This is proposed to be an increasing element of the asset management plan, and as a minimum it is proposed to adopt a formal 5 year review period.
- 7.3. The Vehicles and Plant, both owned and leased, are reviewed regularly by the Head of Finance in conjunction with the Transport Manager to minimise total life costs.

8. Capital financing & the Capital financing requirement

- 8.1. All capital expenditure incurred has to be physically financed. The available sources of financing include:
- **Grants/External contributions** – these should be maximised but opportunities tend to be limited and specific to particular projects
 - **Capital Support Grant** – this is fixed by the Welsh Government, is finite, but is un-hypothecated and therefore at the discretion of the Council how it is used.

- **Reserve/revenue funding** – the Authority currently forecasts Earmarked and total Council fund reserves to be £10.1m and £22.4m respectively at 31st March 2021. Of the Earmarked reserves, only £625k is currently held for capital investment and therefore represents a limited source of capital financing
- **Capital receipts** - £3.8m of receipts are forecast to be generated over the MTFP window on top of the £13.5m forecast to be held at 31st March 2022. Of these, £10.1m has been allocated to finance capital expenditure over the MTFP window leaving only £7.2m forecast to be available to fund new schemes over the same period.

8.2. The planned financing of the capital expenditure is indicated in the table below:

Table 1: Capital financing in £m

	2021/22 budget	2022/23 budget	2023/24 budget	2024/25 budget	2025/26 budget
External sources	14.1	3.6	2.4	2.4	2.4
Internal resources	6.0	3.6	1.9	1.8	1.7
Borrowing	9.9	22.4	8.0	5.5	5.5
TOTAL	30.0	29.6	12.3	9.8	9.7

- 8.3. Borrowing is often the only source of funding available once the limited external and internal resources have been exhausted. All borrowing has to be repaid and this includes both the actual debt principal plus interest costs on the debt.
- 8.4. In the current economic environment, with interest rates remaining low, borrowing is a cheaper source of financing than 10 years ago, but it only delays the need to finance capital expenditure which is ultimately met from the revenue budget in the form of interest and Minimum Revenue Provision.
- 8.5. The Council's cumulative outstanding amount of borrowing finance is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This increases with new borrowing-financed capital expenditure and reduces with MRP and capital receipts used to replace the borrowing.
- 8.6. Based on current revenue and capital budgets noted above, the Authorities CFR is expected increase in 2022/23 reflecting the increased amount of capital expenditure financed from borrowing. The Council's estimated CFR and related MRP charges over the medium term are as follows:

Table 2: CFR and related MRP charges

	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate
Capital Financing Requirement (Total in £m)	192.7	232.1	232.7	230.7	228.6

Minimum Revenue Provision (£m)	6.4	6.7	7.3	7.6	7.7
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- 8.7. With the pending introduction of IFRS 16 Leases, the CFR and borrowing identified as relating to leases is likely to increase, due to the change in the way that finance leases for lessees are treated. However CIPFA LASAAC is currently consulting on further deferral of the implementation of IFRS 16 Leases until 2023/24 in response to the pressures on council finance teams as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 8.8. The Council's minimum revenue provision policy should remain prudent and not subject to annual change. This policy has been reviewed within last 5 years by Members, and is a feature of the annual Treasury management strategy report received at this same meeting.

9. Capital disposals & receipts

- 9.1. The Council's Asset Management plan sets out the Council's vision, priorities and key actions associated with managing our assets. The aim is to ensure sustainability, and maximise the financial and social value of our assets for our communities. The ongoing challenging financial conditions mean we must have robust policies and programmes in place to ensure our estate is lean, efficient, meets the needs of service users and is fit for purpose. The strategy also recognises the importance of maximising the income we can generate from our property assets and we have started to actively seek opportunities to increase revenue generation.
- 9.2. Any assets which are deemed to be surplus to service requirements will be identified for possible sale/income generation in consultation with the Estates department. The procedures governing disposals are captured in the Council's Surplus asset disposal policy.
- 9.3. The Council anticipates the following capital receipts in the forthcoming financial years is as follows:

Table 3: Forecast Capital receipts

	2021/22 forecast £m	2022/23 forecast £m	2023/24 forecast £m	2024/25 forecast £m	2025/26 forecast £m
Forecast Receipts	9.7	2.6	1.0	0.1	0.1

- 9.4. Further specific details of planned asset disposals are included in the annual Capital MTFP deliberated by Members, with specific sales proposals being an exempt appendix from public reporting requirements due to potential to compromise of receipt maximisation.

- 9.5. Traditionally receipts have been earmarked to finance the Authorities future schools investment. In a change from previous practice, whilst the Council has further future schools aspirations, it is not proposed to advocate a similar approach to members in respect of tranche B. Schools based assets commonly have a useful life of 50 years +, and as such traditional long term loan funding can be sourced at competitive rates with limited annual revenue volatility. The Council derives greater revenue benefit by using capital receipts in affording replacement of short life assets, given the avoidance of proportionately more significant minimum revenue provision.

10. Setting capital budgets

Table 4: Capital Medium Term Financial Plan

	Indicative Budget 2022/23	Indicative Budget 2023/24	Indicative Budget 2024/25	Indicative Budget 2025/26
Asset Management Schemes	1,929,276	1,929,276	1,929,276	1,929,276
School Development Schemes	13,681,287	50,000	50,000	50,000
Infrastructure & Transport Schemes	5,792,740	6,272,740	3,627,740	3,527,740
Regeneration Schemes	330,400	602,900	730,200	730,200
County Farms Schemes	300,773	300,773	300,773	300,773
Inclusion Schemes	1,150,000	1,150,000	1,150,000	1,150,000
ICT Schemes	682,000	413,000	413,000	413,000
Vehicles Leasing	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Capitalisation Directive	2,649,500	507,500	507,500	507,500
Other Schemes	3,070,000	1,070,000	1,070,000	1,070,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	31,085,977	13,796,190	11,278,490	11,178,490

- 10.1. Member responsibility for assets rests with the Cabinet member for Whole Authority Resources. The main governance and approval process for capital investment is summarised as follows:

- Council approve the overall revenue and capital budgets following recommendations from Cabinet. They also approve the borrowing limits of which the capital programme will need to remain within (the Authorised limit). These limits are a key performance indicator for treasury management and ensure that capital expenditure is limited and borrowing remains within an affordable limit.
- Any variation of the Authorised borrowing limit can only be approved by Council.
- Council approve the Treasury Management, Investment & Borrowing strategies, which are intrinsically linked to capital expenditure and the capital strategy. Further details of these are provided in section 8.
- Items of capital investment are discussed and scrutinised at the Capital and Asset Management Working Group (CAMWG), which is made up of senior officers from all service

areas. Discussion also includes asset disposals, where capital investment is required, prioritisation of that investment in line with the priority matrix and the overall asset management agenda.

- Recommendations on capital investment will be made by CAMWG to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) following review of the project appraisal for onward inclusion in the capital budget and to be considered by Cabinet and Council.
- Monitoring of capital expenditure is reported to Cabinet, and includes update on capital receipts and impact on the revenue budget of the decisions made.
- The 2022/23 and forward capital budgets include investment in schemes which attract significant match funding from external bodies which services will be responsible for bidding for. The CAMWG will play a pivotal role in ensuring that this investment is properly aligned with the overall corporate plan priorities and is robustly assessed against the agreed priority matrix included below.

10.2. The identified backlog capital budget pressures that currently sit outside of the above capital MTFP total £125m and indicates that there is a higher call for capital expenditure than the Authority considers it can affordably finance. This means that capital schemes will have to be prioritised or the capital available has to be spread more thinly than is ideal. All stakeholders must recognise that funding capital expenditure by borrowing only defers the charge to revenue budgets to future years, but at the same time if capital maintenance works are deferred then the total life costs of supporting an asset are likely to increase. This effect is often veiled in medium term financial planning as asset lives are much longer than four years.

10.3. Annual investment included in the capital programme for property maintenance, highways maintenance, relevant specific capital grants and the future schools programme will assist in addressing the highest priority backlog issues, focussing on worst condition first and risk. However, estate rationalisation programmes, closure/disposal of assets, asset transfers and other capital projects to refurbish or replace operational properties will also be utilised to offset the backlog funding required. This will not address the specific total backlog, but is a way of targeting the main issues in an affordable manner.

10.4. The below priority ranking matrix approved as part of the inaugural capital strategy assists the CAMWG and SLT with their considerations of future capital investment.

Ref	Aspect	Indicative Rank
H&S	Health & safety works (life & limb works)	1
Legal	Legal & regulatory obligations	1
Rev	Allow a balanced revenue budget to be set, or a net deficit in revenue spending to be positively addressed	2
Corp	Deliver corporate plan priorities	2

Third	Attract significant 3 rd party or private match funding to the County	3
S2S	Spend to save transformational works (including flexible use of capital receipts)	3
INC	Spend to earn net income – rents, interest and dividends	3
Sust	Create sustainable income streams – business rates and council tax	3
AMP	Asset management plan outcomes	4
INF	Addresses major infrastructure investment	4

11. Revenue budget implications

11.1. Although capital expenditure is not charged directly to the revenue budget, interest payable on loans and MRP are charged to revenue, offset by any investment income receivable. These net annual charges are known as financing costs. The table below compares these financing costs to the net revenue stream i.e. the amount of income from Council Tax, business rates and general government grants. The overall proportion of financing costs remains fairly static over the MTFP window which is reflective of the total revenue stream increasing in line with expected inflationary impacts whilst the financing costs increase moderately in line further capital investment made.

Table 5: Proportion of financing costs to net revenue stream

Proportion of Financing Costs to net revenue stream	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate
Net Interest payable £m	3.6	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.5
MRP £m	6.4	6.7	7.3	7.6	7.7
Total Financing costs £m	10.0	10.6	11.4	11.7	12.2
Net Revenue Stream (£m)	155.1	168.9	179.3	187.6	196.3
Proportion of net revenue stream %	6.45%	6.29%	6.38%	6.24%	6.21%

11.2. **Sustainability:** Due to the very long-term nature of capital expenditure and financing, the revenue budget implications of expenditure incurred in the next few years will extend for up to 50 years afterwards. The Section 151 officer is satisfied that the proposed capital programme is prudent, affordable and sustainable because the financing costs have been spread over no more than, the lower of 50 years and the expected life of the resultant asset, so the assets will be paid for by the Council tax payers benefitting from them over the life of the assets. The financing costs for assets funded by borrowing are included in each annual revenue budget which is balanced before approval by Council.

12. Treasury management

- 12.1. The Treasury management strategy (TMS) is considered alongside the Capital strategy at Council and the figures within it link directly to the impact of the borrowing resulting from the Capital strategy and the subsequent capital investment.
- 12.2. Treasury management is concerned with keeping sufficient but not excessive cash available to meet the Council's spending needs, while managing the risks involved. Surplus cash is invested until required, while a shortage of cash will be met by borrowing, to avoid excessive credit balances or overdrafts in the bank current account. The Council limits the need to take out actual borrowing by using positive cash flows, largely from reserves, to fund capital expenditure funded by borrowing, known as internal borrowing.
- 12.3. Based on historic capital expenditure and due to decisions taken in the past, as at 31st December 2021, the Council has £169.7m borrowing at a weighted average interest rate of 2.3% and £40.0m treasury investments at a weighted average rate of 0.38%.

13. Borrowing strategy

- 13.1. Whilst the Council has significant long term borrowing requirements, the Council's current strategy of funding capital expenditure is through utilising internal resources such as reserves (called 'internal borrowing') rather than undertaking new borrowing i.e. we defer taking out new long term borrowing and fund capital expenditure from day to day positive cash-flows for as long as we can.
- 13.2. By using this strategy, the Council can also minimise cash holding at a time when counterparty risk remains high. The interest rates achievable on the Council's investments are also significantly lower than the current rates payable on long term borrowing and this remains a primary driver for our current 'internally borrowed' strategy.
- 13.3. Whilst this strategy minimises investment counterparty risk, the risk of interest rate exposure is increased as the current low longer term borrowing rates may rise in the future. The market position is being constantly monitored in order to minimise this risk.
- 13.4. The Authority's chief objective when borrowing money is to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving certainty of those costs over the period for which funds are required. The flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Authority's long-term plans change is a secondary objective. These objectives are often conflicting, and the Council therefore seeks to strike a balance between cheap short-term loans (currently available at around 0.3%) and long-term fixed rate loans where the future cost is known but higher (currently 2.13% to 2.64%).
- 13.5. Projected levels of the Council's total debt (which comprises borrowing, PFI liabilities & finance leases) are shown below, compared with the capital financing requirement.

Table 6: Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement in £m

Gross Debt Forecast compared to CFR £m	2021/22 Estimate	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate
Debt (Inc. PFI, leases, right of use assets)	165.5	182.5	183.3	185.8	189.1
Capital Financing Requirement (Total)	192.7	232.1	232.7	230.7	228.6

- 13.6. Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the capital financing requirement, except in the short-term. As can be seen in the table above, the Council expects to comply with this in the medium term.
- 13.7. **Affordable borrowing limit:** The Council is legally obliged to approve an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the ‘authorised limit’ for external debt) each year.
- 13.8. The ‘Operational borrowing limits’ over the medium term, have been set in line with the expected borrowing required to finance the current capital programme to 2025/26 and these act as a key management tool. If any increase to the authorised limit is required, including to borrow for investment/income generation schemes or regeneration investment (loans) this will need to be brought to Council for approval. The ‘Authorised borrowing limits’, provide a buffer for (i) the ability to manage day to day cash requirements and (ii) to undertake a level of borrowing early where appropriate / affordable.

Table 7: Authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt in £m

Authorised & Operational Borrowing Limits	2021/22 Estimate	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate
Authorised limit - borrowing	246.5	268.2	269.1	268.1	267.1
Operational boundary - PFI, leases & right of use assets	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4
Authorised Limit - total external debt	250.9	272.6	273.5	272.5	271.5
Operational Boundary - borrowing	216.3	238.0	238.9	237.9	236.9
Operational Boundary - PFI, leases & right of use assets	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Operational Boundary - total external debt	219.2	240.9	241.8	240.8	239.8

14. Investment strategy

- 14.1. Treasury investments arise from receiving cash before it is paid out again. Investments made for service reasons or for pure financial gain are not generally considered to be part of treasury management.
- 14.2. The Councils strategy is to follow the priorities of security, liquidity and yield, in that order. Cash that is likely to be spent in the near term is invested securely, for example with the government, other local authorities or selected high-quality banks, to minimise the risk of loss. Money that will be held for longer terms is invested more widely, including in bonds,

shares and property, to balance the risk of loss against the risk of receiving returns below inflation. Both near-term and longer-term investments may be held in pooled funds, where an external fund manager makes decisions on which particular investments to buy and the Council may request its money back at short notice. This reduces the risk of default by diversification and the use of dedicated and experienced fund managers and also can increase return.

- 14.3. The Council's strategy seeks to keep invested cash balances low and in doing so reducing external borrowing, which is more cost effective than chasing investment returns. The main exception to this approach is that the Council is required to demonstrate a commitment to keeping a £10m minimum investment balance to meet the requirements of a professional client under the Mifid II regulations (Markets in financial instruments directive).

Table 8: Treasury management investments in £m

	31.3.2022 forecast	31.3.2023 forecast	31.3.2024 forecast	31.3.2025 forecast	31.3.2026 forecast
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Near-term	8.6	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Longer-term	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
TOTAL	14.6	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0

- 14.4. **Governance:** Decisions on treasury management investment and borrowing are made daily and are therefore delegated to the S151 Officer or Deputy and their staff, who must act in line with the treasury management strategy currently approved by Members. The 2022/23 Strategy will be considered by Governance & Audit Committee in February 2022 and is presented alongside this report for approval by full Council. In addition mid-year and treasury outturn reports on treasury management activity are presented to Audit Committee which is responsible for scrutinising treasury management decisions.

15. Risk

- 15.1. A significant aspect of the Capital strategy is involved with controlling & balancing various risks i.e.
- The credit risk of treasury investments – this is controlled using credit worthy institutions, diversification, limiting maturity, maximising the use of internal borrowing.
 - The refinancing risk of treasury investments – controlling the profile of debt maturities.
 - The interest rate risk of treasury activities. The Authority has opted to abide by an upper limit for the amount of net variable rate borrowing, but intends to adopt a simpler, more transparent indicator of variable rate borrowing as a proportion of total.

- The risks of providing loans and guarantees for service purposes need to be acknowledged and managed from the outset.
 - The risks to the total net return on assets acquired for commercial income are expected to be higher than for assets acquired for service purposes and need to be fully assessed and managed from the outset.
- 15.2. In undertaking business loans to 3rd parties, commercial investment acquisition and proposing alternate business models there is an inherent risk that members and officers not having sufficient knowledge and skills of the sector concerned such that the risks and benefits may not be properly understood and managed. This is addressed by appropriate assessment, training and external advice.

16. Knowledge & skills

- 16.1. The Council employs professionally qualified and experienced staff in senior positions with responsibility for making capital expenditure, borrowing and investment decisions. For example, both the Section 151 officer and Head of Commercial and Integrated Landlord Services are professionally qualified with longstanding senior practical experience. For both accountants and valuers, the Council offers particular training roles and also from a staff development perspective encourages and support wider staff to undertake study towards relevant professional qualifications and continuing professional development.
- 16.2. Where Council staff do not have the knowledge and skills required, use is made of external advisers and consultants that are specialists in their field. The Council currently employs Arlingclose Limited as treasury management advisors, and Alder King as property investment advisors. This approach is more cost effective than employing such staff directly, and ensures that the Council has access to knowledge and skills commensurate with its risk appetite. Arlingclose's assistance has been sourced through competitive tendering, and their fees paid independent of their advice.

1. Economic background and forecasts for interest rates

- 1.1. **Economic background:** The ongoing impact on the UK from coronavirus, together with higher inflation, higher interest rates, and the country's trade position post-Brexit, will be major influences on the Authority's treasury management strategy for 2022/23.
- 1.2. At its meeting ending on 2nd February 2022 the MPC voted by a majority of 5-4 to increase Bank Rate by 0.25 percentage points, to 0.5%. The MPC voted unanimously for the Bank of England to begin to reduce the stock of UK government bond purchases by ceasing to reinvest maturing assets. The Committee also voted unanimously for the Bank of England to begin to reduce the stock of sterling non-financial investment-grade corporate bond purchases by ceasing to reinvest maturing assets and by a programme of corporate bond sales to be completed no earlier than the end of 2023.
- 1.3. The lower severity of Omicron means that the economic impact should be limited. The UK economy had a weak Q4 2021 due to the virus, but growth is likely to bounce back in Q1 2022. However, higher inflation will dampen demand. In the UK, households face a difficult outlook. Fiscal and monetary headwinds alongside a sharp reduction in real income growth will weigh on disposable income, ultimately leading to slower growth.
- 1.4. UK CPI for November 2021 registered 5.1% year on year, up from 4.2% in the previous month. Core inflation, which excludes the more volatile components, rose to 4.0% y/y from 3.4%. The most recent labour market data for the three months to October 2021 showed the unemployment rate fell to 4.2% while the employment rate rose to 75.5%.
- 1.5. In October 2021, the headline 3-month average annual growth rate for wages were 4.9% for total pay and 4.3% for regular pay. In real terms, after adjusting for inflation, total pay growth was up 1.7% while regular pay was up 1.0%. The change in pay growth has been affected by a change in composition of employee jobs, where there has been a fall in the number and proportion of lower paid jobs.
- 1.6. Gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 1.3% in the third calendar quarter of 2021 according to the initial estimate, compared to a gain of 5.5% q/q in the previous quarter, with the annual rate slowing to 6.6% from 23.6%. The Q3 gain was modestly below the consensus forecast of a 1.5% q/q rise. During the quarter activity measures were boosted by sectors that reopened following pandemic restrictions, suggesting that wider spending was flat. Looking ahead, while monthly GDP readings suggest there had been some increase in momentum in the latter part of Q3, Q4 growth is expected to be soft.
- 1.7. GDP growth in the euro zone increased by 2.2% in calendar Q3 2021 following a gain of 2.1% in the second quarter and a decline of -0.3% in the first. Headline inflation has been strong, with CPI registering 4.9% year-on-year in November, the fifth successive month of inflation. Core CPI inflation was 2.6% y/y in November, the fourth month of successive increases from July's 0.7% y/y. At these levels, inflation is above the European Central

Bank's target of 'below, but close to 2%', putting some pressure on its long-term stance of holding its main interest rate of 0%.

- 1.8. The US economy expanded at an annualised rate of 2.1% in Q3 2021, slowing sharply from gains of 6.7% and 6.3% in the previous two quarters. In its December 2021 interest rate announcement, the Federal Reserve continue to maintain the Fed Funds rate at between 0% and 0.25% but outlined its plan to reduce its asset purchase programme earlier than previously stated and signalled they are in favour of tightening interest rates at a faster pace in 2022, with three 0.25% movements now expected.
- 1.9. **Credit outlook:** Since the start of 2021, relatively benign credit conditions have led to credit default swap (CDS) prices for the larger UK banks to remain low and had steadily edged down throughout the year up until mid-November when the emergence of Omicron has caused them to rise modestly. However, the generally improved economic outlook during 2021 helped bank profitability and reduced the level of impairments many had made as provisions for bad loans. However, the relatively recent removal of coronavirus-related business support measures by the government means the full impact on bank balance sheets may not be known for some time.
- 1.10. The improved economic picture during 2021 led the credit rating agencies to reflect this in their assessment of the outlook for the UK sovereign as well as several financial institutions, revising them from negative to stable and even making a handful of rating upgrades.
- 1.11. Looking ahead, while there is still the chance of bank losses from bad loans as government and central bank support is removed, the institutions on the Authority's counterparty list are well-capitalised and general credit conditions across the sector are expected to remain benign. Duration limits for counterparties on the Authority's lending list are under regular review and will continue to reflect economic conditions and the credit outlook.
- 1.12. **Interest rate forecast:** The Authority's treasury management adviser Arlingclose is forecasting that Bank Rate will continue to rise in calendar Q1 2022 to subdue inflationary pressures and the perceived desire by the BoE to move away from emergency levels of interest rates.
- 1.13. Investors continue to price in multiple rises in Bank Rate over the next forecast horizon, and Arlingclose believes that although interest rates will rise again, the increases will not be to the extent predicted by financial markets. In the near-term, the risks around Arlingclose's central case are to the upside while over the medium-term the risks become more balanced.
- 1.14. Bond yields have risen sharply to accommodate tighter monetary policy, including the run off of central bank bond portfolios. The interplay between slowing growth and falling inflation, and tightening policy, will likely keep yields relatively flat.

2. Existing Treasury position

2.1. Borrowing and investments as at 31 December 2021 and at the same date in the prior year are shown in the following table.

	31st Dec 2020 Actual Portfolio £m	Average Rate %	31st Dec 2021 Actual Portfolio £m	Average Rate %
External borrowing:				
Public Works Loan Board	74.5	3.53	89.4	3.03
LOBO loans from banks	13.6	4.80	13.6	4.8
Welsh Government Loans	5.3	0.00	4.8	0.0
Local authority & other ST loans	77.9	0.15	61.9	0.1
Total external borrowing	171.3	1.98	169.7	2.30
Treasury investments:				
Banks & building societies (unsecured)	4.0	0.00	2.0	0.01
Government (incl. local authorities)	10.2	0.00	6.5	0.00
Money Market Funds	5.5	0.01	28.0	0.01
Strategic pooled funds	3.0	4.00	3.5	4.28
Total treasury investments	22.7	0.53	40.0	0.38
Net debt	148.6		132.10	

2.2. Borrowing is predominantly made up of fixed interest rate loans payable on maturity. Investments fluctuate daily and are represented by fixed term deposits, notice deposit accounts and money market funds. These balances arise due to the timing of cash flows and working capital as well as the existence of reserves, provisions and balances required for future use.

3. Borrowing

Borrowing requirement

3.1. The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while usable reserves and working capital are the underlying resources available for investment. The Authority's current strategy is to maintain borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing.

Table 1: Balance sheet summary and forecast

	31.3.21 Estimate £m	31.3.22 Forecast £m	31.3.23 Forecast £m	31.3.24 Forecast £m	31.3.25 Forecast £m	31.3.26 Forecast £m
General Fund CFR	189.2	192.7	232.1	232.7	230.7	228.6
Less: Other debt liabilities *	(2.4)	(2.4)	(2.4)	(2.4)	(2.4)	(2.4)
Loans CFR	186.8	190.3	229.7	230.3	228.3	226.1
Less: External borrowing **	(182.8)	(165.5)	(182.5)	(183.3)	(185.8)	(189.1)
Internal borrowing	4.1	24.8	47.2	47.0	42.5	37.0
Less: Usable reserves	(28.5)	(36.1)	(33.7)	(33.5)	(32.4)	(31.3)
[Less/Plus]: Working capital	(14.6)	(10.0)	(10.0)	(10.0)	(10.0)	(10.0)
(Investments) or External borrowing requirement	(39.0)	(21.3)	3.5	3.5	0.1	(4.3)

* leases and PFI liabilities that form part of the Authority's total debt

** shows only loans to which the Authority is committed and excludes optional refinancing

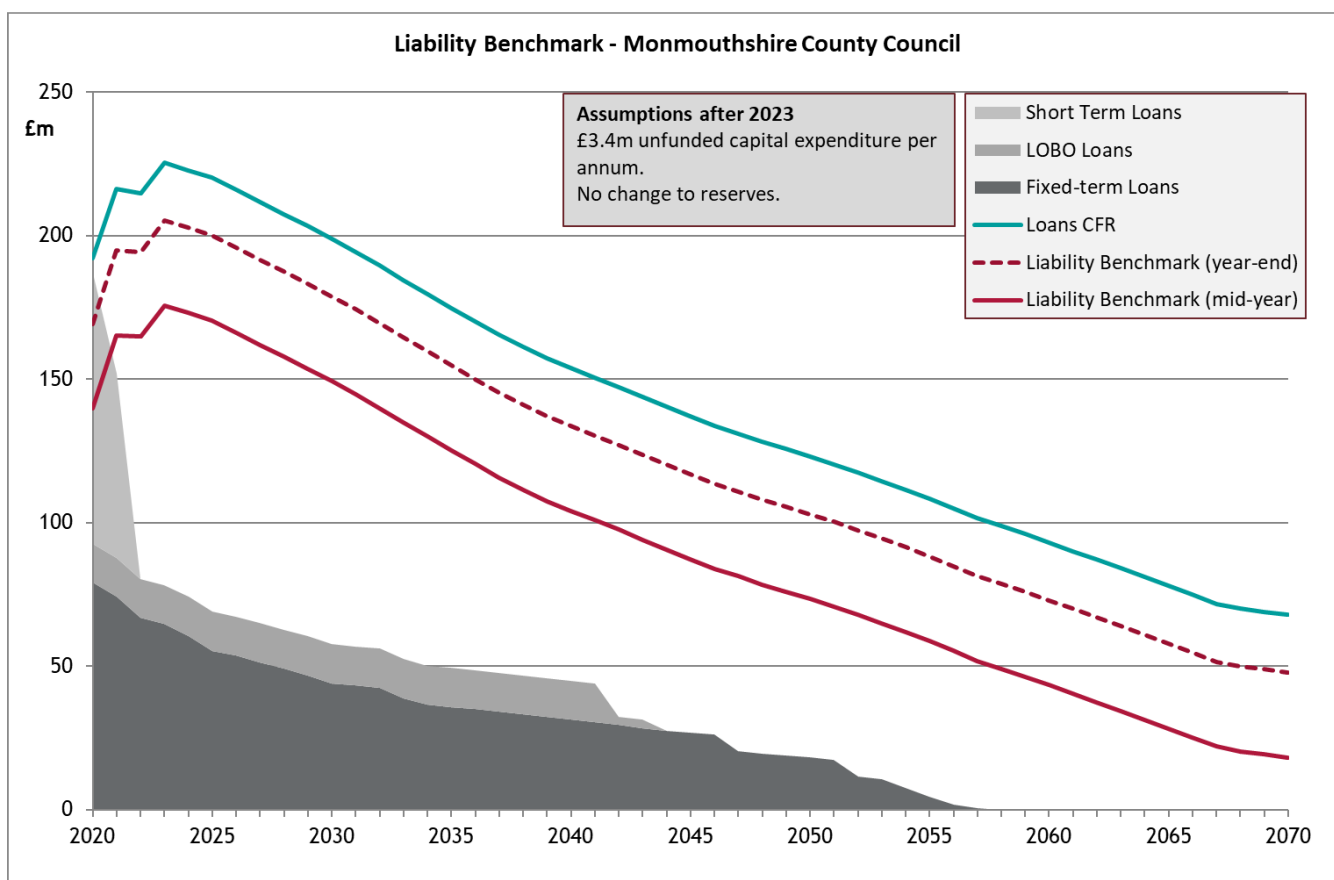
- 3.2. The Authority has an increasing CFR in the short term due to capital programme investment, alongside a comparatively low level of investments and will therefore be required to maintain an appropriate level of borrowing over the forecast period.
- 3.3. CIPFA's *Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities* recommends that the Authority's total debt should be lower than its highest forecast CFR over the next three years. Table 1 shows that the Authority expects to comply with this recommendation for the forthcoming year.
- 3.4. **Liability benchmark:** To compare the Council's actual borrowing against an alternative strategy, a liability benchmark has been calculated showing the lowest risk level of borrowing. This assumes the same forecasts as table 1 above, but that cash and investment balances are kept to a minimum level of £10m at each year-end to maintain sufficient liquidity but minimise credit risk.

Table 2: Liability benchmark

	31.3.21 Actual £m	31.3.22 Estimate £m	31.3.23 Forecast £m	31.3.24 Forecast £m	31.3.25 Forecast £m	31.3.26 Forecast £m
Loans CFR	186.8	190.3	229.7	230.3	228.3	226.1
Less: Usable reserves	-28.5	-36.1	-33.7	-33.5	-32.4	-31.3
Less: Working capital	-14.6	-10.0	-10.0	-10.0	-10.0	-10.0
Plus: Preferred investments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Liability benchmark	143.7	144.2	186.0	186.8	185.9	184.8

- 3.5. Following on from the medium-term forecasts in Table 2 above, the long-term liability benchmark below assumes capital expenditure funded by borrowing is maintained as the 2022/23 capital MTFP and thereafter £3.4m per year; that minimum revenue provision on

new capital expenditure is based on asset life as in the MTFP or 25 years and; income, expenditure and reserves held are not increasing or decreasing beyond the MTFP window. This is shown in the chart below:



3.6. Our underlying need to borrow is shown by the top blue line. However, due to the use of reserves and working capital, the Authority is expected to need total external borrowing between the full red lower line and the dotted line above it. As our existing loans portfolio (shown in grey) reduce as loans mature, new loans will therefore be required to fill the gap between the grey area and the red lines over the longer term. The Authority intends to maintain about a 50% level of short term loans which will partly fill this gap, but we will still need to take out longer term loans, mainly to fund the capital investment built into the Capital MTFP.

3.7. The Council does not intend to borrow in advance of need and will not do so just to gain financially from short term investment of that borrowing. However, this option may be considered if it is felt that borrowing in advance allows opportunities to lock into favourable long-term rates as part of risk mitigation. This will be limited to no more than the expected increase in the Council’s Capital Financing Requirement over its medium term financial plan.

3.8. **Objectives:** The Authority’s chief objective when borrowing money is to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving certainty of those costs over the period for which funds are required. The flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Authority’s long-term plans change is a secondary objective.

Borrowing Strategy

- 3.9. Given the significant cuts to public expenditure over recent years and in particular to local government funding, the Authority's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio. With short-term interest rates currently much lower than long-term rates, it is likely to be more cost effective in the short-term to either use internal resources, or to borrow short-term loans instead. A roughly equal balance of long and short term debt is, at the time of writing, taken as the right balance to maintain sufficient long term stability.
- 3.10. The Bank of England Base Rate rose from 0.10% to 0.25% on 16th of December 2021, and to 0.5% on 2nd February 2022. Although this is still very low in an historical context another rise is expected in March 2022 and both short term local authority borrowing rates and PWLB rates have already risen.
- 3.11. At the start of December 2021, and with interest rate rises being implied in the market, the authority acted to lock in a further £20m of long term borrowing as outlined below:

Start Date	Duration (Years)	Amount	Rate	Weighted Rate
07/12/2021	45	5,000,000.00	1.43%	0.36%
07/12/2021	50	5,000,000.00	1.37%	0.34%
15/12/2021	46	2,500,000.00	1.31%	0.16%
15/12/2021	47	2,500,000.00	1.30%	0.16%
15/12/2021	48	2,500,000.00	1.29%	0.16%
15/12/2021	49	2,500,000.00	1.27%	0.16%
Total		20,000,000.00		1.35%

- 3.12. By doing so, the Authority was able to give some longer term certainty over borrowing costs and reduce overall treasury risk, despite some shorter term increases in overall interest cost. The benefits of internal / short-term borrowing will be monitored regularly against the potential for incurring additional costs by deferring borrowing into future years when long-term borrowing rates are forecast to rise modestly. Arlingclose will assist the Authority with this 'cost of carry' and breakeven analysis. Its output may determine whether the Authority borrows additional sums at long-term fixed rates in 2022/23 with a view to keeping future interest costs low, even if this causes additional cost in the short-term.
- 3.13. The Authority has previously raised the majority of its long-term borrowing from the PWLB but will consider long-term loans from other sources including banks, pensions and local authorities, and will investigate the possibility of issuing bonds and similar instruments, in

order to lower interest costs and reduce over-reliance on one source of funding in line with the CIPFA Code.

- 3.14. Alternatively, the Authority may arrange forward starting loans, where the interest rate is fixed in advance, but the cash is received in later years. This would enable certainty of cost to be achieved without suffering a cost of carry in the intervening period.
- 3.15. In addition, the Authority may borrow short-term loans to cover unplanned cash flow shortages.
- 3.16. **Sources of borrowing:** The approved sources of long-term and short-term borrowing are:
- HM Treasury's PWLB lending facility (formerly the Public Works Loan Board)
 - any institution approved for investments (see below)
 - any other bank or building society authorised to operate in the UK
 - any other UK public sector body
 - UK public and private sector pension funds (except the Greater Gwent Pension Fund)
 - capital market bond investors
 - UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc and other special purpose companies created to enable local authority bond issues
 - CSC Foundry Ltd

Other sources of debt finance: In addition, capital finance may be raised by the following methods that are not borrowing, but may be classed as other debt liabilities:

- leasing
 - hire purchase
 - Private Finance Initiative
 - sale and leaseback
- 3.17. **Municipal Bonds Agency:** UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc was established in 2014 by the Local Government Association as an alternative to the PWLB. It issues bonds on the capital markets and lends the proceeds to local authorities. This is a more complicated source of finance than the PWLB for two reasons: borrowing authorities will be required to provide bond investors with a guarantee to refund their investment in the event that the agency is unable to for any reason; and there will be a lead time of several months between committing to borrow and knowing the interest rate payable. Any decision to borrow from the Agency will therefore be the subject of a separate report to full Council.
- 3.18. **LOBOs:** The Authority holds £13.6m of LOBO (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Authority has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost. All of these LOBOs have options during 2022/23, and although the Authority understands that lenders are unlikely to exercise their options in the current low interest rate environment, there remains an element of refinancing risk. The Authority will take the option to repay LOBO loans at no cost if it has the opportunity to do so.

- 3.19. **Short-term and variable rate loans:** These loans leave the Authority exposed to the risk of short-term interest rate rises and are therefore subject to the interest rate exposure limits in the treasury management indicators below.
- 3.20. **Debt rescheduling:** The PWLB allows authorities to repay loans before maturity and either pay a premium or receive a discount according to a set formula based on current interest rates. Other lenders may also be prepared to negotiate premature redemption terms. The Authority may take advantage of this and replace some loans with new loans, or repay loans without replacement, where this is expected to lead to an overall cost saving or a reduction in risk.

Borrowing prudential indicators

3.21. Gross debt compared to capital financing requirement

Gross Debt Forecast compared to CFR £m	2021/22 Estimate	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate
Debt (Inc. PFI, leases, right of use assets)	165.5	182.5	183.3	185.8	189.1
Capital Financing Requirement (Total)	192.7	232.1	232.7	230.7	228.6

- 3.22. Gross debt is forecast to remain below the capital financing requirement over the term as part of the Council's overall borrowing strategy of utilising internal balances to fund part of the capital financing requirement. The Council will constantly monitor this position during the period, especially in light of a rising interest rate environment.

3.23. Authorised Limit

- 3.24. The Council must set and keep under review how much it can afford to borrow from debt or other long-term liabilities for the forthcoming year and at least the following two financial years (the Affordable Borrowing Limit). It must have regard to the Prudential Code and locally determined indicators when setting this limit and be content that the impact upon future Council Taxpayers and Council tenants is acceptable.
- 3.25. Based on the capital programme proposed, it is recommended that the Council approve the following authorised limits and operational boundaries. The undertaking of other long-term liabilities, within the overall limit, is delegated to the Section 151 Officer based on the outcome of financial option appraisals and best value considerations.
- 3.26. The operational boundary remains an internal management tool to monitor borrowing levels and exceeding the boundary would not represent a compliance failure.

<u>Authorised & Operational Borrowing Limits</u>	2021/22 Estimate	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate
Authorised limit - borrowing	246.5	268.2	269.1	268.1	267.1
Operational boundary - PFI, leases & right of use assets	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4

Authorised Limit - total external debt	250.9	272.6	273.5	272.5	271.5
Operational Boundary - borrowing	216.3	238.0	238.9	237.9	236.9
Operational Boundary - PFI, leases & right of use assets	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Operational Boundary - total external debt	219.2	240.9	241.8	240.8	239.8

3.27. Maturity structure of borrowing

3.28. This indicator is set to control the Authority's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of borrowing will be:

Refinancing rate risk indicator	Upper limit	Lower limit
Under 12 months	60%	0%
12 months and within 24 months	30%	0%
24 months and within 5 years	30%	0%
5 years and within 10 years	30%	0%
10 years and within 20 years	30%	0%
20 years and within 30 years	30%	0%
30 years and within 40 years	30%	0%
40 years and within 50 years	30%	0%
50 years and above	30%	0%

3.29. Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.

3.30. Proportion of financing costs to net revenue stream

3.31. The table below compares the financing costs to the net revenue stream i.e. the amount of income from Council Tax, business rates and general government grants.

Proportion of Financing Costs to net revenue stream	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate
Net Interest payable £m	3.6	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.5
MRP £m	6.4	6.7	7.3	7.6	7.7
Total Financing costs £m	10.0	10.6	11.4	11.7	12.2
Net Revenue Stream (£m)	155.1	168.9	179.3	187.6	196.3
Proportion of net revenue stream %	6.45%	6.29%	6.38%	6.24%	6.21%

3.32. MRP Policy Statement 2022/23

- 3.33. Where the Authority finances capital expenditure by debt, it must put aside resources to repay that debt in later years. The amount charged to the revenue budget for the repayment of debt is known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), although there has been no statutory minimum since 2008. The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Authority to have regard to Welsh Government's Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision (the WG Guidance) most recently issued in 2018.
- 3.34. The broad aim of the WG Guidance is to ensure that capital expenditure is financed over a period that is either reasonably commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure provides benefits, or, in the case of borrowing supported by Government Revenue Support Grant, reasonably commensurate with the period implicit in the determination of that grant.
- 3.35. The WG Guidance requires the Authority to approve an Annual MRP Statement each year and recommends a number of options for calculating a prudent amount of MRP. The following statement only incorporates options recommended in the Guidance.
- 3.36. MRP options recommended in the Guidance include:
- Option 1: Regulatory Method
 - Option 2: CFR Method
 - Option 3: Asset Life Method – based on equal instalments or using an annuity method
 - Option 4: Depreciation Method

Note: This does not preclude other prudent methods.

- 3.37. The following statement only incorporates options recommended in the Guidance.

MRP in 2022/23:

- 3.38. **MRP on Supported Borrowing funded Expenditure:** The Authority's policy is to apply Option 3, the Asset life method in respect of supported capital expenditure funded from borrowing. The charge will be based on 2% per annum, equivalent to equal instalments over a 50 year life.
- 3.39. **MRP on Unsupported Borrowing funded Expenditure:** The Authority's policy is to apply Option 3, the Asset life method in respect of unsupported capital expenditure funded from borrowing. The MRP is calculated on an annuity basis within the asset life method, whereby the MRP element increases over time to reflect a consistent charge over life of the assets taking into account the real value of money. The first MRP charge will be in the year after the asset becomes operational. MRP on purchases of freehold land will be charged over 50 years. MRP on expenditure not related to fixed assets but which has been capitalised by regulation or direction will be charged over 20 years. These lives may be reduced if it is prudent to do so because the resultant income stream or useful life to the Authority is shorter.

- 3.40. **MRP in respect of leases and PFI:** For assets acquired by leases or Private Finance Initiative, MRP will be determined as being equal to the element of the rent or charge that goes to write down the balance sheet liability.
- 3.41. Where former operating leases are potentially brought onto the balance sheet on 1st April 2022 due to the adoption of the IFRS 16 Leases accounting standard, and the asset values have been adjusted for accruals, prepayments, premiums and/or discounts, then the annual MRP charges will be adjusted so that the total charge to revenue remains unaffected by the new standard.
- 3.42. For capital expenditure loans to third parties that are repaid in annual or more frequent instalments of principal, the Council may make nil MRP, but will instead apply the capital receipts arising from principal repayments to reduce the capital financing requirement instead. In years where there is no principal repayment, MRP will be charged in accordance with the MRP policy for the assets funded by the loan, including where appropriate, delaying MRP until the year after the assets become operational. While this is not one of the options in the WG Guidance, it is thought to be a prudent approach since it ensures that the capital expenditure incurred in the loan is fully funded over the life of the assets.
- 3.43. Capital expenditure incurred during 2022/23 will not be subject to an MRP charge until 2023/24. The 2022/23 budget proposals reflect these outlined positions.

4. Treasury investments

Investment strategy

- 4.1. The Authority holds invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. In the past 12 months, the Authority's treasury investment balance has ranged between £10.5m and £53.2m million, and similar levels are expected to be maintained in the forthcoming year.
- 4.2. Loans to organisations providing local public services and purchases of investment property are not considered to be treasury investments, and these are therefore covered separately in **Appendix 4**.
- 4.3. **Objectives:** Both the CIPFA Code and the WG Guidance require the Authority to invest its treasury funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Authority's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income. Where balances are expected to be invested for more than one year, the Authority will aim to achieve a total return that is equal or higher than the prevailing rate of inflation, in order to maintain the spending power of the sum invested.

- 4.4. **Negative interest rates:** The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the risk that the Bank of England will set its Bank Rate at or below zero, which is likely to feed through to negative interest rates on all low risk, short-term investment options. Since investments cannot pay negative income, negative rates will be applied by reducing the value of investments. In this event, security will be measured as receiving the contractually agreed amount at maturity, even though this may be less than the amount originally invested.
- 4.5. **Strategy:** Given the increasing risk and very low returns from short-term unsecured bank investments, the Authority will look to increase its diversification into higher yielding asset classes, such as pooled funds, during 2022/23. The Authority continues to hold £10m of investments to meet the requirements of a professional client under the Mifid II regulations (Markets in financial instruments directive) and therefore consideration will be given to investing this balance with a more medium to long term outlook. At the time of writing £4m was held in Pooled Funds investments with plans to invest a further £2m by the end of the 2021/22 financial year.
- 4.6. **Business models:** Under the new IFRS 9 standard, the accounting for certain investments depends on the Authority’s “business model” for managing them. The Authority aims to achieve value from its treasury investments by a business model of collecting the contractual cash flows and therefore, where other criteria are also met, these investments will continue to be accounted for at amortised cost.
- 4.7. **Approved counterparties:** The Authority may invest its surplus funds with any of the counterparty types in table 3 below, subject to the limits shown.

Table 3: Treasury investment counterparties and limits

Sector	Time limit	Counterparty limit	Sector limit
The UK Government	50 years	Unlimited	Unlimited
Local authorities & other government entities	5 years	£4m	Unlimited
Secured investments *	5 years	£4m	75%
Banks (unsecured) *	13 months	£2m (£3m total for the Councils operational bank)	50%
Building societies (unsecured) *	13 months	£2m	50%
Registered providers (e.g. Housing Associations (unsecured) *)	5 years	£2m	50%
Money market funds *	n/a	£4m	Unlimited
Strategic pooled funds	n/a	£5m	£10m
Real estate investment trusts	n/a	£5m	£10m
Other Investments	13 months	£2m	£5m

Credit rating	Banks unsecured	Banks secured	Government	Corporates
UK Govt	n/a	n/a	£ Unlimited 50 years	n/a
AAA	£3m 13 months	£4m 5 years	n/a	£4m 5 years
AA+	£3m 13 months	£4m 5 years	n/a	£4m 5 years
AA	£3m 13 months	£4m 5 years	n/a	£4m 5 years
AA-	£3m 13 months	£4m 3 years	n/a	£4m 3 years
A+	£3m 13 months	£4m 2 years	n/a	£4m 2 years
A	£3m 13 months	£4m 2 years	n/a	£4m 2 years
A-	£3m 13 months	£4m 13 months	n/a	£4m 13 months

This table must be read in conjunction with the notes below

*** Minimum credit rating:** Treasury investments in the sectors marked with an asterisk will only be made with entities whose lowest published long-term credit rating is no lower than [A-]. Where available, the credit rating relevant to the specific investment or class of investment is used, otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used. However, investment decisions are never made solely based on credit ratings, and all other relevant factors including external advice will be taken into account.

Government: Loans to, and bonds and bills issued or guaranteed by, national governments, regional and local authorities and multilateral development banks. These investments are not subject to bail-in, and there is generally a lower risk of insolvency, although they are not zero risk. Investments with the UK Government are deemed to be zero credit risk due to its ability to create additional currency and therefore may be made in unlimited amounts for up to 50 years.

Secured investments: Investments secured on the borrower's assets, which limits the potential losses in the event of insolvency. The amount and quality of the security will be a key factor in the investment decision. Covered bonds and reverse repurchase agreements with banks and building societies are exempt from bail-in. Where there is no investment specific credit rating, but the collateral upon which the investment is secured has a credit rating, the higher of the collateral credit rating and the counterparty

credit rating will be used. The combined secured and unsecured investments with any one counterparty will not exceed the cash limit for secured investments.

Banks and building societies (unsecured): Accounts, deposits, certificates of deposit and senior unsecured bonds with banks and building societies, other than multilateral development banks. These investments are subject to the risk of credit loss via a bail-in should the regulator determine that the bank is failing or likely to fail. See below for arrangements relating to operational bank accounts.

Registered providers (unsecured): Loans to, and bonds issued or guaranteed by, registered providers of social housing or registered social landlords, formerly known as housing associations. These bodies are regulated by the Regulator of Social Housing (in England), the Scottish Housing Regulator, the Welsh Government and the Department for Communities (in Northern Ireland). As providers of public services, they retain the likelihood of receiving government support if needed.

Money market funds: Pooled funds that offer same-day or short notice liquidity and very low or no price volatility by investing in short-term money markets. They have the advantage over bank accounts of providing wide diversification of investment risks, coupled with the services of a professional fund manager in return for a small fee. Although no sector limit applies to money market funds, the Authority will take care to diversify its liquid investments over a variety of providers to ensure access to cash at all times.

Strategic pooled funds: Bond, equity and property funds that offer enhanced returns over the longer term but are more volatile in the short term. These allow the Authority to diversify into asset classes other than cash without the need to own and manage the underlying investments. Because these funds have no defined maturity date, but are available for withdrawal after a notice period, their performance and continued suitability in meeting the Authority's investment objectives will be monitored regularly.

Real estate investment trusts: Shares in companies that invest mainly in real estate and pay the majority of their rental income to investors in a similar manner to pooled property funds. As with property funds, REITs offer enhanced returns over the longer term, but are more volatile especially as the share price reflects changing demand for the shares as well as changes in the value of the underlying properties.

Other investments: This category covers treasury investments not listed above, for example unsecured corporate bonds and company loans. Non-bank companies cannot be bailed-in but can become insolvent placing the Authority's investment at risk.

Operational bank accounts: The Authority may incur operational exposures, for example through current accounts, collection accounts and merchant acquiring services, to its own banker. These are not classed as investments but are still subject to the risk of a bank bail-in, and balances will therefore be limited to £3m. The Bank of England has stated that in the event of failure, banks with assets greater than £25 billion are more likely to be bailed-in than made insolvent, increasing the chance of the Authority maintaining operational continuity.

4.8. **Risk assessment and credit ratings:** Credit ratings are obtained and monitored by the Authority's treasury advisers, who will notify changes in ratings as they occur. The credit rating agencies in current use are listed in the Treasury Management Practices document. Where an entity has its credit rating downgraded so that it fails to meet the approved investment criteria then:

- no new investments will be made,
- any existing investments that can be recalled or sold at no cost will be, and

- full consideration will be given to the recall or sale of all other existing investments with the affected counterparty.
- 4.9. Where a credit rating agency announces that a credit rating is on review for possible downgrade (also known as “negative watch”) so that it may fall below the approved rating criteria, then only investments that can be withdrawn on the next working day will be made with that organisation until the outcome of the review is announced. This policy will not apply to negative outlooks, which indicate a long-term direction of travel rather than an imminent change of rating.
- 4.10. **Other information on the security of investments:** The Authority understands that credit ratings are good, but not perfect, predictors of investment default. Full regard will therefore be given to other available information on the credit quality of the organisations in which it invests, including credit default swap prices, financial statements, information on potential government support, reports in the quality financial press and analysis and advice from the Authority’s treasury management adviser. No investments will be made with an organisation if there are substantive doubts about its credit quality, even though it may otherwise meet the above criteria.
- 4.11. When deteriorating financial market conditions affect the creditworthiness of all organisations, as happened in 2008 and 2020, this is not generally reflected in credit ratings, but can be seen in other market measures. In these circumstances, the Authority will restrict its investments to those organisations of higher credit quality and reduce the maximum duration of its investments to maintain the required level of security. The extent of these restrictions will be in line with prevailing financial market conditions. If these restrictions mean that insufficient commercial organisations of high credit quality are available to invest the Authority’s cash balances, then the surplus will be deposited with the UK Government, or with other local authorities. This will cause investment returns to fall but will protect the principal sum invested.
- 4.12. **Investment limits:** The Authority’s revenue reserves available to cover investment losses are forecast to be £20.0m on 31st March 2022. In order that no more than 25% of available reserves will be put at risk in the case of a single default, the maximum that will be lent to any one organisation (other than the UK Government) will be £5m. A group of entities under the same ownership will be treated as a single organisation for limit purposes.
- 4.13. Limits are also placed on fund managers, investments in brokers’ nominee accounts and foreign countries as below. Investments in pooled funds and multilateral development banks do not count against the limit for any single foreign country, since the risk is diversified over many countries.

Table 4: Additional investment limits

	Cash limit
Any group of pooled funds under the same management	£5m per manager
Negotiable instruments held in a broker’s nominee account	£5m per broker
Foreign countries	£4m per country

4.14. **Liquidity management:** The Authority is a net borrower and does not have an overdraft set up due to the high cost to do so. The treasury team maintain a cashflow model which calculates the net cashflow movements expected per year based on the capital medium term financial plan and informs the timing and amount of any longer term investment and borrowing decisions. The aim of short term liquidity management is to borrow only when the need arises and therefore to minimise net borrowing costs. The amount of investments, with duration over one day, held at any one time is a balance between increased returns and the time taken/dealing costs of identifying and implementing those investments.

Investment prudential indicators

4.15. The Authority measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators.

4.16. **Security:** The Authority has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit rating / credit score of its investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc.) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

Credit risk indicator	Target
Portfolio average credit rating / score	A- / 5.0

5. Related matters

5.1. The CIPFA Code requires the Authority to include the following in its treasury management strategy:

5.2. **Financial derivatives:** In the absence of any explicit legal power to do so, the Authority will not use standalone financial derivatives (such as swaps, forwards, futures and options). Derivatives embedded into loans and investments, including pooled funds and forward starting transactions, may be used, and the risks that they present will be managed in line with the overall treasury risk management strategy.

5.3. **Markets in Financial Instruments Directive:** The Authority has opted up to professional client status with its providers of financial services, including advisers, banks, brokers and fund managers, allowing it access to a greater range of services but without the greater regulatory protections afforded to individuals and small companies. Given the size and range of the Authority's treasury management activities, the Section 151 officer or deputy believes this to be the most appropriate status.

5.4. **Government Guidance:** Further matters required by the WG Guidance are included in Appendix 4.

Financial Implications

5.5. The budget for investment income in 2022/23 is £134k, based on an average investment portfolio of £10m. The majority of returns are expected to come from pooled fund investments with returns from Government or secured/unsecured investments expected to be negligible. The budget for debt interest paid in 2022/23 is £3.95m, based on an average debt portfolio of £169.7m at an average interest rate of 2.30%. If actual levels of investments and borrowing, or actual interest rates, differ from those forecast, performance against budget will be correspondingly different.

Other Options Considered

5.6. The WG Guidance and the CIPFA Code do not prescribe any particular treasury management strategy for local authorities to adopt. The Section 151 officer believes that the above strategy represents an appropriate balance between risk management and cost effectiveness. Some alternative strategies, with their financial and risk management implications, are listed below.

Alternative	Impact on income and expenditure	Impact on risk management
Invest in a narrower range of counterparties and/or for shorter times	Interest income will be lower	Lower chance of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be greater
Invest in a wider range of counterparties and/or for longer times	Interest income will be higher	Increased risk of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be smaller
Borrow additional sums at long-term fixed interest rates	Debt interest costs will rise; this is unlikely to be offset by higher investment income	Higher investment balance leading to a higher impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest costs may be more certain
Borrow short-term or variable loans instead of long-term fixed rates	Debt interest costs will initially be lower	Increases in debt interest costs will be broadly offset by rising investment income in the medium term, but long-term costs may be less certain
Reduce level of borrowing	Saving on debt interest is likely to exceed lost investment income	Reduced investment balance leading to a lower impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest costs may be less certain

6. Additional requirements of Welsh Government Investment Guidance

- 6.1. The Welsh Government (WG) published revised Investment Guidance in November 2019 which places additional reporting requirements upon local authorities that are not integral to this Authority's treasury management processes. The guidance also covers investments that are not part of treasury management, for example investment property and loans to local organisations.
- 6.2. **Contribution:** The Authority's investments contribute to its service delivery objectives and/or to promote wellbeing as follows:
- treasury management investments support effective treasury management activities,
 - loans to local organisations provide financial support to those organisations to enable them to deliver local public services that would otherwise be provided directly by the Authority, and
 - investment property provides a net financial surplus that is reinvested into local public services and supports economic regeneration.
- 6.3. **Climate change:** The Authority's investment decisions consider long-term climate risks to support a low carbon economy in line with its declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019. Transition towards Net Zero – We need to increase the pace with which we are decarbonising our own operations while developing guidance and support to help individuals and businesses reduce their own emissions. We updated our decarbonisation action plan in November 2021 and will be working on a more ambitious programme which will be published in 2022.
- 6.4. **Specified investments:** The WG Guidance defines specified investments as those:
- denominated in pound sterling,
 - due to be repaid within 12 months of arrangement unless the counterparty is a local authority,
 - not defined as capital expenditure by legislation, and
 - invested with one of:
 - the UK Government,
 - a UK local authority, parish council or community council, or
 - a body or investment scheme of "high credit quality".
- 6.5. The Authority defines "high credit quality" organisations and securities as those having a credit rating of A- or higher that are domiciled in the UK or a foreign country with a sovereign rating of AA+ or higher. For money market funds and other pooled funds "high credit quality" is defined as those having a credit rating of [A-] or higher.
- 6.6. **Loans:** The WG Guidance defines a loan as a written or oral agreement where the authority temporarily transfers cash to a third party, joint venture, subsidiary or associate who agrees a return according to the terms and conditions of receiving the loan, except where the third party is another local authority.

- 6.7. A local authority may choose to make loans & other investments in local enterprises, local charities, wholly owned companies and joint ventures where relevant to Council functions and to promote local economic growth.
- 6.8. The Authority uses an allowed 'expected credit loss' model for loans and receivables as set out in *International Financial Reporting Standard 9 Financial Instruments* as adopted by proper practices to measure the credit risk of its loan portfolio. Appropriate consideration is given to state aid rules and competition law. The Authority has appropriate credit control arrangements to recover overdue repayments in place.
- 6.9. **Non-specified investments:** Any financial investment not meeting the definition of a specified investment or a loan is classed as non-specified. Given the wide definition of a loan, this category only applies to units in pooled funds and shares in companies.
- 6.10. **Non-financial investments:** This category covers non-financial assets held primarily or partially to generate a profit, primarily investment property. Security is determined by comparing each asset's purchase price to its fair value using the model in International Accounting Standard 40: Investment Property as adapted by proper practices. The Authority's current Investment Property portfolio is divided into long held Investment Properties such as County Farms and the three more recently acquired commercial Investment Properties which support economic regeneration.
- 6.11. The total of the Authorities usable reserves at 31st March 2021 was £32.8m. This represents 107% of the current value of the Authorities Commercial Investment Properties acquired to date. Due to the due diligence process undertaken before Commercial Investments are entered into and the forecast income over the lifetime of the assets, these investments are considered to be prudent by the Authority.
- 6.12. **Liquidity:** The Authority's liquidity management has been detailed in the main Treasury report with regard to treasury activities. Before supporting local entities or placing a commercial investment the impact on liquidity is fully addressed, most commonly by taking out loans of an appropriate maturity to ensure funds are available for the life of the activity. £40,000 of seed funding was placed with SRS Ltd in 2011/12 with the intention of it remaining there for the long term to support that entity.
- 6.13. Compared with other investment types, property is relatively difficult to sell and convert to cash at short notice and can take a considerable period to sell in certain market conditions. To ensure that the invested funds can be accessed when they are needed, for example to repay capital borrowed, the Authority will follow its Investment strategy for Commercial assets which ensures that any borrowed capital will be repaid with annual income earned from the investment or that an exit strategy identified during the due diligence will be followed.
- 6.14. **Yield (net profit):** The Authority utilises its profit generating investment activity to achieve a balanced revenue budget. Table 1 below details the proportion of treasury & property rental income to the net revenue budget and therefore its contribution to meeting the costs of

delivery of the Authorities primary functions. Any Authority wide shortfall, including shortfalls resulting from lower than budgeted returns from Investments, will be addressed as part of that process to bring the Authority's outturn position back to a balanced position.

Table 5: Proportionality of Investments

	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Budget	2025/26 Budget
Net direct cost of services	171.9	185.8	195.7	203.8	212.2
Investment income	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
Proportion	1.9%	1.8%	1.7%	1.6%	1.6%

- 6.15. **Investment advisers:** The Authority has appointed Arlingclose Limited as treasury management advisers with the current contract running until 31st March 2022, and has used Alder King as advisers for the last two Commercial investment Property Acquisitions. The quality of these services is controlled by the Finance and Estates teams and also the Investment Committee appointed to oversee the Commercial Investments.
- 6.16. **Borrowing in advance of need:** Welsh Government guidance is that local authorities must not borrow more than or in advance of their needs purely in order to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed. The Authority, after having regard to the provisions in this guidance has entered into its commercial investments utilising Local Authority investment powers, which allow for the prudent management of its financial affairs where carried out reasonably and in accordance with an authority's primary function to serve the public. Returns from commercial investments help to ensure there are sufficient funds to continue to provide public services and promote economic regeneration.
- 6.17. **Capacity and skills:** The Section 151 officer is responsible for ensuring that those elected members and statutory officers involved in the investment decision making process have appropriate capacity, skills and information to enable them to:
- take informed decisions as to whether to enter into a specific investment;
 - assess individual investments in the context of the strategic objectives and risk profile of the local authority; and
 - understand how the quantum of these decisions have changed the overall risk exposure of the local authority.
- 6.18. The Governance & Audit Committee has a delegated responsibility to scrutinise the treasury management activity of the Authority, which ensures that elected members have the necessary opportunity to assess whether officers are operating within the boundaries of both the prudential framework and the internal boundaries approved within the treasury strategy. The Governance & Audit Committee is provided with training by the Authority's Treasury Management advisers periodically and have been presented with a questionnaire to assess further training requirements

- 6.19. **Commercial deals:** The investment committee is responsible for ensuring that those tasked with negotiating commercial deals have the appropriate skills and access to information to allow them to operate with regard to the principles of the prudential framework and regulatory regime within which the Authority operates.

7. Advisors Economic & Interest Rate Forecast – December 2021

- The global recovery from the pandemic has entered a more challenging phase. The resurgence in demand has led to the expected rise in inflationary pressure, but disrupted factors of supply are amplifying the effects, increasing the likelihood of lower growth rates ahead. The advent of the Omicron variant of coronavirus is affecting activity and is also a reminder of the potential downside risks.
- Despite relatively buoyant activity survey data, official GDP data indicates that growth was weakening into Q4 2021. Other data, however, suggested continued momentum, particularly for November. Retail sales volumes rose 1.4%, PMIs increased, and the labour market continued to strengthen. The end of furlough did not appear to have had a significant impact on unemployment. Wage growth is elevated.
- The CPI inflation rate rose to 5.1% for November and will rise higher in the near term. While the transitory factors affecting inflation are expected to unwind over time, policymakers' concern is persistent medium term price pressure.
- These factors prompted the MPC to raise Bank Rate to 0.25% at the December meeting. Short term interest rate expectations remain elevated.
- The outlook, however, appears weaker. Household spending faces pressures from a combination of higher prices and tax rises. In the immediate term, the Omicron variant has already affected growth – Q4 and Q1 activity could be weak at best.
- Longer-term government bond yields remain relatively low despite the more hawkish signals from the BoE and the Federal Reserve. Investors are concerned that significant policy tightening in the near term will slow growth and prompt the need for looser policy later. Geo-political and coronavirus risks are also driving safe haven buying. The result is a much flatter yield curve, as short-term yields rise even as long-term yields fall.
- The rise in Bank Rate despite the Omicron variant signals that the MPC will act to bring inflation down whatever the environment. It has also made clear its intentions to tighten policy further. While the economic outlook will be challenging, the signals from policymakers suggest their preference is to tighten policy unless data indicates a more severe slowdown.

Forecast:

- The MPC will want to build on the strong message it delivered this month by tightening policy despite Omicron uncertainty.
- Arlingclose therefore expects Bank Rate to rise to 0.50% in Q1 2022, but then remain there. Risks to the forecast are initially weighted to the upside, but becoming more balanced over time. The Arlingclose central forecast remains below the market forward curve.

- Gilt yields will remain broadly flat from current levels. Yields have fallen sharply at the longer end of the yield curve, but expectations of a rise in Bank Rate have maintained short term gilt yields at higher levels.
- Easing expectations for Bank Rate over time could prompt the yield curve to steepen, as investors build in higher inflation expectations.
- The risks around the gilt yield forecasts vary. The risk for short and medium term yields is initially on the upside but shifts lower later. The risk for long-term yields is weighted to the upside.

	Current	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24
Official Bank Rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Arlingclose Central Case	0.50	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Downside risk	0.00	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50
3-month money market rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.05	0.20	0.35	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Arlingclose Central Case	0.50	0.85	1.20	1.25	1.15	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
Downside risk	0.00	-0.25	-0.25	-0.30	-0.30	-0.30	-0.35	-0.45	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50
5yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.35	0.45	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55
Arlingclose Central Case	1.22	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.15	1.15	1.15	1.15	1.15	1.15
Downside risk	0.00	-0.20	-0.25	-0.25	-0.30	-0.35	-0.40	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50
10yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.40	0.45	0.55	0.60	0.65	0.65	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70
Arlingclose Central Case	1.37	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35
Downside risk	0.00	-0.20	-0.30	-0.35	-0.40	-0.45	-0.50	-0.55	-0.55	-0.55	-0.60	-0.60	-0.60
20yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.40	0.45	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.60	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65
Arlingclose Central Case	1.54	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55
Downside risk	0.00	-0.30	-0.35	-0.40	-0.40	-0.45	-0.45	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50
50yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.40	0.45	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.60	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65
Arlingclose Central Case	1.22	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20
Downside risk	0.00	-0.30	-0.35	-0.40	-0.40	-0.45	-0.45	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50

PWLB Standard Rate (Maturity Loans) = Gilt yield + 1.00%

PWLB Certainty Rate (Maturity Loans) = Gilt yield + 0.80%

8. Glossary of treasury terms

Authorised Limit	<p>The affordable borrowing limit determined in compliance with the Local Government Act 2003 (English and Welsh authorities) and the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003. This Prudential Indicator is a statutory limit for total external debt. It is set by the Authority and needs to be consistent with the Authority's plans for capital expenditure financing and funding. The Authorised Limit provides headroom over and above the <i>Operational Boundary</i> to accommodate expected cash movements. Affordability and prudence are matters which must be taken into account when setting this limit.</p> <p>(see also <i>Operational Boundary</i>, below)</p>
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Balances and Reserves	Accumulated sums that are maintained either earmarked for specific future costs or commitments or generally held to meet unforeseen or emergency expenditure.
Bail-in	Refers to the process which the banking regulatory authorities will use to restructure a financial institution which is failing or likely to fail. Unsecured creditors of and investors in that financial institution will participate in its restructure who will, as a consequence, incur a non-recoverable loss (commonly referred to as a 'haircut') on their obligation/investment. Local authority investments with banks and building societies such as term deposits, certificates of deposit, call accounts and non-collateralised bonds are unsecured investments and are therefore vulnerable to bail-in.
Bank Rate	The official interest rate set by the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee and what is generally termed at the "base rate". This rate is also referred to as the 'repo rate'.
Bond	A certificate of debt issued by a company, government, or other institution. The bond holder receives interest at a rate stated at the time of issue of the bond. The price of a bond may vary during its life.
Capital Expenditure	Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of capital assets
Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)	The Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes representing the cumulative capital expenditure of the local authority that has not been financed.
Capital growth	Increase in the value of the asset (in the context of a collective investment scheme, it will be the increase in the unit price of the fund)
Capital receipts	Money obtained on the sale of a capital asset.
CIPFA	Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
Constant Net Asset Value (CNAV)	Also referred to as Stable Net Asset Value. A term used in relation to the valuation of 1 share in a fund. This means that at all times the value of 1 share is £1/€1/US\$1 (depending on the currency of the fund). The Constant NAV is maintained since dividend income (or interest) is either added to the shareholders' account by creating shares equal to the value of interest earned or paid to the shareholder's bank account, depending on which option is selected by the shareholder.
Collective Investment Schemes	Funds in which several investors collectively hold units or shares. The assets in the fund are not held directly by each investor, but as part of a pool (hence these funds are also referred to as 'Pooled Funds'). Unit Trusts and Open-Ended Investment Companies are types of collective investment schemes / pooled funds.
Corporate Bonds	Corporate bonds are bonds issued by companies. The term is often used to cover all bonds other than those issued by governments in their own currencies and includes issues by companies, supranational organisations and government agencies.

Corporate Bond Funds	Collective Investment Schemes investing predominantly in bonds issued by companies and supranational organisations.
CPI <i>Also see RPI</i>	Consumer Price Index. (This measure is used as the Bank of England's inflation target.)
Credit Default Swap (CDS)	A Credit Default Swap is similar to an insurance policy against a credit default. Both the buyer and seller of a CDS are exposed to credit risk. Naked CDS, i.e. one which is not linked to an underlying security, can lead to speculative trading.
Credit Rating	Formal opinion by a registered rating agency of a counterparty's future ability to meet its financial liabilities; these are opinions only and not guarantees.
Cost of carry	When a loan is borrowed in advance of requirement, this is the difference between the interest rate and (other associated costs) on the loan and the income earned from investing the cash in the interim.
Credit default swaps	Financial instrument for swapping the risk of debt default; the buyer effectively pays a premium against the risk of default.
Diversification / diversified exposure	The spreading of investments among different types of assets or between markets in order to reduce risk.
Derivatives	Financial instruments whose value, and price, are dependent on one or more underlying assets. Derivatives can be used to gain exposure to, or to help protect against, expected changes in the value of the underlying investments. Derivatives may be traded on a regulated exchange or traded 'over the counter'.
ECB	European Central Bank
Federal Reserve	The US central bank. (Often referred to as "the Fed")
Floating Rate Notes	A bond issued by a company where the interest rate paid on the bond changes at set intervals (generally every 3 months). The rate of interest is linked to LIBOR and may therefore increase or decrease at each rate setting
GDP	Gross domestic product - also termed as "growth" in the economy. The value of the national aggregate production of goods and services in the economy.
General Fund	This includes most of the day-to-day spending and income. (All spending and income related to the management and maintenance of the housing stock is kept separately in the HRA).
Gilts (UK Govt)	Gilts are bonds issued by the UK Government. They take their name from 'gilt-edged': being issued by the UK government, they are deemed to be very secure as the investor expects to receive the full face value of the bond to be repaid on maturity.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	A ring-fenced account of all housing income and expenditure, required by statute
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards
Income Distribution	The payment made to investors from the income generated by a fund; such a payment can also be referred to as a 'dividend'
Investments - Secured - unsecured	Secured investments which have underlying collateral in the form of assets which can be called upon in the event of default Unsecured investments do not have underlying collateral. Such investments made by local authorities with banks and building societies are at risk of bail-in should the regulator determine that the bank is failing or likely to fail.
Liability Benchmark	Term in CIPFA's Risk Management Toolkit which refers to the minimum amount of borrowing required to keep investments at a minimum liquidity level (which may be zero).
LOBOs	LOBO stands for 'Lender's Option Borrower's Option'. The underlying loan facility is typically long term and the interest rate is fixed. However, in the LOBO facility the lender has the option to call on the facilities at predetermined future dates. On these call dates, the lender can propose or impose a new fixed rate for the remaining term of the facility and the borrower has the 'option' to either accept the new imposed fixed rate or repay the loan facility.
LVNAV (Low Volatility Net Asset Value)	From 2019 Money Market Funds will have to operate under a variable Net Value Structure with minimal volatility (fluctuations around £1 limited to between 99.8p to 100.2p)
Maturity	The date when an investment or borrowing is repaid.
Maturity profile	A table or graph showing the amount (or percentage) of debt or investments maturing over a time period. The amount or percent maturing could be shown on a year-by-year or quarter-by-quarter or month-by-month basis.
MiFID II	MiFID II replaced the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID I) from 3 January 2018. It is a legislative framework instituted by the European Union to regulate financial markets in the bloc and improve protections for investors.
Money Market Funds (MMF)	Pooled funds which invest in a range of short term assets providing high credit quality and high liquidity.
Minimum Revenue Provision	An annual provision that the Authority is statutorily required to set aside and charge to the Revenue Account for the repayment of debt associated with expenditure incurred on capital assets

Non-Specified Investments	Term used in the Communities and Local Government Guidance and Welsh Assembly Guidance for Local Authority Investments. It includes any investment for periods greater than one year or those with bodies that do not have a high credit rating, use of which must be justified.
Net Asset Value (NAV)	A fund's net asset value is calculated by taking the current value of the fund's assets and subtracting its liabilities.
Operational Boundary	This is the limit set by the Authority as its most likely, i.e. prudent, estimate level of external debt, but not the worst case scenario. This limit links directly to the Authority's plans for capital expenditure, the estimates of the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) and the estimate of cashflow requirements for the year.
Permitted Investments	Term used by Scottish Authorities as those the Authority has formally approved for use.
Pooled funds	See Collective Investment Schemes (above)
Premiums and Discounts	<p>In the context of local authority borrowing, (a) the premium is the penalty arising when a loan is redeemed prior to its maturity date and (b) the discount is the gain arising when a loan is redeemed prior to its maturity date. If on a £1 million loan, it is calculated* that a £100,000 premium is payable on premature redemption, then the amount paid by the borrower to redeem the loan is £1,100,000 plus accrued interest. If on a £1 million loan, it is calculated that a £100,000 discount receivable on premature redemption, then the amount paid by the borrower to redeem the loan is £900,000 plus accrued interest.</p> <p>PWLB premium/discount rates are calculated according to the length of time to maturity, current market rates (plus a margin), and the existing loan rate which then produces a premium/discount dependent on whether the discount rate is lower/higher than the coupon rate.</p> <p>*The calculation of the total amount payable to redeem a loan borrowed from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) is the present value of the remaining payments of principal and interest due in respect of the loan being repaid prematurely, calculated on normal actuarial principles. More details are contained in the PWLB's lending arrangements circular.</p>
Private Finance Initiative (PFI)	Private Finance Initiative (PFI) provides a way of funding major capital investments, without immediate recourse to the public purse. Private consortia, usually involving large construction firms, are contracted to design, build, and in some cases manage new projects. Contracts can typically last for 30 years, during which time the asset is leased by a public authority.
Prudential Code	Developed by CIPFA and introduced on 01/4/2004 as a professional code of practice to support local authority capital investment planning within a clear, affordable, prudent and sustainable framework and in accordance with good professional practice.
Prudential Indicators	Indicators determined by the local authority to define its capital expenditure and asset management framework. They are designed to support and record local decision making in a manner that is publicly accountable; they are not intended to be comparative performance indicators between authorities.

PWLB	Public Works Loans Board. It is a statutory body operating within the United Kingdom Debt Management Office, an Executive Agency of HM Treasury. The PWLB's function is to lend money from the National Loans Fund to local authorities and other prescribed bodies, and to collect the repayments.
Quantitative Easing	In relation to the UK, it is the process used by the Bank of England to directly increase the quantity of money in the economy. It “does not involve printing more banknotes. Instead, the Bank buys assets from private sector institutions - that could be insurance companies, pension funds, banks or non-financial firms - and credits the seller’s bank account. So the seller has more money in their bank account, while their bank holds a corresponding claim against the Bank of England (known as reserves). The end result is more money out in the wider economy”. Source: Bank of England
Registered Provider of Social Housing	Formerly known as Housing Association
Revenue Expenditure	Expenditure to meet the continuing cost of delivery of services including salaries and wages, the purchase of materials and capital financing charges
RPI	Retail Prices Index. A monthly index demonstrating the movement in the cost of living as it tracks the prices of goods and services including mortgage interest and rent. Pensions and index-linked gilts are uprated using the CPI index.
SORP	Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting (Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom).
Specified Investments	Term used in the CLG Guidance and Welsh Assembly Guidance for Local Authority Investments. Investments that offer high security and high liquidity, in sterling and for no more than 1 year. UK government, local authorities and bodies that have a high credit rating.
Supported Borrowing	Borrowing for which the costs are supported by the government or third party.
Supranational Bonds	Instruments issued by supranational organisations created by governments through international treaties (often called multilateral development banks). The bonds carry an AAA rating in their own right. Examples of supranational organisations are those issued by the European Investment Bank, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
Treasury Management Code	CIPFA’s Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services. The current Code is the edition released in autumn 2011.
Temporary Borrowing	Borrowing to cover peaks and troughs of cash flow, not to fund spending.
Term Deposits	Deposits of cash with terms attached relating to maturity and rate of return (interest)

Unsupported Borrowing	Borrowing which is self-financed by the local authority. This is also sometimes referred to as Prudential Borrowing.
Usable Reserves	Resources available to finance future revenue and capital expenditure
Variable Net Asset Value (VNAV)	A term used in relation to the valuation of 1 share in a fund. This means that the net asset value (NAV) of these funds is calculated daily based on market prices.
Working Capital	Timing differences between income/expenditure and receipts/payments
Yield	The measure of the return on an investment instrument

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Evaluating the Potential Impact of the 2022/23 Budget Proposals

Introduction

The provisional budget settlement from Welsh Government for 2022/23 shows Monmouthshire Council is due to receive an increase in core funding of 11.2%, well-above inflation. The final settlement is due in March 2022. This goes some way to giving some additional flexibility to respond to the pressure on Council finances and the choices it makes when setting the budget for next year.

However, the authority continues to receive the lowest funding per head of population of any local authority in Wales. In 2022/23 our draft funding settlement is £1180 per head of population. This means that a higher proportion of the income we need to generate to provide services needs to come from council tax and charges for services. The Council has worked hard to make sure this money goes where it matters.

The Council continues to need to make savings and find additional money to meet demands and pressures on services, for example meeting the needs of children who are looked after. In the current financial year, 2021/22, the Council incorporated service pressures of some £10.3m alongside savings proposals of £4.73m in its budget. After several years of delivering significant savings from the budget, the means of achieving further reductions becomes increasingly more challenging.

Medium-term financial planning has been severely disrupted in the last couple of years by the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on council finances, with uncertainty continuing. Welsh Government had provided a significant level of funding through its COVID-19 hardship fund to meet additional costs and income losses because of the pandemic. We are continually working to understand the financial circumstances and challenges resulting from the pandemic including, the lasting impact of the pandemic and the increased demands on services, as well as the cessation of the hardship fund at the end of 2021/22.

The authority has always sought to preserve local service delivery in the face of budget pressures. We know how important many of the things we do are to the people who live in our communities and have worked hard to maintain the things that matter by reducing the amount we spend on things like buildings and energy costs.

We recognise that when we do have to increase charges and put up Council Tax it can have a detrimental impact on those who can least afford it. This does not just mean those who are unemployed; many people experience in-work poverty while others are impacted by disability or other protected characteristics that affect their opportunities. Also, through the pandemic there is evidence the coronavirus and lockdown measures could have a disproportionately negative impact on the well-being of some sections of our communities.

Whenever we introduce changes to policy or increase charges, we evaluate the impact of these upon different groups. Where a budget proposal could alter a service, or the way it is delivered in 2022/23 an Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed. This assesses its potential impact on the national well-being goals and the ways of working enshrined in the Well-being of Future Generations Act and also the people and groups who possess the protected characteristics specified as part of our duty under the Equality Act 2010. Our commitment to social justice means that we also look at the potential impact on those in poverty and assess the impact on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, in line with new socio-economic duty in Wales.

This document summarises the headline message from these assessments. The table below shows a summary of some of these main impacts while an overview of the messages from these is included as appendix 1. The summary does not highlight every single issue but reveals some of the key impacts of budget proposals and provide scope for continual learning and improvement as proposals are developed.

The document has also drawn on an analysis of the cumulative financial impact of the budget proposals on households with different income levels and groups with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010.

Open and robust scrutiny and challenge is essential as the proposals are shaped in line with the priorities in our corporate plan and the issues that matter most to our communities. This analysis has been updated following the public engagement exercise and scrutiny undertaken in January and February 2022. The engagement has brought challenges due to the pandemic, so every effort was made to reach as many people as possible via online sessions and social media. The engagement activities were supported by a pro-active communications plan. Full details of the engagement activities and responses are in the appended reports.

Overview of Budget Proposals and Impacts

	Age	Disability	Gender Re-assignment	Marriage or civil partnership	Pregnancy and Maternity	Race	Religion or Belief	Sex	Sexual Orientation	Welsh Language	Socio-Economic	Safeguarding	Sustainable Development	National Well-being goals
Social Care and Health fees and charges increases (SCH6)	Amber	Amber									Green			Amber
Enterprise fees and charges increases (ENT10)	Amber	Green									Amber			Amber
Further funding for Additional Learning needs (CYP2, pressure)	Green	Green												Green
Further funding for Children’s social care (SCH1, pressure)	Green	Green										Green		Green
Further funding for Adult social care (SCH2, pressure)	Green	Green									Green	Green		Green
Further funding for Public protection (SCH5, pressure)											Green	Green	Green	Green
Council Tax Increase											Amber			

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Key

- Red – negative impact on this category that is difficult to overcome with mitigating actions
- Amber – some potential negative impact which is lower risk or can be managed with mitigation
- Green – impact is largely positive
- White – no significant impact has been identified at this stage

Our Corporate Plan objectives and strategic aims

Our purpose is set in our Corporate Plan along with our five organisational goals, which incorporate the council's well-being objectives. Setting our goals and the actions necessary to deliver on them enables us to identify the future we want.

The goals in the Corporate Plan are:

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

The council's strong record of delivery within a balanced budget has enabled us keep frontline services operating. We are clear that money should follow our core purpose and delivering the well-being objectives.

Through the Coronavirus pandemic Cabinet have established a series of interim strategies to provide clarity and ensure accountability through the changing and challenging circumstances of the pandemic. The latest iteration was agreed in December 2021 in *Looking Ahead, Delivering Now – Our Strategy to Summer 2022¹*. This sets a series of actions the council is focussed on delivering. Alongside these the council will develop its thinking and ideas to address complex and longer-term challenges. In delivering the current actions the Council will ensure that it does not do anything that will conflict with our emerging thinking on the long-term challenges.

We continue to develop our Medium-Term Financial Plan to support us as far as possible to continue to deliver the aims and support our longer-term planning. While the medium-term financial planning has been severely disrupted by the pandemic, we continue to aim to ensure our focus is not only on short-term response, but medium-term recovery and long-term sustainability. We recognise this is not without challenges and uncertainty however it will enable us to focus our finite resources on the areas that matter most to people and enable us to build a sustainable service offer for current residents and businesses as well as future generations.

The budget proposals are a broad mix of small adjustments designed to optimise efficiency and larger longer-term proposals. The proposals contain a small number of savings and increases in fees and charges as well as pressures which services need to accommodate that so they can sustain themselves into the future. Our strategy gives us the framework to focus on the big challenges but we can never lose sight of the need to spend every pound wisely, nor the reality that the cumulative impact of many small changes can add up to a significant impact on some people within our communities and the need to ensure that there is some degree of mitigation against this for the most vulnerable.

The Legal Context

The Equality Act 2010 protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. It provides a legal framework to protect the rights of individuals and advance equality of opportunity for all.

The Council, as a public body in Wales, has a requirement under the Act to meet both general and specific duties. The general duties are that in exercising its functions the Council must have due regard to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by the Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not;
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not;

The Act explains that having due regard for advancing equality involves:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
- Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from other people.
- Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

The protected characteristics are: Age; Sex; Gender re-assignment; Pregnancy and maternity; Sexual orientation; Race; Religion or belief; Marriage and civil partnership.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act creates a legal framework for better decision-making by public bodies in Wales by ensuring that we take account of the long-term, help to prevent problems occurring or getting worse, take an integrated and collaborative approach, and considers and involves people of all ages. This supports existing commitments such as the Welsh language, equalities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Together, the seven well-being goals and five ways of working provided by the Act are designed to support and deliver a public service that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Socio-economic impact of the budget

The new socio-economic duty came into effect in Wales on 31st March 2021 placing a duty on councils to consider the need to reduce the inequalities that result from socio-economic disadvantage. The approach taken in this assessment has been developed in line with the duty, to evaluate the potential impact of the 2022-23 budget proposals on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage and consider how this might help reduce inequalities. We recognise this approach will need to continue to be developed as we further embed the duty in our processes and practice.

Almost any change to a council service 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 appropriate mitigations wherever possible and minimise the impact on people in greatest need.

We provide and help fund a wide range of services in communities to ensure support for communities. These include:

- Council Tax reduction scheme
- The single person Council Tax discount
- Thresholds and means testing for some statutory fees and charges, for example in social care.
- Financial support for Monmouthshire Citizen's Advice Bureau
- Community well-being networks to help people to maintain their independence and prevent people becoming dependent on statutory health and social care
- Support provided for volunteers such as the A County That Serves programme and the Be.Community programme.
- Community Hubs that provide advice and host community learning opportunities including the skills at work programme which aims to upskill those in lower paid jobs to increase their career prospects.

Approach / Methodology

This paper has been prepared alongside the individual budget proposals for 2022-23, which have individual impact assessments, to help assess the overall potential impact of the budget on different people within our communities.

As part of the impact assessment, we have looked to establish the cumulative financial impact of the budget. It also brings together the most significant issues identified by the Integrated Impact Assessments completed for each of the proposals to understand whether any groups will experience a detrimental position as a result of the cumulative impact of separate proposals.

When any change is looked at in isolation it may not seem significant but the cumulative impact of multiple changes can sometimes mount up placing pressures on some groups in society.

Monmouthshire has adopted the Joseph Rowntree Foundation definition to define poverty 'When a person's resources (mainly their material resources) are not sufficient to meet their minimum needs (including social participation).' This is supplemented by one of the statistical ways of assessing poverty in the UK; the proportion of households where the income is below 60% of the median income.

This assessment identifies areas where there is a risk that changes resulting from individual budget proposals may have a significantly greater impact on particular groups when looked at together with other proposals.

This enables the authority to identify where we may need to mitigate against negative impacts on certain groups of people. Mitigating actions could include re-shaping services to target them more efficiently and to reduce the potential of disproportionate impacts on groups with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010.

As individual budget proposals are developed any further mitigating actions will need to be considered. The assessment in appendix one provides a simple overview where

proposals have been identified as having a positive or negative impact on those with protected characteristics, the socio-economic duty, safeguarding and the ways of working and national well-being goals.

The Impact and Mitigation

Disability

The definition of disability is when a person has a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out day to day activities.

There are planned increases in fees for social care services, both residential and non-residential. There is currently a cap on the weekly fees that can be charged for non-residential i.e. domiciliary care. The fees are means tested and there are caps on charges that limit the impact on those on the lowest incomes.

There are also increases in charges for community meals which will impact on people with disabilities receiving them.

Age

Older people – People in later life may be more likely to use some council services as they are more likely to acquire a disability and so may be more vulnerable than the general population to changes in those services. This impact will be worsened for those on low incomes. Below is a summary of the main proposals that may impact on some older people.

Charges for domiciliary are proposed to increase from £14.64 to £15.10 per hour. These are capped at £100 per week in Wales. However, as these services are means tested only those who are assessed as being able to afford this will pay.

There will also be increases in fees for residential care. For residents in our own care settings, that can pay the full charge, fees will increase in line with the fair fee levels. This will impact on proportionately more older people but these are means tested and so the impact on those on the lowest incomes will be mitigated.

There is an increase in charges for community meals from £4.50 to £4.64 per meal which will impact on older people who receive these meals.

Children and Young People – Around 14% of children in Monmouthshire live in poverty and this figure rises to 29% in the least well-off wards². Continued economic and social pressures on families are likely to put increased pressure on some families.

Proposals to manage budget pressure within Children's Services will help ensure the service is adequately funded to support the needs of its looked after Children.

Increased funding for pupils with additional needs will help meet pressures in demand for support for pupils. The proposal, due to go out for consultation, to delegate the school action plus funding to schools has the aim to allow schools more flexibility around the support and funding for pupils with additional learning needs.

Other protected characteristics

There is very limited reference to some of the protected characteristics within the individual assessments that have been developed alongside the budget proposals, in particular:

Marriage and civil partnership and pregnancy and maternity are essentially workplace regulations. Sex (gender), race, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, religion and belief also have limited references attributed to them and this may be for two reasons:

- because these groups are not affected by the proposals or
- because we have gaps in our information due to people perceiving that the characteristic is of a personal and sensitive nature and are therefore unwilling to respond.

We welcome any views on the impacts of our proposals on these protected groups as part of our consultation on the budget and will continue to look at national information and relevant studies to improve our knowledge and understanding of how changes can adversely impact on these groups.

Socio-economic Impact

Any increase in fees and charges for services will have a higher impact on households on the lowest incomes. 9,533 households in Monmouthshire live on below 60% of the GB median income³ and 10% of people live in households in material deprivation⁴.

The proposed council tax increase of 2.95% will result in an additional monthly cost of £3.53 on a Band D property.⁵ This will impact on all groups, while this modelling has been based on a Band D property those with higher incomes typically live in larger properties and therefore will pay higher council tax. However, it is acknowledged that some people may have a large house and low income. This can often be true of older people. Mitigations such as the Council Tax reduction scheme are in place.

All residents will also be impacted upon by inflation which will result in higher prices, the rate of inflation is presently 5.5% which is the highest it has been since 1992.⁶ For families on lower incomes inflation could cause significant financial pressures and increase the need for additional support. There have also been significant rises in costs such as energy bills. The extent to which higher prices are offset by wage rises will vary by household and is not included within this assessment. Annual inflation rates at this time are influenced by a range of factors, including the effects of the coronavirus pandemic and global supply chains.

Alongside rising prices, many households on low incomes will have benefitted from the temporary £20 increase in Universal Credit. This came to an end on 6th October 2021 and combined with increased household bills will have a significant effect on claimants. Households on variable rate mortgages will have been impacted by the increases in the Bank of England base rate which will have pushed up borrowing costs. Household with unsecured loans and credit card debt will also be adversely affected by this change. There will be benefits to savers which will include those of pensionable age who tend to make up a higher proportion of savers.

As part of the Council's continued planning, consideration will need to be given to the economic impact of the pandemic in Monmouthshire on businesses, jobs and wage levels.

We are undertaking analysis to improve our understanding of relative income differentials in the county and will be developing policy responses to understand how we can mitigate the impacts of poverty and inequality as part of the Council's Social Justice Plan.

Mitigation

Charges for social services are linked to peoples' ability to pay and service users will be required to undergo a means tested assessment of their financial ability to meet a reasonable charge calculated for these services.

The Council Tax reduction scheme offers some mitigation, council tax is means tested and those in receipt of universal credit, pension credits, job-seekers allowance and other benefits are able to apply for a reduction. Single person households are eligible for a 25% reduction on council tax.

There will be a range of additional mitigations that are not fully modelled here, further detail will be contained in individual Integrated Impact Assessments completed on proposals.

The Cumulative Financial Impact

The impact below has been modelled on some of the planned increases in fees and charges.

A household with an income of £16,000 per year, would see their costs rise by £42.32 per year or £0.81 per week, if they paid Band D council tax (Council element only) with no discounts. This would equate to 0.26% of their income. If a household is on a low income, they may be eligible for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme which would reduce their Council Tax bill⁷. It is unlikely that someone in this financial position would be paying for social care.

A household with an income of £29,000 per year paying the increase in Band D Council Tax and, if they were paying the increased domiciliary care charge and for daily community meals, would be paying an additional £212.88 per year, or £4.09 per week. This would equate to 0.73% of their income.

A household with an income of £40,000 per year would pay the same increases, assuming they lived in a Band D property. This would equate to 0.53% of their income. A household with an income of £56,000 would experience increased charges equating to 0.38% of their income on the same assumptions. However, as incomes rise it would be expected that many households will be living in more expensive properties and would be paying higher rates of council tax.



Integrated Impact Assessment document

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

<p>Name of the Officer: Richard Jones</p> <p>Phone no: 01633 740733</p> <p>E-mail: richardjones@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal: To deliver a balanced budget while continuing to make progress against the council's longer term aims.</p>
<p>Name of Service area: Chief Executive's</p>	<p>Date: 17 February 2022</p>

1. **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	Local Authorities provide many universal services such as highways and waste collections which bring multiple benefits to all age groups. However many of our services are delivered to proportionately higher numbers of younger and older people.	There will be an increase in charges of 3.1% for both residential and non-residential social care. There is also a 3.1% increase in charges for community meals. This will have a disproportionate impact on older people.	Ensure the Social Services and Well-being Act charging legislation is adhered to, so service users are means tested to determine their ability to pay. Increased demand, the fragility of the social care sector and the availability of care staff remains a key risk for adults

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?
	<p>Practice change in adult social services which are person-centred with a focus on well-being reducing dependency and empowering individuals and families to achieve their own outcomes which is a positive outcome.</p> <p>Deployment of early intervention and preventative services for children who are looked after can reduce the likelihood of placements breaking down and lead to better and more stable long-term outcomes.</p> <p>Early intervention and support for pupils with Additional Learning Needs will allow pupils to meet their full potential.</p>		<p>social care which the budget aims to support, although some of these issues are outside the Council's direct control to address.</p> <p>Provide earlier help and prevention (e.g. family support); provide services that seek to prevent children coming into care (e.g. Achieving Change Together) and provide services that seek to repatriate children into community or family placements (e.g. MyST, Monmouthshire Families Together).</p>
Disability	<p>Continuation of practice change in social care are likely to have a particular impact on people who have disabilities.</p> <p>Schools will offer advice and training to allow them to support a range of disabilities.</p>	<p>Any changes to social care arrangements are likely to have a particular impact on people who have disabilities; this includes increased charges as described above.</p> <p>There will be an increase in fees and charges for both residential and non-residential social care, and community meals.</p>	<p>For social care charging increases, we will ensure that service users are means tested to determine their ability to pay.</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?
Gender reassignment	At this stage none of the proposals have identified a particular impact, either positive or negative, on people who have undergone or are considering gender reassignment.	None of the budget proposals have been identified as having either a positive or negative impact at this stage.	No mitigating actions are necessary
Marriage or civil partnership	Same-sex couples who register as civil partners have the same rights as married couples in employment and must be provided with the same benefits available to married couples, such as survivor pensions, flexible working, maternity/paternity pay and healthcare insurance.	Some registrar fees for marriage and civil partnerships will increase.	
Pregnancy or maternity	In the provision of services, goods and facilities, recreational or training facilities, a woman is protected from discrimination during the period of her pregnancy and the period of 26 weeks beginning with the day on which she gives birth. None of the budget proposals have been identified as having either a positive or negative impact at this stage.	None of the budget proposals have been identified as having either a positive or negative impact at this stage.	No mitigating actions necessary
Race	There are no proposals identified that will have a specific positive outcome that will differ by race.	None of the budget proposals have been identified as having either a positive or negative impact at this stage.	No mitigating actions necessary
Religion or Belief	There are no impacts, either positive or negative that have been identified.	There are no impacts, either positive or negative that have been identified.	No mitigating actions necessary

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?
Sex	The council has already carried out a full pay evaluation exercise.	None identified	No mitigating actions necessary
Sexual Orientation	None of the budget proposals have been identified as having either a positive or negative impact at this stage.	None of the budget proposals have been identified as having either a positive or negative impact at this stage.	No mitigating actions necessary

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>The new socio-economic duty requires councils to consider the need to reduce the inequalities that result from socio-economic disadvantage.</p> <p>Social justice is about reducing inequalities in society by working towards more equal distribution of</p>	<p>An increase in council tax will have a financial impact on all households. Those on lower incomes as any bills will form a higher proportion of their household expenditure will feel the impact more acutely.</p> <p>There is a risk that any budget proposals that increase</p>	<p>There are a range of mitigations in place. These include a council tax reduction scheme.</p> <p>Free school meals are available for those on incomes below a certain level.</p>

	<p>wealth and opportunities so everyone can achieve their full potential.</p> <p>It is important to assess and understand the impact of our proposals on those in poverty, especially if there is a cumulative impact from a number of proposals. This is in line with our Social Justice policy.</p> <p>The evidence in this paper helps assess the overall potential impact of the budget on different people within our communities and looks to establish the cumulative financial impact of the budget.</p>	<p>discretionary charges will have a disproportionate impact on people on low incomes and therefore will widen inequality.</p>	<p>The council is committed to aligning evidence-based policy, programmes of work and resources with the aim of supporting people and communities to fulfil their potential.</p> <p>In the last year the Council has developed its third iteration of the Social Justice Strategy. This provides policy coherence for several targeted individual action plans on Tackling Poverty and Inequality, Food Development and Homeless Transition.</p> <p>When introducing or increasing service charges mitigation will be introduced to reduce the financial burden on people who can least afford it.</p> <p>The council has agreed to align the pay of its apprentices with the rates set by the National Living Wage Foundation.</p>
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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 Effects on the use of the Welsh language, Promoting Welsh language Treating the Welsh language no less favourably</p>	<p>A continued focus on Welsh translation will ensure we can continue to comply with the Welsh Language Standards.</p> <p>An increase in capacity and expertise in the council's Welsh language function will help ensure that all areas of work are carried out in accordance with Welsh language requirements.</p>	<p>None identified</p>	<p>All signage and material arising from budget proposals will be compliant with the Welsh Language Measure 2011.</p>
<p>Operational Recruiting & Training of workforce</p>	<p>We will ensure that new vacancies are assessed and where possible advertised as 'Welsh essential' to increase opportunities for people to engage with the council through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>An increase in capacity and expertise in the council's Welsh language function will help ensure that all areas of work are carried out in accordance with Welsh language requirements.</p>	<p>None identified</p>	<p>Active promotion of vacancies in Welsh language publications and websites as well as targeted promotion via LinkedIn</p>

<p>Service delivery Use of Welsh language in service delivery Promoting use of the language</p>	<p>Increases in our ability to recruit Welsh speakers will ensure increased ability for service users to use the language in their dealings with the council.</p> <p>An increase in capacity and expertise in the council's Welsh language function will help ensure that all areas of work are carried out in accordance with Welsh language requirements.</p>	None identified	
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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.




Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>Increases of 3.1% in planning fees and trade waste, will result in higher costs for some businesses.</p> <p>Additional funding will ensure that all pupils with additional learning needs are identified as early as possible and additional support is provided to ensure they can meet their full potential.</p>	<p>The council has agreed to align the pay of its apprentices with the rates set by the National Living Wage Foundation.</p> <p>The council has acquired two commercial investments to generate income to support Council services. These have been impacted by the covid-19 pandemic. This impact is being actively monitored with discussions ongoing with tenants.</p>
<p>A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support</p>	<p>The council has declared a climate emergency. The authority has not yet fully modelled the financial consequences of its commitment to reduce its carbon emissions.</p>	<p>Proposals to reduce staff mileage and increase the use of electric and hybrid vehicles will reduce carbon emissions.</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?
resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)		
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	Place-based working is expected to have a positive impact on physical and mental well-being.	Examples of proposals within the budget include increased funding for Adults social care. Increased demand, the fragility of the social care sector and the availability of care staff remains a key risk for adults social care which the budget aims to support. Although some of these issues are outside the Council's direct control to address.
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	Place-based approaches proposed as part of practice change proposals in adult social care will contribute to healthy inclusive communities.	Some communities may be opposed to commercial development or regeneration schemes. In such cases we will involve people with proposals subject to planning and local consultation.
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	We continue our efforts to reduce pollution and greenhouse gases while increasing recycling. These will have a small but important positive impact on CO2 emissions and waste which will contribute to global environmental efforts.	Wales has an enviable record in sustainable waste management and we will continue to progress this in our approaches to waste management and carbon reduction.
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	There are no proposed fee increases for leisure and cultural facilities the Council provides through MonLife.	We will ensure that new vacancies are assessed and where possible advertised as 'Welsh essential' to increase people opportunities to engage with the council through the medium of Welsh.
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	The council has already carried out a full pay evaluation exercise. Increased charges for some services enable the council to provide other services such as	The council will uplift salaries for apprentices and those employed through the Kickstarter scheme to meet the national living wage.

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>transport which benefit people on low incomes and which has positive environmental impacts.</p> <p>Further funding for Additional Learning Needs will help support children and young people to achieve their full potential.</p>	<p>Many of the council services that are sustained through charging provide a valuable safety net and contribute to more equal outcomes.</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>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p>Increases in fees and charges have been considered in the context of whole life cost analysis over the long-term in order to ensure sustainable and cost-effective service delivery now and in the future.</p> <p>Additional funding for pupils with additional learning needs includes early intervention to support that child through the whole of their education</p>	<p>Mitigating arrangements are in place to minimise the impact of increased fees or charges on people on low incomes</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>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>The budget includes a range of collaborative proposals. This includes working with health, the voluntary sector and private companies.</p>	<p>No specific further actions are proposed at this stage</p>
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>These proposals will form part of the budget exercise and will be subject to a public consultation exercise.</p>	<p>Ensure that proposals and the accompanying Integrated Impact Assessments are updated as a result of consultation and engagement.</p>
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>Examples of proposals within the budget include increased funding for adults social care which will help maintain independence and prevent people needing hospital admission or becoming dependent on others. Additional investment in children's social care should increase placement stability preventing the breakdown of placements.</p>	<p>Examples of proposals within the budget include increased funding for adults social care. Increased demand, the fragility of the social care sector and the availability of care staff remains a key risk for adults social care which the budget aims to support. Although some of these issues are outside the Council's direct control to address.</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>Integration</p> <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>The council works across many areas and many of these proposals can have positive and potentially negative impacts on another. It is important that as individual proposals are developed we seek to balance competing impacts.</p>	<p>The council's Corporate Plan contains a table which highlights the objectives impacts on each of the seven national well-being goals. Any detailed proposals brought forward following the consultation will need to assess the impact of that proposal on the well-being goals.</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	Safeguarding is about ensuring that everything is in place to promote the well-being of children and vulnerable adults, preventing them from being harmed and protecting those who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Specific Proposals include supporting adults and children social care services.	There are no specific negative impacts identified at this stage	Safeguarding is at the heart of everything the council does. All staff are trained to a level that is appropriate to their role.
Corporate Parenting	Further investment is being made into children's social services including those working with looked-after children and young people whose needs are such that they require significant support to keep them safe, maintain secure relationships and stable placements and improve their life chances.	There are no specific negative impacts identified at this stage	

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

The proposals are based upon a wide range of data and evidence and this will be contained within the evaluations of each of the individual proposals.

Data sources include for example:

- Quantitative data such as user numbers, measuring whether changes have had a positive or negative impact on the number of people using the service, in some cases, such as preventative services less users will be a positive
- Qualitative data that gives people views of the service which includes analysis of complaints
- Data derived from national sources such as stats Wales and the National Survey for Wales which allow us to measure whole population

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?

This assessment has been updated following the budget consultation.

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
Existing actions have been highlighted within the individual assessments.		

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
1.0	Cabinet	19/1/22	
2.0	Cabinet	2/3/22	Post Budget consultation update

References

¹ Monmouthshire County Council, strategic aims <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/our-coronavirus-strategy/>

² Figures quoted are before housing costs. Equivalent rounded after housing cost figures are 22% and 43% http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Wales_LA-and-ward-data.xlsx

³ CACI Paycheck Dataset 2021

⁴ National Survey for Wales, 2019-20 <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/National-Survey-for-Wales/Well-being-and-Finances/percentageofpeoplelivinginhouseholdsinmaterialdeprivation-by-localauthority-year>

⁵ Average Band D in 2021-22 = £1434.47 increasing to £1,476.79 in 2022-23. This figure does not include the change for the Police and Crime Commissioner and Community and Town Council precepts. <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2021/08/Bandings-Template-2021-22.pdf>

⁶ CPI, Release date 16 February 2022, available at <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices>

⁷ <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/home/counciltaxandbenefits/>

Understanding how services are grouped

Children and Young People – comprising individual school budgets together with school improvement and LEA run services such as overseeing school admissions and supporting children with Additional Learning Needs

Social Care, Health & Safeguarding

- Services to adults and which seeks to enable them to live as independently as possible
- Services to help the most vulnerable children and families
- Services centred around public protection such as trading standards and licencing

Understanding how services are grouped

Enterprise

- Supporting economic development in the County
- Waste and recycling, Highways maintenance, Passenger transport, Fleet maintenance, Schools Catering and other operational services
- Planning and housing services
- Procurement

Resources – support services such as finance, ICT, operational payroll, estates, property services, and commercial activities

People & Governance

- Administers the democratic process through member support and democratic services
- Legal services and land charges
- Emergency planning
- Training
- HR

Chief Executive's Unit

Understanding how services are grouped

- Corporates services such as communications, customer services, Contact centre, welsh language and equalities
- Community Learning & Community Hubs

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MonLife – Providing a wide range of tourism, leisure and culture services

Corporate Costs – precepts and levies to other statutory bodies as well as other costs such as insurances, bank charges and audit fees

Appropriations – the costs of borrowing together with contributions to or from earmarked reserves

Financing – comprising core Welsh Government funding (AEF), council tax income and any contribution from the Council's general reserve

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SUBJECT: HOUSING INVESTMENT FUND -Funding Agreement for £5.21m from the Cardiff Capital Region.

MEETING: CABINET

DATE: 2nd MARCH 2022

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement from Cabinet for Monmouthshire County Council to enter into a funding agreement jointly with Vistry Group for £5.21 million Housing Investment Fund from the Cardiff Capital Region.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 The key terms of the funding agreement and guarantee as set out within this report are endorsed, and Cabinet provides delegation to the Chief Officer Enterprise and Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer Resource in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Members to enter into the agreements with Vistry Group when the final documents are completed.

3. KEY ISSUES:

Background

- 3.1 A key objective of the Council is to build sustainable communities and provide a wide range of homes for existing and future residents, while ensuring that local needs for appropriate, affordable, and accessible housing are met. The delivery of key strategic housing sites is paramount in order to help work towards this objective and deliver much needed housing.
- 3.2 In 2020, the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) announced the creation of the £45 million Housing Investment Fund that would 'unlock' stalled sites that are unviable for housing delivery. The objective of the fund is to kick start construction, generate jobs and deliver sustainable developments, enhancing the long-term growth prospects of the region.
- 3.3 On the announcement of the fund, officers reviewed housing sites within Monmouthshire's Local Development Plan (LDP) that were not progressing due to viability considerations. Following the review of all LDP allocated sites that did not yet benefit from planning consent, a shortlist of appropriate sites was identified, and council officers worked with developers to jointly apply for the funding. One of the applications within Monmouthshire has been accepted by the CCR board as eligible for this funding. Officers are continuing to work with CCR through the due diligence process with the consideration of reviewing if there are any further opportunities for other potential sites to be supported from this fund.
- 3.4 The development that has been approved for the funding is Land at Vinegar Hill, Undy and it is an allocated strategic site within the Council's adopted LDP (Policy SAH6). It is the only remaining strategic LDP allocation that does not benefit from any planning consent. The development proposal has had significant viability issues principally due to infrastructure costs arising since the adoption of the LDP, in particular the introduction of the sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) legislation. The application had failed to progress to a positive determination since its submission in 2019 as planning officers were reluctant to support a scheme that did not provide policy compliant affordable housing or S.106 planning contributions to ensure a sustainable development. To bring this key site forwards, the local authority worked in collaboration with the developer to apply to CCR under the housing investment fund for £5.21m

worth of funding. The funding would support this site to be progressed with full planning policy compliance in relation to affordable housing and S.106 contributions, enabling officers to recommend approval of the scheme without further deliberations regarding viability.

- 3.5 Following detailed discussions and financial appraisals of the scheme with the CCR and their appointed assessors, the scheme was approved for the housing viability funding on 29th November 2021, subject to the funding conditions. The award of this funding resulted in the application being fully policy compliant and the Council's Planning Committee resolved to approve planning application DM/2019/01937 on 12th January 2022. The approved scheme (with the benefit of the CCR funding) delivers policy compliant (25%) affordable housing provision whilst meeting all the required contributions in relation to community facilities, recreation, education and sustainable transport and is in accordance with the requirements of Policy SAH 6 and the LDP. The proposal ensures a sustainable form of development that accords with the objectives of the LDP to build sustainable communities.
- 3.6 On 12th January 2022, the Council's Planning Committee resolved to approve planning application (DM/2019/01937), however on the 10th February the Council received a direction from the Welsh Government (WG) not to grant planning permission without the prior authorisation of the Welsh Ministers. This is to enable WG further time to consider whether or not the application should be referred to the Welsh Ministers for their determination. The site is an allocated site within the LDP with the exception of a small area that was previously part of the (now removed) legally protected M4 relief road route. Officers therefore consider that it is unlikely that the application would be called-in given that the development is LDP compliant and is not of more than local importance. Notwithstanding the above, this Cabinet report relates to the funding associated with the development rather than the resolution already properly taken by Planning Committee to grant planning permission. The funding proposal before Cabinet is required to ensure that the scheme's visibility is robust and that the development proposals provide the required affordable housing and S106 financial contributions. Cabinet's decision whether or not to agree the funding agreement with Vistry is independent to WG's consideration of whether or not to call-in the planning decision. Should a call-in ultimately result in planning permission being refused by the Minister, there would be no development requiring funding and Cabinet's decision would simply not be implemented.

4. THE FUNDING AGREEMENT

- 4.1 The Council is the applicant for the CCR funding but will be passing the funding directly to Vistry to undertake the works. In order to facilitate this the Council will need to enter into two separate agreements. The first funding agreement is with CCR and will provide certain guarantees in relation to how the funding will be spent and monitored. The second agreement is between the Council and Vistry: the purpose of this second agreement is to ensure that Vistry will guarantee all of the obligations which the Council has signed up to in the funding agreement with CCR.
- 4.2 In addition to the guarantee, the Council is required to obtain adequate security under the funding agreement to allow the funding to be recovered by the Council on behalf of CCR if any of the terms of the Funding Agreement are breached. To this end the Council has requested a legal charge against the land being developed by Vistry.
- 4.3 The agreements are currently in an advanced stage of development and negotiation, but the key terms from the draft agreements are set out below.
- 4.4 The Council has already procured detailed advice from Pinsent Masons to confirm that the loan complies with the new Subsidy Control laws, which have replaced the previous EU State Aid rules.

Funding Agreement Key Terms

- 4.5 The funding will be available for the Funding Period, which will end on 31st March 2024. The funding must therefore be drawn before that date. In order to access the funding the Council must submit a claim supported by evidence that the money is to be used for Qualifying Expenditure. The Qualifying Expenditure is listed within the funding agreement. At present this is in an early stage of drafting and will require further input from Vistry and CCR to produce the

detail required. It should be noted that there is no match funding from the Council within this agreement and the Council would solely be acting as a 'guarantor' for the funding from CCR.

- 4.6 The Council must provide quarterly progress reports on an ongoing basis to CCR. It has been agreed that the burden for producing these reports will be borne by Vistry and this is to be reflected in the guarantee agreement between the Council and Vistry.
- 4.7 The Council must ensure that the funding is only used for the purposes of the Qualifying Expenditure. If this is found not to be the case then the Council will be required to repay some or all of the funding provided. Vistry will be providing a guarantee to provide any such repayment requested to protect the Council in this scenario. In addition, the legal charge over the property should ensure that the Council is able to recover this money through a sale of the land should Vistry be unable to provide the money requested.

- 4.8 The Council may be required by CCR to repay part or all of the money in the following scenarios:

If the Funder (acting reasonably) considers at any time that:-
any part of the Maximum Sum was not expended on Qualifying Expenditure; or
it has made any overpayment to the Council; or
it has paid the Council any sum in excess of the Maximum Sum

The guarantee from Vistry will ensure that in the scenarios listed above they will cover any sums payable from the Council to CCR.

- 4.9 The Council must ensure that the works are completed within the pre-determined set timescales within the funding agreement. The Council must also ensure that the project is delivered by the Works Longstop Date, being 31st October 2025 for the final handover of the last completed home. It is accepted that this is outside of the Council's control and the guarantee looks to address any liabilities the Council may face should Vistry fail to comply with these timescales.
- 4.10 The Council also has obligations within the agreement to ensure that the Developer and any Contractors comply with the terms of the agreement, carry out the works in accordance with any relevant legislation and comply with any relevant procurement policies. Again, it is noted that to a certain extent this is outside of our control and the guarantee looks to address this.
- 4.11 Detailed monitoring and notification obligations are set out within the agreement. This will create an additional administrative burden for the Council's officers to comply with, however the guarantee looks to pass on some of this burden to Vistry. Where responsibility remains with the Council, the existing Monitoring and Enforcement Officer will fulfil this role.
- 4.12 The agreement sets out a list of events of default and subsequent actions available to CCR. Again the guarantee looks to ensure that in the event that any of these are triggered as a result of a breach by Vistry, then any monies recovered as a result would be covered by Vistry.
- 4.13 The documents also set out in full the indemnity which the Council is required to provide CCR. The Council shall:
- be liable for and will indemnify the Funder in full against any expense, liability, loss, claim or proceedings arising under statute or at common law in respect of personal injury to or death of any person whomsoever or loss of or damage to property whether belonging to the Funder or otherwise or any claim by any third party arising out of or in the course of or caused or contributed to by the Council and/or the performance or non-performance or delay in performance by the Council of its obligations under any of the Key Documents except to the extent that the same is due to any wilful neglect of the Funder; and
 - be liable for and shall indemnify the Funder against any expense, liability, loss, claim or proceedings arising directly or indirectly from or in connection with any breach of the terms of this Agreement by or otherwise through the default or negligence of the Council.

As with the previous points the Guarantee looks to ensure that Vistry will indemnify the Council on a similar basis should any action listed above arise as a result of an error on their part.

Guarantee – Key Terms

- 4.14 As noted above, the purpose of the Guarantee is to ensure that should the Council be required to repay part or all of the funding to CCR then this repayment will be covered by Vistry. This should minimise any financial risk exposure to the Council as a result of our obligations under the Funding Agreement. We have set out in full some of the key provisions of the Guarantee below, which identify how this is to be achieved.
- 4.15 The guarantee includes provision that states that if the Council is required to repay any amount of the Funding to the Funder pursuant to the Grant Funding Agreement, the Developer shall pay an equal corresponding amount of the Grant Funding to the Council within ten (10) Business Days of written demand. All such repayments shall be considered to be a debt due on demand and must be paid in cleared funds within twenty (20) Business Days to the Council into such bank account as the Council shall notify to the Developer from time to time.
- 4.16 The provision set out above aims to ensure that any money which the Council is required to pay to CCR under the Funding Agreement will be recoverable from Vistry within 10 days of us serving them with a notice demanding the payment.
- 4.17 The guarantee also includes relevant provisions that states that the Developer shall take all reasonable steps available to it to ensure that the Council complies with the terms of the Grant Funding Agreement at all times.
- 4.18 The purpose of these clauses is to ensure that Vistry provides any necessary assistance to the Council in relation to its monitoring and reporting obligations and any other non-financial obligations under the agreement.

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

- 5.1 A core objective of the adopted Monmouthshire LDP is to build sustainable communities and provide a wide-ranging choice of homes for existing and future residents, while ensuring that local needs for appropriate, affordable, and accessible housing are met. This reflects the Council's core purpose of supporting the creation of sustainable and resilient communities. The delivery of this key strategic site delivers this much needed housing. With the aid of this CCR funding the development would be fully planning policy compliant and result in a sustainable development. Signing the funding agreement would result in the Council actively assisting with the delivery of this key strategic development within the Council's LDP. This proposal is in accordance with the wellbeing goals and the sustainable development principles. An Equality and Future Generations Evaluation (including equalities and sustainability impact assessment) is attached to this report at **Appendix 1**. The proposal is considered to have a positive impact on social justice and wellbeing.

6. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 6.1 Option 1 below is the preferred option, namely that Monmouthshire County Council enters into a funding agreement with Vistry Group for £5.21m worth of funding from CCR.

Option	Benefit	Risk	Comment
1. Agree to enter into a funding agreement with Vistry Group to secure £5.21m of HIF funding from CCR	The Council confirms its commitment to delivering a key strategic housing site within the council's LDP (including 25% affordable housing, helping to deliver sustainable resilient communities.	Potential financial risk that Vistry Group do not meet their obligations as part of the funding agreement, however this has been mitigated for with the development of a guarantee to ensure that should the Council	Delivering this key strategic site in the Council's LDP aligns with the Council's core purpose to build sustainable and resilient communities that support the well-being of current and future generations.

Option	Benefit	Risk	Comment
		be required repay part or all of the funding to CCR then this money will be covered by Vistry. This should minimise any financial risk to the Council as a result of our obligations under the Funding Agreement.	This is the preferred option.
2. Do not endorse that Monmouthshire County Council enters into a funding agreement.	There is no exposure to a limited (given guarantee) financial risk for the Council.	Not entering into the funding agreement would result in this key strategic housing site potentially not being able to be delivered or due to viability constraints it would not provide the required affordable housing or infrastructure financial contributions.	If this funding is not in place there are concerns regarding whether the resultant development would be sustainable and align with the objectives of the LDP to build sustainable communities.

7. RESOURCE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Any costs associated with managing the funding agreement and the associated monitoring of the site will be met within existing service area budgets and resources. Legal advice in finalising these agreements will be met by existing budgets. The £5.21m funding is provided by the Cardiff Capital Region and although clawback mechanisms are in place, the risk exposure to the Council is considered to be low due to the back to back guarantees that will be in place.

8. CONSULTEES

- Enterprise DMT
- SLT
- Cabinet

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Monmouthshire's adopted Local Development Plan 2011-2021
- Planning Committee Report for DM/2019/01937 - 11th January 2022
- The Cardiff Capital Region Investment Framework
- Draft Funding agreement
- Draft Guarantee
- Subsidy Control Advice

10. AUTHORS:

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Commercial Solicitor, MCC

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APPENDICES:

APPENDIX 1: Equality and Future Generations Evaluation

APPENDIX 6



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

Equality and Future Generations Evaluation

<p>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Craig O'Connor</p> <p>Phone no: 01633 644849 E-mail: craigoconnor@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement from Members that Monmouthshire County Council enters into a funding agreement jointly with Vistry Group for the Housing Investment Fund for £5.21million from the Cardiff Capital Region</p>
<p>Name of Service area</p> <p>Planning</p>	<p>Date 14/02/2022</p>

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1. **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	Enabling the councils strategic housing site (Policy SAH6 of LDP) to be developed aims to have a positive impact on people of all ages, by providing a range of housing opportunities for people enabling people to both live and work with Monmouthshire.	None.	The delivery of this housing on the site seeks to provide much need homes in Monmouthshire for a range of people of different ages. This will make our communities more sustainable.

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?
Disability	The housing includes the need to ensure the provision of affordable and accessible housing needs as far as possible. At present, WG Development Quality Requirements for affordable housing incorporate Lifetime Homes standards and 25% of the 155 homes will be utilised for affordable housing.	None	The housing aims to support the well-being of current and future generations that are more inclusive, cohesive, prosperous and vibrant.
Gender reassignment	None	None	N/A
Marriage or civil partnership	None	None	N/A
Pregnancy or maternity	None	None	N/A
Race	None	None	N/A
Religion or Belief	None	None	N/A

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Sex	None	None	None
Sexual Orientation	None	None	N/A

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**

The Social Justice strategy focuses on three main areas: tackling loneliness and isolation; tackling poverty and promoting equitable economic prosperity; and giving children the best start in life. The provision of affordable and smaller housing seeks to tackle house price unaffordability, which currently prevents some of our communities accessing suitable housing within the County. Good quality and affordable housing is important in achieving poverty reduction and equitable prosperity, and supporting the best start in life. The provision of affordable housing combined with policy interventions in relation to the requirement of a mix of market housing will increase opportunities for those in poverty to access safe, secure and suitable housing. Improved energy efficiency requirements for new build properties will reduce the cost of living.

People in poverty or on low incomes might not be able to access the open market housing.

The proposed housing supports the creation of mixed communities and supports the retention of younger people who can afford either an affordable home or a open market home.

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
Policy Making Effects on the use of the Welsh language, Promoting Welsh language Treating the Welsh language no less favourably	The Welsh Language is a material planning consideration and is included within the RLDP Objective relating to Culture, Heritage and Welsh Language to ensure there is no negative impact. The provision of this much needed housing, will expose more children to Welsh curriculum education in all schools, increasing the number of Welsh speakers in the County.	None	We will liaise with the Local Education Authority to understand if the proposed housing and location of growth necessitates additional Welsh medium school provision on future development proposals.
Operational Recruitment & Training of workforce	An expansion of the housing provision of may result in additional Welsh speakers to live within the area increasing the council's Welsh speaking capacity.	None of the current Planning applications team are Welsh speakers, however, there are robust systems in place to deal with phone calls and correspondence without delaying the provision of the service.	N/A
Service delivery Use of Welsh language in service delivery Promoting use of the language	All documentation in realtion to the consultation of the development was conucted bilingually. A document will be in English only if it comes from an external source that is not subject to compliance with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. Emails/letters etc will make it clear that correspondence in Welsh is welcome and will not lead to a delay in response or a lesser standard of service .	None of the Planning applications team are Welsh speakers, however, there are robust systems in place to deal with phone calls and correspondence without delaying the provision of the service.	The Welsh Language is a material planning consideration relating to Culture and heritage and it is not considered the posivision of this housing has an adverseimpact on the welsh 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?
<p>A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>Positive: The delivery of the housing at this site (Policy SAH6 of the LDP) aims to provide much needed housing for people and create economic opportunities during construction and help kick start the economy in the South East Wales region.</p> <p>Negative: None.</p>	<p>The Council's LDP Objectives relating to economic growth/employment and housing, which have been set in order to address the identified issues relating to creating a prosperous Monmouthshire and Wales.</p>
<p>A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>Positive: The housing site (Policy SAH6) is allocated for residential development and the planning application has been given significant consideration and the subject of amendments by the council's biodiversity officers, green infrastructure officer and the environmental regulators Natural Resources Wales. The proposed development would not have a harmful impact on ecological resilience and is in accordance with national and local planning policies relating on these matters.</p> <p>Negative: Housing does reduce the amount of open green fields and puts pressure on the natural environment. However this impact of this development has been mitigated for as outlined above.</p>	<p>The Council's LDP has been assessed against the RLDP Objectives relating to Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Landscape. The proposed housing is in accordance with the requirements in national and local planning policy.</p>
<p>A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>Positive: It is recognised that any developments will be encouraged to support healthier lifestyles and provide sufficient open space. The housing site will encourage Active Travel and will reflect the</p>	<p>The planning application has been approved subject to financial contributions to help sustain the level of growth associated with the housing to ensure a</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>Integrated Network Maps. The site has been designed with the importance of place-making and green infrastructure for the provision of open spaces in close proximity to homes for physical and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>Negative: Higher levels of growth have the potential to increase pressure on community services.</p>	sustainable development that enhances communities.
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>Positive: The housing at this site would enable socially sustainable communities and help provide homes for a balanced demography with a range of properties regardless of age.</p> <p>Negative: None</p>	The sites has been designed with placemaking principles to ensure that the housing is cohesive with the existing community of Magor/Undy.
<p>A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing</p>	<p>Positive: The provision of the housing at this site could seek to reduce the commuting ratio and to enable home-working. The homes would be built to the most relevant energy efficiency standards and the building fabric would be to current building regulation standards having the potential to reduce the energy efficiency of existing housing stock.</p> <p>Negative: None.</p>	The impact of the additional housing has been duly considered as part of the delivery of the council's LDP and the much needed housing is required to ensure that communities within Monmouthshire are resilient.
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People</p>	<p>Positive: The provision of housing may result in a higher proportion of Welsh speakers being able to live in the county.</p>	We have consulted the Local Education Authority to understand if the proposed growth necessitates additional Welsh medium school provision and we


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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?
are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	Negative: There is no control over what language the people who would like to purchase the open market housing speak.	have acquired financial support for educational infrastructure as a result of the housing growth.
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	Positive: The housing aims to assist in balancing the demography across the County and in addressing the County's affordability challenges. One of the key objectives of the LDP is to deliver affordable housing, having a safe secure and suitable home gives people the best start in life. Negative: None.	The housing at the site (Policy SAH6) seeks to provide much needed housing for all people and would allow people who are currently priced-out of the County an opportunity to remain living here by striving to maximise affordable housing delivery to help tackle this. It also seeks to provide additional construction jobs to the region during the construction phase.

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>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p> <p>Long Term</p>	<p>Agreeing the CCR funding results in much need housing being delivered within Monmouthshire to help people currently waiting for homes on the housing waiting list with 25% of the site being used for affordable housing. The development will also offer a range of properties for all demographics to help build resilient communities. The fudign will also provide economic benefits with the creation of jobs at the site. The development would meet the long term needs of future generations.</p>	<p>There may be short term negative impacts in relation to the construction phase of the development on the neighbouring properties however there are mitigating measures such as construction traffic management plans to ensure development is as less intrusive on peoples lives as possible. There is limited financial risk to the council agreeing the funding agreement with Vistry given the guarantees that have been agreed.</p>
 <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p> <p>Collaboration</p>	<p>The development of the approval of this housing investment fund has been done in collbration with CCR, the Council and Vistry. All parties have had regular meetings to ensure due diligence in relation to the funding agreement and CCRs board have agreed the funding application. The objective of the fund is to kick start construction, generate jobs and deliver sustainable developments, enhancing the long-term growth prospects of the region. If members endorse the funding agreement it is considered that these established relationship with associated partners will continue to the benefit of Monmouthshire citizens and the objectives associated with the positive delivery of this housing can be realized.</p>	<p>None</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>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>The planning application (DM/2019/01937) underwent extensive consultation with the local community council, local residents, statutory consultees and internal service areas and the application was given due consideration by the council's Planning Committee, who subsequently approved the development.</p> <p>In relation to the funding agreement CCR have conducted due diligence with the applicant and council representatives and CCR board members considered the application approved it in November 2021.</p>	<p>All comments received in relation to the planning application are available to view on the public planning file.</p>
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>This development assists in addressing the key demographic and affordability challenges facing the County and ultimately seeks to deliver the Council's core purpose to build sustainable and resilient communities that support the well-being of current and future generations. The delivery of the housing will result in people who are currently waiting for an appropriate home on the council's housing waiting list being able to realise this goal. This directly addresses our current housing need issues.</p> <p>The use of the housing investment fund from CCR ensures that the development is sustainable and is fully policy compliant in relation to financial contributions towards key community infrastructure to support the additional housing.</p>	<p>None</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>Delivering this key strategic site in the Council's LDP aligns with the Council's core purpose to build sustainable and resilient communities that support the well-being of current and future generations.</p>	<p>None</p>

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	None.	None.	N/A.
Corporate Parenting	The development will provide affordable housing which will be cognisant of the needs of children leaving care.	None.	N/A.

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

- Monmouthshire's adopted Local Development Plan 2011-2021
- Planning Committee Report for DM/2019/01937 - 11th January 2022
- The Cardiff Capital Region Investment Framework
- Draft Funding agreement
- Draft Guarantee
- Subsidy Control Advice

7. 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?

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Positive -

The proposal seeks to deliver the Council's core purpose to build sustainable and resilient communities that support the well-being of current and future generations with the delivery of much needed housing. This is a positive impact for social justice.

Negative –

None. There are no implications, positive or negative, for social justice, corporate parenting or safeguarding.

8. 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
Continue to work in collbration with CCR, Vistry and any other parties to ensure the delivery of the development and ensure that the funding agreement is managed accordingly.	Ongoing throughout the construction phase of the development.	Head of Planning

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9. 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

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SUBJECT:	UPDATE ON UK GOVERNMENT LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER AND SHARED PROSPERITY FUND PRE-LAUNCH GUIDANCE
MEETING:	CABINET
DATE:	2ND MARCH 2022
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To receive an update on the UK Government Levelling Up Fund, Levelling Up White Paper and UK Shared Prosperity Fund Pre-Launch Guidance.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 Cabinet to agree to the re-submission and revision of bids to the Levelling Up Fund (round 2) for Caldicot and Monmouth when this is launched by UK Government in Spring 2022 following the receipt of feedback received from the UK Government Department.

2.2 Cabinet to approve the development of a transport bid based around projects identified through the Chepstow Transport Study for the Levelling Up Fund round 2 and continue to progress all aspects of the study to continue to develop an integrated solution for the area.

2.3 Cabinet to agree to the consideration of a further report regarding funding options if our submission to Welsh Government under the Local Transport Fund to progress the next stage study (WELTAG3/WEBTAG3) for an improved road link/ bypass in Chepstow is unsuccessful or does not secure the necessary funding alongside partner contributions.

2.4 Cabinet to consider information received on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to date and to agree to the early establishment of a citizen focussed, Local Partnership to inform the preparation and development of an Investment Plan.

2.5 Cabinet to agree to the promotion and support to local voluntary and community groups to bid into the second round of the Community Ownership Fund.

KEY ISSUES:

3.1 Levelling Up

3.1.1 On 2nd February 2022, the UK Government published it's Levelling Up White Paper, along with pre-launch guidance for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund:

[Levelling Up the United Kingdom - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom)

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund: pre-launch guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-pre-launch-guidance)

- 3.1.2 The Levelling Up White Paper aims to set out how the UK Government intends to spread opportunity more equally across the UK and outlines 12 UK-wide missions to inform the delivery of the agenda to 2030, alongside specific policy interventions that build on the 2021 Spending Review.
- 3.1.3 The UK Government intends to consult and engage further on the proposals in the White Paper with a wide range of stakeholders, including local government and devolved administrations. They will set out further details regarding a number of policy commitments in future publications and also intend to introduce legislation in the UK Parliament to underpin, in statute, many of the changes they wish to make.
- 3.1.4 The UK Government will also create a new external Levelling Up Advisory Council to oversee its levelling up missions, establishing a statutory duty to publish an annual report analysing progress. The Council will support UK Ministers by advising on the design, delivery and impact of levelling up policy. The annual report will update the public on progress against the missions so that levelling up is subject to rigorous external scrutiny, including by the UK Parliament.
- 3.1.5 In June 2021, [Cabinet](#) received a report detailing two schemes that had been submitted to the first round of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) which were focused on two geographical areas in Monmouthshire, namely Monmouth Town Centre and Caldicot Town Centre. Unfortunately, both schemes were unsuccessful in the first round, however following feedback from officials of UK Government's Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), there may be an opportunity to review and resubmit the bids for round two of the LUF in the near future. It is anticipated that the second round of the LUF will open in the Spring 2022.
- 3.1.6 The feedback from DLUHC officers indicated that being a Priority 3 authority (least preferred area) was an obvious disadvantage when bidding. However, they also indicated that the bids for both Monmouth and Caldicot were well presented but would benefit from further detail in some aspects. Both bids were 'packages' (Caldicot – Leisure centre, public realm and acquisition and refurbishment of town centre property; Monmouth – Establishment of visitor centre at Shire Hall, repurposing of Market Hall and public realm enhancement) but there was no suggestion that this proved to be a disadvantage. DLUHC encouraged officers to continue with refining and improving the bids whilst seeking further, more detailed feedback to assist the development of revised bids. At this time the timescale to complete any LUF projects remains as March 2025 at the latest so this remains relevant to bidding and programming of any successful works.
- 3.1.7 The opportunity remains within the scope of the LUF guidance for MCC as a highway authority to submit a highway/transport related bid. In March 2021 the Chepstow Transport Study had completed to WeITAG/WebTAG stage 2 and was published. At this stage it was recommended that the study split into three themes. Therefore, terms of reference for three separate studies to proceed to WeITAG/WebTAG stage 3 were developed. These being (i) Active Travel, (ii) Public Transport (and a Transport Hub in particular) and (iii) an improved road link/by pass.

- 3.1.8 Funding to support the development of Stage 3 studies was sought in 2021/22 from WG through the Local Transport Fund (LTF) to progress the Transport hub and road link studies but during 2021/22 funding was only made available through the WG LTF for the Transport Hub (£180,000).
- 3.1.9 Funding to support the Active Travel study has been taken from MCC's core Active Travel budget in 21/22 (approx. £80,000). The Active Travel Fund is provided by Welsh Government with match funding from MCC.
- 3.1.10 A bid was submitted to Welsh Government for LTF funding in 21/22 to support the road link/by pass but on that occasion was unsuccessful. A revised bid to WG for LTF funding in 22/23 has been submitted (£450,000) and at the time of this report the WG decision is awaited. At a recent meeting Gloucestershire CC confirmed their ongoing support for the project. It was also acknowledged that the road link element of the study should be progressed to ensure that any holistic solution takes full account of an integrated solution and progress overall does not become frustrated by delays in any one aspect of the wider plan.
- 3.1.11 Work continues on the preparation of The Chepstow Transport Hub and Active Travel WeITAG/WebTAG stage 3 studies and in the Summer of 2022 the reports will be published. If the recommendations are supported then the Chepstow projects such as active travel improvements and public transport hub development will move to implementation (design and build). The opportunity to bid for LUF funding to support these projects is an ideal opportunity to secure funding to take the projects forward.

3.2 UK Shared Prosperity Fund Paper

- 3.2.1 In January 2022, [Cabinet](#) received a paper detailing the projects that had been submitted to the Community Renewal Fund (CRF). The CRF launched in April 2021, providing £220M, for 2021/22 only, to help local areas prepare for the launch of the UK Shared Prosperity fund in 2022.
- 3.2.2 The [Pre-launch guidance](#) for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF) builds on the Levelling Up White Paper and sets out the aims of the Fund, its contribution to shared objectives and the delivery roles of the UK Government and local partners across the UK.
- 3.2.3 The purpose of the guidance is to enable places/Local Authorities to start initial preparations for the Fund's launch. A full Prospectus and guidance, detailing how UK SPF will operate is expected to be published in the Spring.
- 3.2.4 **Delivery Geographies and Funding Allocations** – Each Local Authority will be given an allocated amount of funding from the £2.6Bn Fund (UK allocation to March 2025) for its geographical area and will be required to collaborate in developing Investment Plans detailing how it will deliver the fund. The proposed delivery geographies for Wales are based on the four Economic Regions which in Monmouthshire's case is the Cardiff Capital Region. There will therefore be an opportunity to collaborate with other Local

Authorities in the Cardiff Capital Region around the Fund's three Investment Priorities of:

- Communities and Place;
- Local Businesses; and
- People & Skills

3.2.5 To note, in December 2021, [Cabinet](#) approved the principle of a locally delivered regionally coordinated approach to employability post-EU, approving a Framework for Future Employability in the Cardiff Capital Region across the ten Local Authorities. Following this, a project, CELT was approved for funding through the Community Renewal Fund, to enhance the current Employment and Skills service by taking a regional approach; developing a Triage system –to ensure clients are referred to the right support: Employing a Wellbeing Engagement Worker; Enhancing Digital and Outreach Engagement; Sourcing employment opportunities in Construction and Digital and Targeting employment for homeless/at risk of homelessness.

3.2.6 Whilst all places/local authorities will receive a conditional allocation from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund the funding formula for the allocation is not yet available. However, to access their allocation, each place will be asked to set out measurable outcomes they are looking to deliver, and what interventions they are choosing to prioritise in an Investment Plan. Investment Plans will need to be submitted this summer for UK Government approval.

3.2.7 **Local Government Responsibilities** - Local Authorities will be given responsibility for developing an Investment Plan for approval by the UK Government, and for delivery of the fund thereafter. Local Authorities will be able to use a proportion of their allocation to manage the Fund, including assessing and approving project applications, processing payments and day-to-day monitoring. Additional capability support may also be forthcoming.

3.2.8 **Investment Plans** – whilst the guidance for the Investment Plan has not yet been finalised Local Authorities are encouraged to start early conversations about the UK SPF priorities and how the Fund can best support the people and businesses in their community to thrive and grow, in order to inform the actions. These plans will need to take account of the wider funding landscape, and in particular, complementary interventions and other nation or local schemes.

3.2.9 **Local Partnerships** – Local Authorities will need to identify local partners and stakeholders who can provide advice and insight on local needs and therefore a local Partnership will need to be established not only to garner views but to oversee the governance of the Fund once funding allocations have been confirmed and received.

3.2.10 The Office of the Secretary of State for Wales, the UK Department for Work and Pensions, and Welsh Government will be invited to play a role in the development and delivery of the Investment Plans to maximise alignment with all related investment in each place. Lead authorities will also be expected to involve MPs in every stage of UK

SPF planning and delivery, the UK Government will set out the requirements for this in its Prospectus to be published in the Spring.

3.3 **Timeline and Next Steps**

February: Pre-launch guidance alongside further policy development and engagement

Spring: Allocations finalised; detailed guidance published; Fund launched; Investment Plans commissioned from Local Authorities

Summer: Final delivery aspects completed, and further guidance published; Investment Plans submitted and signed off by UK Government unlocking each area's allocation to invest in priority projects.

3.4 **Community Ownership Fund**

3.4.1 In July 2021, UK Government opened the first funding round for the £150M Community Ownership Fund which will run for four years. The purpose of the fund to enable voluntary and community organisations to take ownership of assets and amenities at risk of being lost to the community. Voluntary and community organisations can bid for match funding to support the purchase and/or renovation costs of community assets and amenities. Examples include sporting and leisure facilities, theatres and cinemas, museums, galleries, pubs, shops and post office buildings.

3.4.2 The Community Ownership Fund therefore has four strategic objectives which are to:

- provide targeted investment for communities to save community assets that would otherwise be lost
- strengthen capacity and capability in communities to support them to shape their places and develop sustainable community businesses
- empower communities in left behind places to level up
- strengthen direct links between places across the UK and the UK government

3.4.3 The second round of funding has recently opened and a third funding round is due to open in May 2022. Officers therefore wish to promote the fund to local communities and support them in their applications to ensure the County maximises the benefits of the Community Ownership Fund.

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

4.1 The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation Assessment undertaken in Appendix A, anticipates that the projects detailed within this report will have a positive impact on peoples' social, emotional, health and wellbeing, education, and skills. This will develop resident's resilience and improve their life chances.

5. **OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

An options appraisal has been undertaken in Table Three that follows:

Table Three: Options Appraisal

Option	Benefits	Risks
Do nothing	None Identified	The Council will lose out on funding which has the ability to level up the County.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resubmit the Levelling Up projects • Develop a transport bid based in Chepstow for submission to LUF (Round 2). • Pursue funding via WG’s Local Transport Fund to progress to the next stage of the Chepstow link. • Establish a Local Partnership to inform the preparation and development of an Investment Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-submission and revision of the projects following a review of comments from UK Government is likely to mean greater success. • Harnessing the work already in progress in Chepstow to improve transport within the area • Opportunity to capitalise on the renewed sense of community and place; • Opportunity to trial new and innovative approaches that will benefit local communities; 	.

6. REASONS:

- 6.1 As a Council, the Strategic Aims of the new ‘Plan on a Page’ Looking Ahead, Delivering Now: Our Strategy to Summer 2022, clearly align with the aspirations of the UK SPF. Whilst the full details of the UK SPF may not yet be available, an early start in establishing a Local Partnership to start preparing and developing an Investment Plan will help put the Council on the front foot in supporting our citizens, businesses, and communities.
- 6.2 Although the LUF bids were unsuccessful in the first bidding round feedback was clear that the bids had merit and with enhancement in some aspects may be submitted at the second bidding round. It is also relevant that these projects are already in development so the spend timescale (March '25) is achievable. Given the supportive feedback received the bids can be improved and resubmitted.
- 6,3 As the opportunity is available and the Chepstow Transport studies into active travel and a public transport hub are in development the highway/transport LUF bid opportunity is an opportunity to secure funding to deliver these projects.

7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 7.1 The funding allocation for SPF for the Local Authority is yet to be determined although it is clear it will be a mix of revenue and capital funding and as a result, yet to be fully costed. A follow up report will therefore be tabled, once further details have been released.
- 7.2 The bid submitted to WG under the Local Transport Fund to progress the study for an improved road link/ bypass looks to secure £450,000 to progress the project to the next stage (WELTAG 3/WEBTAG 3). If this bid submission is unsuccessful or does not secure the necessary funding alongside other partner contributions then consideration will need to be given to alternative funding sources and a future report will be brought back to Cabinet for consideration.

8 CONSULTEES:

- DMT – Enterprise;
- Cabinet;
- Strategic Leadership Team

9 BACKGROUND PAPERS: N/A

10 AUTHOR:

Frances O'Brien, Chief Officer Enterprise

Lead officers

Cath Fallon, Head of Enterprise and Community Animation

Mark Hand, Head of Placemaking, Regeneration, Highways and Flooding

Roger Hoggins, Head of Strategic Projects

11 CONTACT DETAILS:

E-mail: francesobrien@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01633 644686

Integrated Impact Assessment document (incorporating Equalities, Future Generations, Welsh Language and Socio-Economic Duty)

Name of the Officer Cath Fallon

Phone no: 07557 190969

E-mail: cathfallon@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal

To agree the re-submission of bids to the Levelling Up Fund for Caldicot and Monmouth on receipt of feedback received from the UK Government Department.

To approve the development of a transport bid based around projects identified through the Chepstow Transport Study for the Levelling Up Fund round 2 when this is launched by UK Government in Spring 2022.

To consider information received on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to date and to agree to the early establishment of a citizen focused Local Partnership to inform the preparation and development of an Investment Plan.

To agree to the promotion and support to local voluntary and community groups to bid into the second round of the Community Ownership Fund.

Name of Service area: Enterprise	Date 10 th February 2022
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1. 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	<i>The primary goal of the Levelling Up Fund is to make people's lives better.</i>	There are therefore no negative impacts anticipated.	
Disability	As above	As above	
Gender reassignment	.Not applicable	Not applicable	
Marriage or civil partnership	<i>Not applicable</i>	Not applicable	

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Pregnancy or maternity	<i>Not applicable</i>	Not applicable	
Race	<i>Although the projects are not targeted at specific residents, there will be a positive impact being part of the wider community.</i>	No negative impacts anticipated	
Religion or Belief	.Not applicable	Not applicable	
Sex	Not applicable	Not applicable	
Sexual Orientation	.Not applicable	Not applicable	

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	The purpose of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund is to level up communities by boosting productivity where it is lagging; spreading opportunities, improving public services where weaker; restoring a sense of community and pride and empowering local leaders.	<i>Not applicable</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>

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 delivery team will ensure that they adhere to the Council's Welsh Language Standards.</p>	<p>None identified</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p>Operational</p> <p>Recruitment & Training of workforce</p>	<p>Where new posts are required, the need to communicate through Welsh and English as part of the recruitment process and any necessary training offered as needed.</p>	<p>None identified</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p>Service delivery</p> <p>Use of Welsh language in service delivery</p> <p>Promoting use of the language</p>	<p>Any advertising about the projects will promote the fact that people can deal with the Council in Welsh by phone, email, twitter, Facebook, letters, forms, website transactions etc.</p>	<p>None identified</p>	<p>n/a</p>

3. Policy making and the Welsh 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?
<p>A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>The proposal strongly supports the Prosperous Wales wellbeing goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The UK SPF will enable noticeable investment in the places people live, as well as support - individuals and businesses fostering local pride in place. <p>- Delivering employability support to residents will lead to improved labour market positions for those in employment; will lead to employment, and increased income for those who are currently seeking work and will lead to improved productivity and growth for companies in the region.</p> <p>-</p>	<p>There is a strategic imperative to maximise our economic growth and wealth creation capability, and increase our productivity in order to increase the GVA for the county and the country.</p>
<p>A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g., climate change)</p>	<p>The proposal strongly supports the Resilient Wales wellbeing goal:</p> <p>- <i>employability programmes support community and social resilience within communities and encourage greater levels of community interaction.</i></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?
	- <i>Employability programmes focus on building sustainable employment within communities, reducing inequalities between communities.</i>	
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood		
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	- The primary goal of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK.	
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	-	
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	-	
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	- Employability programmes focus on building sustainable employment within communities, reducing inequalities between communities.	Not applicable

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?

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>Balancing short term need with long term and planning</p> <p>Long Term for the future</p>	<p>The proposal is well-aligned to a long-term way of working:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By supporting households and young people into employment and helping to sustain and improve the quality of that employment, employability activity is a key part of the suite of early intervention & prevention activities. This reduces the likelihood of long-term challenges resulting from deprivation, adverse childhood experiences, and unemployment. 	<p>None identified</p>
 <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p> <p>Collaboration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed Local Partnership will encourage a range of partners to work collaboratively to the benefit of their community and the County. 	<p>None identified</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>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>The Community Ownership Fund encourages communities to come together to take ownership of assets which are at risk of being lost to the community.</p>	<p>None identified</p>
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>The purpose of the UK SPF funding is to empower each place to identify and build on their own strengths and needs at a local level, focused on pride in place</p>	<p>None identified</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>Integration</p> <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>.The wide range of projects detailed consider all aspects of the Well-Being of Future Generations Act and present an integrated approach to economic and community development activity in the County.</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	Not applicable		
Corporate Parenting	Not applicable		

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

When submitting the County's Investment Plan Officers will evidence strategic fit and link activities to local economic and business need. Strategies to be referenced will include Vision Monmouthshire 2040: Economic Growth and Ambition Statement; the Digital Infrastructure Action Plan; the MCC Apprenticeship, Graduate and Internship Strategy alongside alignment with UK Government Investment Priorities and Cardiff Capital Region regional priorities.

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?

.This section should summarise the key issues arising from the evaluation. This summary must be included in the Committee report template It is anticipated that the UK SPF will have a positive impact on peoples' social, emotional, health and wellbeing, education, and skills. This will develop resident's resilience and improve their life chances.

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
Cabinet	Feb 2022	Frances O'Brien, Chief Officer for Enterprise

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
1	Enterprise DMT	14 th January 2022	

2	Cabinet	2nd March 2022	

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SUBJECT:	PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS FORMULA.
MEETING:	CABINET
DATE:	2nd March 2022
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To seek cabinet approval to amend the funding formula for delegating funds to schools to support pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That cabinet approves an amendment to the Additional Learning Needs formula to delegate funding to schools. This funding will be delegated based on proposal 1, 70% pupil numbers and 30% on the current band D and E (additional learning needs).
- 2.2 The changes to the funding are implemented for the 2022-23 budget from 1st April 2022.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The funding for pupils with additional learning needs was last reviewed in 2009 and the current funding model agreed and put into place. Under the current model funding is delegated as a lump sum to all schools using an indicator of free school meals with additional funding delegated for individual pupils via a panel and depending on their needs agree a funding level.
- 3.2 To access funding pupils are assessed and provided with either a statement of educational needs or a school action plus resourced agreement, both may attract a level of funding depending on the needs of the pupil, however a statement of educational needs is a statutory document whereas school action plus is a resourced agreement unique to Monmouthshire.
- 3.3 Typically the funding provided will be Band D funding (£9,730) or Band E funding (£14,595). These values have not been increased for several years and all schools are required to use some of their school budget to meet need. It is a requirement that a minimum of 5% of the school budget is used to support pupils will additional learning needs.
- 3.4 This process is very bureaucratic requiring many forms and assessments to be completed and it is often criticised by Headteachers for being very time consuming and rigid. The funding follows the pupil and if the pupil leaves the funding will be removed which could result in a member of staff who is supporting that pupil being put at risk of losing their job.
- 3.5 During the summer term the school budget forum requested that a working group be set up to look at how the funding is delegated and to make proposals for any changes.

3.6 The principles agreed by the working group were:

- The funding should follow the pupil
- The funding should allow for current and future needs
- The formula should create sustainability in funding so schools can plan
- The funding should be able to be used flexible to meet needs
- There should be a contingency which will have strict criteria to support learners that move into Monmouthshire and are not previously known about
- No school will be identified as it is the principles that are to be agreed and not the effect on the individual school.

3.7 Following recommendation from the working group the school budget forum agreed to consult on two proposals:

Proposal 1

70% of the funding distributed on pupil numbers and 30% on current funding for band D & E within the school. For the purposes of this consultation the pupil numbers are taken as the September 2020 count which is in line with the existing formula and the band funding is from the October 2021 forecasting model.

Proposal 2

80% of the funding distributed on pupil numbers and 20% on current funding for band D & E within the school. For the purposes of this consultation the pupil numbers are taken as the September 2020 count which is in line with the existing formula and the band funding is from the October 2021 forecasting model.

3.8 The consultation paper is attached in appendix 1.

3.9 The proposal will delegate funding to the school for the school to use flexibly to meet the needs of the pupils with additional learning needs.

3.10 The funding initially will be for one year but after a review it is anticipated that the funding will be in place for 3 years which will allow schools to plan.

3.11 Where there is a large increase or decrease in funding schools will be protected for up to 3 years to manage the move to the new funding arrangements.

3.12 All schools have been fully consulted on the proposal and the working group comprised of Heads and Additional Learning Needs co-ordinators.

3.13 A contingency budget will be held centrally to support pupils that move into Monmouthshire and require additional resource. There will be clear criteria for schools to access this funding.

- 3.14 Under the new Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Educational Tribunal Act, schools will have increased responsibility to identify and meet the needs of learners who have additional learning needs. The Code states that 'Maintained schools have a key role to play in identifying additional learning needs and in delivering Additional Learning Provision (ALP) to support learners with additional learning needs. They are directly responsible for identifying and meeting the needs of the majority of their pupils who have additional learning needs (1.83).
- 3.15 This consultation only covers funding for pupils with additional learning needs that attend a mainstream Monmouthshire school and does not include the delegated funding to the special resource bases, small class provision at King Henry VIII or placements in out of county or independent schools.

4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

There were three options considered:

- 4.1 Status quo to make no changes to the formula, this was disregarded as it was felt that the current method is very bureaucratic and does not give schools the flexibility they require.
- 4.2 To consult on delegating funding using 70% on pupil numbers and 30% on current funding of band D's & E's in school. Band funding is for an individual pupil and is funded at £9,730 for Band D and Band E is funded at £14,595.
- 4.3 To consult on delegating funding using 80% on pupil numbers and 20% on current funding of band D's & E's in school. Band funding is for an individual pupil and is funded at £9,730 for Band D and Band E is funded at £14,595.

5 EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 5.1 A total of 17 responses were received and these are detailed in appendix 2.
- 5.2 15 responses were from schools, 1 was from a governor and 1 from the CYP select committee.
- 5.3 Proposal 1 (70% pupil numbers 30% band D's and E's) – 8 were for this proposal and 5 were against. This is the preferred option.
- 5.4 Proposal 2 (80% pupil numbers and 20% band D's and E's) – 5 were for this proposal and 8 were against.
- 5.5 4 responses chose no proposal but added comments which are detailed in the appendix 2.
- 5.6 Given the consultation responses the School Budget Forum recommends that Cabinet approves to amend the delegated funding model as detailed in proposal 1 (70% pupil numbers and 30% using existing band D and E funding).
- 5.7 There will be a full review of the proposal after 12 months.

6 REASONS:

- 6.1 To provide members with the details of the proposal to changes to the formula to delegate funding for Additional Learning Needs to schools.

7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 7.1 The current budget is split between schools and local authority budget; the proposal is to delegate all the funding to schools but to maintain a small contingency within the local authority to support new pupils that move into Monmouthshire.

- 7.2 Current Budget (band and lump sum):

• Delegated to schools	£3,471,508
• Central budget	£ 100,000
Total	£3,571,508

2022-23 Budget

• Delegated to schools	£3,627,011
• Central budget	£ 242,499
Total	£3,869,510

The central budget will act as a contingency budget to support any pupils moving into Monmouthshire.

The increase in budget of £298,002 is the pressure currently in the budget proposals for the 2022-23 budget.

- 7.3 The new proposal will allow schools better flexibility to support the needs of pupils and will reduce the need for schools to be applying for additional funding. Any in year pressures will need to be managed at a school level unless the pupil meets the criteria to apply to the contingency budget. A central database of all pupils and support required is updated at every monitoring meeting and this will be used to inform any future year pressures.

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

- 8.1 This is detailed in appendix 3.

9 CONSULTEES:

All Headteachers
Chairs of Governing Bodies
Members of the School Budget Forum
Senior Leadership Team
Departmental Management Team
Diocesan Directors
All Elected Members.

10 BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix 1 – Consultation paper
Appendix 2 – Consultation responses
Appendix 3 – Equality and future generations evaluation (including social justice, safeguarding and corporate parenting).

11 AUTHOR:

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E-mail: nicolawellington@monmouthshire.gov.uk

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MONMOUTHSHIRE LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE DIRECTORATE
CONSULTATION DOCUMENT – CHANGES TO THE FUNDING
FORMULA FOR SCHOOLS

- This document forms part of the consultation process on the proposed changes to the funding formula, which delegates funding to schools within Monmouthshire.
- The relevant Welsh Government legislation that Monmouthshire Local Education Authority is bound by is:

The Schools Budget Share (Wales) Regulations 2010.

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FORMULA FOR DELGATING FUNDING FOR PUPILS WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS TO MONMOUTHSHIRE SCHOOLS.

Date of Issue: **10th January 2022**

Action Required: **Consultation closes noon on the 11th February 2022.**

Title of Document: The Review of Funding for Schools in Monmouthshire Consultation Document.

Audience: All Head teachers at Monmouthshire Schools, Chairs of Governing Bodies of Monmouthshire Schools, The Schools Budget Forum, the Senior Leadership Team, the Departmental Management Team of the Children and Young People Directorate, Children and Young People Select Committee, Diocesan Directors of Education and All Elected Members.

Overview: This document details the reasons for the review of the current consultation on School's funding and outlines the new proposals for the distribution of this funding.

Action Required: A proforma is enclosed for your response. The completed form should be sent to the address below by the consultation closing date of **noon on the 11th February 2022**

Responses to: Nikki Wellington

Finance Manager
Children and Young People Directorate
Monmouthshire County Council
County Hall
The Rhadyr
Usk
Monmouthshire
NP15 1GA
e-mail: nicolawellington@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Further Information: Enquiries about this consultation document should be directed to **Nikki Wellington**

Nikki Wellington
Tel: 01633 644549 / 07766 504389
e-mail: nicolawellington@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Additional Copies: These can be obtained from Nikki Wellington (telephone number and e-mail address above)

Related Documents: The Schools Budget Shares (Wales) Regulations 2010

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Appendix 1 – Proposed funding model affect on schools.

Appendix 2 – Proposed transition funding for schools

Appendix 3 – Integrated Impact Assessment Document.

1. Background

- 1.1 The school budget forum regularly reviews the funding formula for schools to ensure that the funding is distributed to schools in the fairest way.
- 1.2 Following a meeting of the School Budget Funding Forum on the 16th December 2021, members agreed to consult on the basis for delegating funding to Monmouthshire schools for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN).
- 1.3 This consultation only covers funding for pupils with ALN who attend a mainstream Monmouthshire school, this does not include the funding delegated to the Special Needs Resource Bases, small class provision at King Henry VIII School or placements in Out of County / Independent Schools.

2. Issues with current arrangements

- 2.1 The funding for pupils with ALN was last reviewed in 2009 and the current funding model was agreed and put in place. Under the current funding model funding is delegated as a lump sum to all schools using an indicator of FSM with additional funding delegated for individual pupils via a panel who look at their needs and agree a funding level.
- 2.2 To access funding pupils are assessed and provided with either a statement of educational needs or a school action plus resourced agreement, (SAPRA) both may attract a level of funding depending on the needs of the pupil, but a statement of educational needs is a statutory document with the SAPRA being a document internal to Monmouthshire.
- 2.3 Typically the funding provided will be Band D funding (£9,730) or Band E funding (£14,595). These values have not been increased for several years and all schools are required to use some of their school budget to meet need. It is a requirement that a minimum of 5% of the school budget is used to support pupils with additional learning needs.
- 2.4 This process is very bureaucratic requiring many forms and assessments to be completed and it is often criticised by Headteachers for being very time consuming and rigid. The funding follows the pupil and if the pupil leaves the funding will be removed which could result in a member of staff who is supporting that pupil being put at risk of losing their job.

3. Process.

3.1 It was agreed at the School Budget Finance Forum in the summer term that a working group would look at all the proposals and decide on a model to be consulted on. The working group members were primary and secondary school Headteacher, School Business Managers, Additional Learning Needs Co-Ordinator's and officers from the Local Authority covering Finance and Additional Learning Needs.

3.2 The working group considered several options these included:

- To leave funding as is and not make any changes – this was rejected by the working group for the reasons stated above.
- Delegate funding on pupil numbers – it was agreed that this should be part of the formula, but funding should not be delegated purely on pupil numbers.
- Delegate funding on FSM – it was agreed that this was not a measure of ALN.
- Total funding delegated on existing statement – it was agreed that this would not look at the future needs of pupils and schools who has been proactive in applying for statements would be favoured.
- Delegate to a cluster of schools – this was not accepted by all schools, but it was agreed that if schools wish they once the funding has been delegated, they can pool the funding for the cluster to allocate.

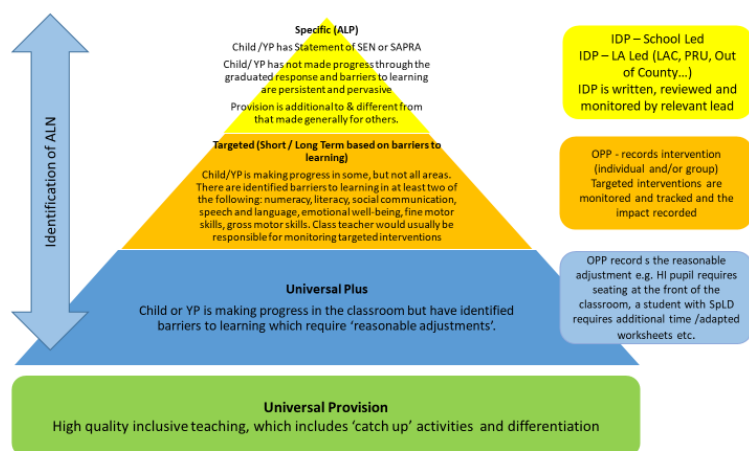
3.3 The working group agreed the following principles in deciding a proposal:

- The funding should follow the pupil
- The funding should allow for current and future needs
- The formula should create sustainability in funding so schools can plan
- The funding should be able to be used flexible to meet needs
- There should be a contingency which will have strict criteria to support learners that move into Monmouthshire and are not previously known about
- No school will be identified as it is the principles that are to be agreed and not the effect on the individual school.

3.4 Under the new Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Educational Tribunal Act, schools will have increased responsibility to identify and meet the needs of learners who have ALN. The ALN Code states that 'Maintained schools have a key role to play in identifying ALN and in delivering Additional Learning Provision (ALP) to support learners with ALN. They are directly responsible for identifying and meeting the needs of the majority of their pupils who have ALN' (1.83).

In Monmouthshire and across the region, schools have been recommended to adopt a graduated response to meeting the needs of learners with ALN and to identify and secure provision/interventions to meet the continuum of need. The diagram below illustrates this model. To fulfil their statutory duties under

the new Code, schools will benefit from the flexibility and autonomy that delegated funding will provide, which will allow them to develop appropriate provision to ensure the needs of learners with ALN are fully met.



4. Proposal.

4.1 The working group and the School Budget Finance Forum have agreed to consult on two proposals, both will delegate funding based on a combination of pupil numbers and ALN (band funding).

4.2 Proposal 1

70% of the funding distributed on pupil numbers and 30% on current funding for band D & E within the school. For the purposes of this consultation the pupil numbers are taken as the September 2020 count which is in line with the existing formula and the band funding is from the October 2021 forecasting model.

4.3 The effect on each school is shown page 9 – Model 1.

4.4 Under this proposal 18 schools will see a reduction in funding and 16 schools will see an increase in funding.

4.5 Proposal 2

80% of the funding distributed on pupil numbers and 20% on current funding for band D & E within the school. For the purposes of this consultation the pupil numbers are taken as the September 2020 count which is in line with the existing formula and the band funding is from the October 2021 forecasting model.

4.6 The effect on each school is shown on page 9 – Model 2.

- 4.7 Under this proposal 16 schools will see a reduction in funding and 18 schools will see an increase in funding.
- 4.8 If approved the funding will commence for the start of the next financial year and the pupil numbers will be updated to reflect the January 2022 count. The band funding will reflect the January 2022 forecasting model.
- 4.9 Under both proposals there will be a need for transition funding to reduce the effects for those schools that see large increases and large losses. This will be over a 3 year period by capping the gains and losses and this is reflected on page 10.
- 4.10 The proposal will be reviewed after a year to ensure that the delegation is fair and operating as intended. Schools will be able to use this funding flexible to support all learner with ALN. There will be a requirement in a small number of cases that a pupil will require one to one support due to their needs.
- 4.11 After the review it is intended to roll the funding out over a 3 year period to give schools the flexibility to put in place long term plans to support pupils with ALN.

Please use the proforma below to respond to the consultation, all responses should be sent to:

nicolawellington@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Any further information regarding this consultation can also sent to the email address above or please call 07766 504389.

All responses should be returned by noon 11th February 2022.

RESPONSE PROFORMA

Please indicate who you are responding on behalf of:

ALN Funding Formula	I agree	I disagree
<p>Proposal 1</p> <p>70% of the funding distributed on pupil numbers and 30% on current funding for band D & E within the school. For the purposes of this consultation the pupil numbers are taken as the September 2020 count which is in line with the existing formula and the band funding is from the October 2021 forecasting model. (paragraph 4.2)</p>		
<p>Proposal 2</p> <p>80% of the funding distributed on pupil numbers and 20% on current funding for band D & E within the school. For the purposes of this consultation the pupil numbers are taken as the September 2020 count which is in line with the existing formula and the band funding is from the October 2021 forecasting model. (paragraph 4.5)</p>		

Please state below the reasons for your response, please also include any other funding models for the working group to consider should you disagree with the proposals above.

School	70% Pupil Numbers				80% Pupil Numbers			
	ALN - 30%	Total	Variance		ALN - 20%	Total	Variance	
1	211,999	52,911	264,911	75,854	242,285	35,274	277,559	88,502
2	53,780	17,637	71,417	10,693	61,463	11,758	73,221	12,497
3	71,067	48,502	119,569	-34,896	81,219	32,335	113,554	-40,911
4	51,619	22,046	73,666	-6,275	58,994	14,698	73,691	-6,250
5	40,815	30,865	71,680	-35,993	46,646	20,577	67,223	-40,450
6	49,459	26,456	75,914	-18,887	56,524	17,637	74,161	-20,640
7	43,936	13,228	57,164	6,462	50,213	8,819	59,032	8,330
8	16,326	4,409	20,735	8,985	18,658	2,940	21,598	9,848
9	44,657	13,228	57,885	11,432	51,036	8,819	59,855	13,402
10	61,223	8,819	70,041	32,638	69,969	5,879	75,848	38,445
11	281,865	119,050	400,916	27,609	322,132	79,367	401,499	28,192
12	54,020	39,683	93,704	-30,346	61,737	26,456	88,193	-35,857
13	45,377	35,274	80,651	-29,169	51,859	23,516	75,376	-34,444
14	55,701	61,730	117,431	-82,700	63,658	41,153	104,811	-95,320
15	53,540	22,046	75,586	-1,394	61,189	14,698	75,886	-1,094
16	67,225	39,683	106,909	-18,793	76,829	26,456	103,284	-22,418
17	45,857	35,274	81,131	-27,738	52,408	23,516	75,924	-32,945
18	80,430	44,093	124,523	-21,513	91,920	29,395	121,315	-24,721
19	21,608	8,819	30,427	3,031	24,695	5,879	30,574	3,178
20	146,455	30,865	177,320	71,557	167,377	20,577	187,954	82,191
21	51,619	22,046	73,666	-7,976	58,994	14,698	73,691	-7,951
22	48,498	13,228	61,726	21,126	55,426	8,819	64,245	23,645
23	36,013	13,228	49,241	5,461	41,158	8,819	49,977	6,197
24	92,915	8,819	101,733	60,004	106,188	5,879	112,067	70,338
25	66,025	30,865	96,890	-8,007	75,457	20,577	96,033	-8,864
26	321,240	136,687	457,928	-2,561	367,132	91,125	458,257	-2,232
27	40,575	13,228	53,803	4,999	46,372	8,819	55,190	6,386
28	41,536	17,637	59,173	3,739	47,469	11,758	59,227	3,793
29	19,687	4,409	24,097	6,181	22,500	2,940	25,439	7,523
30	49,699	13,228	62,926	17,858	56,798	8,819	65,617	20,549
31	81,150	57,320	138,471	-55,984	92,743	38,214	130,957	-63,498
32	46,337	17,637	63,974	9,071	52,957	11,758	64,715	9,812
33	40,815	22,046	62,862	-5,891	46,646	14,698	61,344	-7,409
34	66,985	26,456	93,441	11,426	76,554	17,637	94,191	12,176
	2,500,056	1,071,452	3,571,508		2,857,206	714,302	3,571,508	
	16 Schools have reduced funding				16 Schools have reduced funding			
	18 Schools have increased funding				18 Schools have increased funding			

School	As is model 2022-23 Band D's & E's and lump sum	Transition Funding	Var
		No school will gain more than 12% or lose more than 8%	
1	189,057	211,744	22,687
2	60,724	68,011	7,287
3	154,465	142,108	-12,357
4	79,941	73,666	-6,275
5	107,673	99,059	-8,614
6	94,801	87,217	-7,584
7	50,702	56,786	6,084
8	11,750	13,160	1,410
9	46,453	52,027	5,574
10	37,403	41,891	4,488
11	373,307	400,916	27,609
12	124,050	114,126	-9,924
13	109,820	101,034	-8,786
14	200,131	184,121	-16,010
15	76,980	75,586	-1,394
16	125,702	115,646	-10,056
17	108,869	100,159	-8,710
18	146,036	134,353	-11,683
19	27,396	30,427	3,031
20	105,763	118,455	12,692
21	81,642	75,111	-6,531
22	40,600	45,472	4,872
23	43,780	49,034	5,254
24	41,729	46,736	5,007
25	104,897	96,890	-8,007
26	460,489	457,928	-2,561
27	48,804	53,803	4,999
28	55,434	59,173	3,739
29	17,916	20,066	2,150
30	45,068	50,476	5,408
31	194,455	178,899	-15,556
32	54,903	61,491	6,588
33	68,753	63,253	-5,500
34	82,015	91,857	9,842
	3,571,508	3,570,681	-827

Appendix 2

Consultation responses

Proposal 1:

*70% of the funding distributed on pupil numbers and 30% on current funding for band D & E within the school. For the purposes of this consultation the pupil numbers are taken as the September 2020 count which is in line with the existing formula and the band funding is from the October 2021 forecasting model.
(paragraph 4.2)*

For 8

Against 5

Proposal 2:

*80% of the funding distributed on pupil numbers and 20% on current funding for band D & E within the school. For the purposes of this consultation the pupil numbers are taken as the September 2020 count which is in line with the existing formula and the band funding is from the October 2021 forecasting model.
(paragraph 4.5)*

For 5

Against 8

There were 4 responses made with no preference but made comments. All the comments are listed below.

Comment 1

We agree the principle:

- The funding should follow the pupil
- The funding should allow for current and future needs
- The formula should create sustainability in funding so schools can plan
- The funding should be able to be used flexible to meet needs

Therefore, the preferred model that we believe is the fairest model and which reflects the ALN reform is 70% of the funding distributed on pupil numbers and 30%.

When considering the need for transition funding to reduce the effects for those schools that see large increases and large losses. We believe that the 12% increase and 8% decrease is not in line with the above principles and is too low.

The 3-year period of capping the gains and losses again is too long for some reasons.

Comment 2

As a large school we have a considerable number of pupils who require additional adult support.

I welcome the decision to allow us as a school the autonomy to decide how this support can be most effectively used.

Due to the new funding formula we expect to incur a decrease in funding. Hopefully we will be supported to reduce the impact on learners whilst transferring to the new system.

I would also welcome support from the LA in communicating the new message to staff, parents and governors as some still see the term 1:1 as the only method of support available.

Comment 3

The choice presented looks rather limited but of the two options the first proposal places more weight on band funding so we assume is slightly more linked to individual need. Schools will appreciate a new system that means less red tape but I wonder how parents will receive this. A move away from this thinking would be an improvement in our view.

Comment 4

I have responded this way as the school has historically and currently has a high population of ALN children and this (for selfish reasons) would be better funding for the school- to maintain teaching assistants who work within the school.

I agree with many parts of the proposal, a school having a set budget to be used flexibly throughout the school is good. We must move away from 1:1 provision as this is not healthy for the pupil and adult in the medium and long term. Considering this funding and the ceasing of band d and band e funding has to and must be communicated clearly and forthright to parents as they will still be expecting/wanting an adult 1:1 with their ALN child constantly throughout the day and this can't happen.

One point of note; if a child comes into school on a managed move or from another county then funding would be needed on the short term (possibly longer) to help with transition and budgeted into future formula for future needs if they require support (which will most probably be the case).

Comment 5

In my own opinion, I feel that the funding should be there for the children who require this.

Comment 6

Proposal 2 is the best fit financial model for the ALN statemented / pupil numbers on roll position.

Comment 7

We completely agree with all principles set out in the document (3.3). Understanding how funding follows a pupil is fair, as is holding a contingency for learners moving into county (we have experienced this in Sept this year).

Using pupil numbers does make it fairer and using January 22 numbers is sensible as a September count will often change due to movement of new intake pupils as they settle/ adjust.

The current funding model for ALN does not work and the costs of staffing far exceed the money received and 5% of the school budget. For a school such as ours where additional finances such as PDG are tiny, the continued costs are very challenging and have a direct impact on levels of support staff employed. Using FSM as an indicator of ALN does not always correlate, so there are winners and losers within this.

Comment 8

- There seems to be little discrepancy between the two models as the numbers of students year on year can be so variable. The appendices including the modelled financial impact on schools are helpful, though in some cases, must be worrying for school communities where significant losses will be incurred. One assumes these schools are currently overfunded and will be supported through a transitional phase to cushion the sudden drop, where necessary.
- In addition, within the consultation document it is unclear what will happen with regard to pupil movement within the school year. Where a school receives an influx of new students will they be funded for these or will they receive a backdated payment the following year?
- Where schools receive new students on a managed move basis will they also receive any funded associated with these students? Has contingency been built in for this?
- Where students move into authority from other LAs, will their funding follow them?

Comment 9

We understand the principle of equality and the need for all schools to provide universal provision, however it feels this formula is not reflective of equity. Our understanding is the schools with less severe ALN needs will benefit greatly and be able to provide an excellent 'Universal' provision with the additional funds that they receive. However, those schools with pupils with complex needs will be subsidising the funding required to provide 'good enough' care for their most vulnerable and have very little to support those with universal needs, even when taking the 5% of school budget into consideration.

Our fear is pupils with extreme needs that display poor behaviour due to frustration, circumstances, avoidance etc. will result in more exclusions and managed moves as schools will not have the funds to support them. This then resulting in more layers of hurt and rejection adding to their problems of accessing a relevant curriculum to meet their educational needs.

We appreciate there is no easy option however would recommend if the suggested formula is used that the percentage is higher for existing and future 'specific' pupils compared to number of pupils at setting. Band E allows for one LSA for around three quarters of the day. Most schools with a Band E child, particularly if the needs are EBSD, are already subsidising their care/education from their school budget and fear that both suggested models would again penalise schools with high percentages of ALN pupils.

The other point to consider is that secondary schools stand to benefit greatly from this formula with their high pupil numbers. Research, however, shows that if good interventions and support are provided sooner rather than later, i.e., in pupils early years, (Primary) then long-standing issues can be minimised and pupils will get their best chance of achieving long term goals.

Our view would therefore be that we either keep the current model or again look for a different solution where pupils with identified needs are supported as well as the schools being provided with funding for universal and universal plus provision.

Comment 10

The 70% / 30% allows for more of the delegated funding to be based on pupils who, identified by Statement / SAPRA and then IDP going forward, require access to additional adult support

I have concerns about the effect and impact on school budgets if more pupils join a school, who clearly need access to additional adult support, which is already 'stretched' around existing pupils requiring this support.

I fear that schools will be reluctant to take a child on a managed move without additional financial support that would have previously followed the child.

There needs to be a pick PR campaign by the LA to parents around the traditional 1:1 expectation and that this will no longer be the norm.

Comment 11

I would like to suggest a modification to the 70%/30% model. It has long been felt that early intervention is the best way forward so could all schools with a nursery be given a set fixed amount to provide this early intervention support. The rest of the funding to then be allocated via the 70%/30% model as per the reasoning below.

The 70% / 30% allows for more of the delegated funding to be based on pupils who, identified by Statement / SAPRA and then IDP going forward, require access to additional adult support

I have concerns about the effect and impact on school budgets if more pupils join a school, who clearly need access to additional adult support, which is already 'stretched' around existing pupils requiring this support.

I fear that schools will be reluctant to take a child on a managed move without additional financial support that would have previously followed the child.

There needs to be a pick PR campaign by the LA to parents around the traditional 1:1 expectation and that this will no longer be the norm.

Comment 12

Our preference would be for the 70% / 30% model. Although as a school we receive a reduction in funding, we feel this would be a fairer allocation of resources following the children and young people with the greatest need. We appreciate that it is the children and young people with the most complex needs who would require the high levels of and more specialised ALP (linking directly to the ALN Act); this comes at an increased cost and resourcing level. A robust system of quality assurance to maintain thresholds across the LA is essential as we move through implementation of the ALN Act and Code, developing school based IDPs. A clear approach to decision making of complex cases is needed, where referrals are made to the LA (linked to panel approach). We do feel the Sixth Form ALN approach to funding should be equitable, fair and transparent and therefore in-line with the 3-16 funding model. Without a consistent approach, it is likely to be viewed as discriminatory. For a school on the border, with a high number of EHCPs, it is essential that funding recouped from neighbouring authorities is shared directly with schools. The EHCP statutory document is incredibly rigid in content and therefore direct funding is required to meet the 2 provision requirement, without having a detrimental impact on Monmouthshire students with ALN. Often there is specificity around the hours of 1:1 TA support and the qualifications needed. Without direct funding, we would need to state that we could not meet the needs and provision identified in EHCPs on nearly all consultations received

Comment 13

I am a Foundation Governor at a CiW Primary school and I would like to comment on the above document.

I am unclear as to how the amount of money that will be distributed to schools is arrived at; is it a percentage of the authority's total budget? Is this amount decided by WG or locally?

I agree with the principles that the Working Party decided to use. I am delighted that the link between FSM and ALN is no longer being used. It is really important that schools are protected by transition funding while the new system is established. It is vital that schools have the confidence to be able to employ highly skilled staff to meet the needs of their pupils with ALN.

I feel unable to support one proposal over the other proposal without knowing how the actual figures would impact on the school.

I am concerned about how the contingency fund will be used, If, for example, a pupil with complex ALN moved from England midyear where they had been supported through an Education, Health and Care Plan, and joined a school in Monmouthshire how would that school be able to access additional funds to support that pupil? How would the school go about applying for additional funds? How long would the process of accessing the funds be?

When the new system is in place if a school feels they have been treated unfairly how can this be addressed?

Comment 14

Challenge: Could there be a further explanation of the difference between the two models? Which will be the better option? The two models are very similar in what they propose. If we were to go for funding with a higher amount on pupil numbers, then schools with larger pupil numbers would gain more, whereas if we were to go for the 70% funding then they would have slightly less. The working group didn't have a preference with these models but felt that both should be put out for schools to consider, and are committed to the principles of pupil numbers and additional learning needs, rather than any other driver for the formula. Anonymity in the table of responses is understandable, but can anything be drawn from looking at the responses from schools – is there a link to the size of the schools and their responses, or a delineation between secondary and primary school responses? Looking at pupil numbers, some headteachers might be able to work out which school is theirs. Our comprehensive schools have larger pupil numbers so with these two models we will see that the secondary schools will gain funding, and smaller primary schools will lose funding. Where schools have high levels of statements, and school action plus statements in place, then moving away from higher funding for ALN and doing it on pupil numbers and additional learning needs, schools will lose. This is why they were very clear that they want that transitional funding in place, to allow schools to move from the old model to the new (this will be in place for up to 3 years), and to minimise the disruption in terms of funding, staffing and – most importantly – support for those pupils. Is it still the case that if a school has more pupils in special needs than others then they will get more funding, and if a child moves schools the funding goes with them? In terms of the new model, the proposal is that the funding will remain in place for the whole of the financial year, which will give the schools the flexibility to plan the funding and staffing for that financial year. If a pupil leaves, to go to another school, the funding will not move. Under the old system the funding would have moved, resulting in the member of staff supporting that child being made redundant, in most cases. However, if a family with a child with additional learning needs moves into the county, the council will be able to provide funding on a one-off basis, to provide support for the first financial year, but following that, the child would be on roll at the school properly and attract funding under this new system. Has there been any feedback on a 75% and 25% funding split? What effect would that have? This was discussed at the working group; they preferred the 70/30 or 80/20 versions, which is why we have gone out with those recommendations. In terms of feedback from schools, the consultation only went out on 10th January, so we have not yet had their responses. In relation to those schools that might come under two headings i.e., large numbers of ALN and large pupil numbers, what about the 3-19 school in Abergavenny? Is there enough flexibility for when it comes online? This was discussed in some detail in the working group. We are aware of the situation with the 3-19 school hopefully coming online in the near future. It is something that we would need to work through on the formula. With this formula, we were very keen to give flexibility to all schools: we know that for the first year, we need to consider all of these things as they come through and be open to all of the particulars. This is why we want a full review after 12 months, and goes back to the transition funding, which gives the stability for schools to continue as they are. As we move through, developing the formula, all of the formula will need to change for the new 3-19 school – it won't just be the additional learning aspect of it. When will the final decision be made as to the 70 or 80%? After the consultation

closes on 11th February, the recommendations will go back to the school budget forum for consideration. A Cabinet report will be drafted, and a final decision made by them in their meeting on 2nd March. So, it is a quick turnaround once the consultation closes. Chair's Summary: The Committee commends the work that has been done. We are reassured by the transition funding system. We have clarified some of the numbers, particularly regarding school sizes and primary vs secondary, and are reassured that different permutations have been discussed and the scenario of the new 3-19 school has been considered. This will be a fairer system and allow schools to plan effectively. The committee is happy for the consultation to proceed and go to the Cabinet report.

Comment 15

Happy to agree either of the above, however we would like it be considered that there is no PRU in Welsh medium education and that additional funding be allocated to support Welsh medium school with pupils requiring additional support.

Comment 16

Point 2.4 under Issues with the current system states:
The funding follows the pupil and if the pupil leaves the funding will be removed which could result in a member of staff who is supporting that pupil being put at risk of losing their job.

However in point 3.3.

3.3 The working group agreed the following principles in deciding a proposal:

The funding should follow the pupil

What is the difference?

Also:

There should be a contingency which will have strict criteria to support learners that move into Monmouthshire and are not previously known about

What is the criteria? What about schools receiving a pupil already known within MCC as part of a managed move. They should also be considered in this contingency.

Comment 17

We support the 70 / 30 proposal.

It makes no sense at all to allocate funding based on FSM because FSM is not a real indicator of ALN support required. There also needs to be a closer reflection of the costs incurred to provide the level of support an individual child requires.



<p>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Nikki Wellington</p> <p>Phone no: 07766504389 E-mail: nicolawellington@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>The proposal is to consult on changes to the schools funding formula for delegating funding to support pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) to allow more flexibility for schools in determining how that funding is used and to provide longer term planning.</p>
<p>Name of Service area Additional Learning Needs / Schools and Finance</p>	<p>Date 23rd December 2021</p>

Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	The proposal will affect all pupils of primary and secondary school age. The proposal will give schools more flexibility for using their funding to support pupils with ALN. It is envisaged that given this flexibility pupils will more moderate learning needs can be supported.	It may be perceived by giving schools more delegated funding there will be less monitoring by the Local Authority to ensure that needs are met. This may lead to a greater number of complaints from parents which could ultimately lead to an increase in tribunals.	The new ALN code clearly sets out the responsibilities for schools and the Local Authority. The Local Authority will still have the role to monitor the spend to ensure that needs are being met.

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?
Disability	The proposal will support a more flexible approach by schools to support pupils with ALN, the new code clearly identifies who is responsible in providing support for these pupils. Schools will be able to use the funding to address the pupils need. Schools already oversee the day-to-day education of these pupils; the current system is very rigid requiring funding to be spent in a way which may not provide the best benefits.	It may be perceived by giving schools more delegated funding there will be less monitoring by the Local Authority to ensure that needs are met. This may lead to a greater number of complaints from parents which could ultimately lead to an increase in tribunals.	The new ALN code clearly sets out the responsibilities for schools and the Local Authority. The Local Authority will still have the role to monitor the spend to ensure that needs are being met.
Gender reassignment	Neutral		
Marriage or civil partnership	Neutral		
Pregnancy or maternity	Neutral		
Race	Neutral.		
Religion or Belief	Neutral		

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?
Sex	Neutral		
Sexual Orientation	Neutral		

2. he Socio-economic Duty and 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	With the increase in flexibility of funding there may be opportunities to increase employment in the local area. Traditionally these roles are part time which would allow people with caring responsibilities to fulfill these roles, therefore increasing household income.	If funding is reduced this may result in job losses, traditionally these posts are part time. If this should happen this could lead to increase financial pressures for families.	The proposals will see transition funding in place to limit the effects of any increases / decreases over a 3-year period. Where redundancies do occur the protection of employment policy will be followed.

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.

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 favorably</p>	<p>There is already a strong Welsh Culture in our schools with the Welsh Language being taught in all our schools. The flexible of the funding may allow greater access to Welsh resources. The Welsh medium schools may be able to use this funding to employ additional Welsh speaking teaching assistants to be used across the whole schools to support learners.</p>	<p>If funding is reduced this may result in job losses, traditionally these posts are part time. If this should happen this could lead to increase financial pressures for families.</p>	<p>The proposals will see transition funding in place to limit the effects of any increases / decreases over a 3-year period. Where redundancies do occur the protection of employment policy will be followed.</p>
<p>Operational</p> <p>Recruitment & Training of workforce</p>	<p>The Welsh medium schools may be able to use this funding to employ additional Welsh speaking teaching assistants to be used across the whole schools to support learners. If there are opportunities to employ additional staff this may open opportunities for additional training to learn the Welsh language and to learn about the Welsh culture.</p>	<p>It is sometimes difficult to attract a Welsh speaking workforce which may limit the opportunities for employment.</p>	<p>There are many opportunities for employees to learn Welsh and schools actively encourage this.</p>
<p>Service delivery</p> <p>Use of Welsh language in service delivery</p> <p>Promoting use of the language</p>	<p>Any vacancies will be advertised in both English and Welsh. There is already a strong Welsh Culture in our schools with the Welsh Language being taught in all our schools.</p>	<p>It is sometimes difficult to attract a Welsh speaking workforce which may limit the opportunities for employment.</p>	<p>There are many opportunities for employees to learn Welsh and schools actively encourage this.</p>





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 proposal may allow additional employment opportunities. This will lead to increases in the household income. Where funding is reduced, this may lead to redundancies.	The proposals will see transition funding in place to limit the effects of any increases / decreases over a 3-year period. Where redundancies do occur the protection of employment policy will be followed.
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	Neutral	
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	The proposal will allow greater flexibility in meeting the needs of pupils will ALN. This will allow solutions to be put in at a local level with discussions with both parents / carers and the Local Authority. There will be less need to complete forms to obtain funding and will allow schools to plan further ahead.	It may be perceived by giving schools more delegated funding there will be less monitoring by the Local Authority to ensure that needs are met. This may lead to a greater number of complaints from parents which could ultimately lead to an increase in tribunals. The new ALN code clearly sets out the responsibilities for schools and the Local Authority. The Local Authority will still have the role to monitor the spend to ensure that needs are being met.
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	The proposal will allow the flexibility to meet the need of the pupil and should also allow the pupil to remain in their local school.	Should the needs not be able to be met in their local school the pupil will be able to access the correct provision in a specialist provision. This will not automatically lead to a clawing back of funding but allow the school to reinvest that funding to support other pupils.
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	There is already a strong Welsh Culture in our schools with the Welsh Language being taught in all our schools. The flexible of the funding may allow greater access to Welsh resources. The Welsh medium schools may be able to use this funding to employ additional Welsh	The proposals will see transition funding in place to limit the effects of any increases / decreases over a 3-year period. Where redundancies do occur the protection of employment policy will be followed.

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?
	speaking teaching assistants to be used across the whole schools to support learners	
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	There is already a strong Welsh Culture in our schools with the Welsh Language being taught in all our schools. The flexible of the funding may allow greater access to Welsh resources. This funding will open more opportunities to support pupils, and this may be through sport, art and recreation.	
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	The funding is designed to allow all pupils that are support through this to meet their full potential and remain within their local community to be supported by their peer groups.	Should the needs not be able to be met in their local school the pupil will be able to access the correct provision in a specialist provision.

9. 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>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p>The proposal will be reviewed after one year, should it be agreed to continue then schools will be able to plan their resources going forward to meet the need. There will be no clawing back of funding if a pupil leaves unless the funding is in place to support a pupil on a one-to-one basis. This will open longer employment opportunities.</p>	<p>The longer-term funding will allow schools to plan for future need, therefore where staff do leave the vacancy can be reviewed to avoid making redundancies later on. The proposals will see transition funding in place to limit the effects of any increases / decreases over a 3-year period. Where redundancies do occur the protection of employment policy will be followed.</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>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p> <p>Collaboration</p>		
 <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p> <p>Involvement</p>	<p>The proposal has been developed by a working group of Headteachers, Additional Learning Need Co-Ordinator's and the Local Authority. There is a wide range of consultees that are listed in the paper and all their views will be heard and considered prior to the final proposal being developed.</p>	
 <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p> <p>Prevention</p>	<p>Early intervention for pupils with ALN should lead to them getting the support they need to fulfill their potential. Early intervention should also lead to an earlier diagnosis allowing support at an early age. The flexibility of this funding will allow support to be stepped up or down to meet the need of the pupil.</p>	<p>It may be perceived by giving schools more delegated funding there will be less monitoring by the Local Authority to ensure that needs are met. This may lead to a greater number of complaints from parents which could ultimately lead to an increase in tribunals. The new ALN code clearly sets out the responsibilities for schools and the Local Authority. The Local Authority will still have the role to monitor the spend to ensure that needs are being met.</p>
 <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p> <p>Integration</p>	<p>For pupils with ALN there may be a need to take advice and support from health. The flexibility in the funding will allow schools to consider this advice and to support the pupil appropriately.</p>	<p>Any reduction in funding will be phased over a three-year period to allow a long-term planning window to work with partners to meet the needs.</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	Schools have very robust safeguarding policies in place to protect pupils. All of these are regularly reviewed by the Local Authority and the Governing Body. These policies are visible to parents. This proposal does not seek to change any of this.	None	All staff are fully trained in these policies and they receive regular update training. All staff have the necessary safeguarding checks in place before they are employed.
Corporate Parenting	Schools are aware of all LAC in their school, again they have clear policies to support these pupils, this proposal does not seek to change any of this.	None	All staff are fully trained in these policies and they receive regular update training.

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

- Financial data
- Additional Learning Needs data
- Feedback from working group
- Current funding model
- Feedback from Monmouthshire Association of Primary Schools (MAPS)
- Feedback from Secondary Headteachers
- 5 year ALN financial forecasting model
- Medium term financial plan
- Consultations from neighbouring Local Authorities.

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 main positives impact of this proposal is the increased flexibility afforded to schools to allow them to manage their funding to meet the needs of pupils will additional learning needs, staff may be retained which will allow pupils to benefit from the training and development that has been invested. Schools will not need to apply for funding for each pupil therefore reducing the administration around the process of funding. It will be possible to support pupils at an early stage and not require waiting for the whole assessment process to be completed prior to any funding being offered.

The main negative impacts of this proposal are where a school receives less funding there is a risk that staff may be made redundant. It may also be perceived that as schools are assessing what support is needed this will not be consistent over Monmouthshire, it may also be perceived by parents that Monmouthshire will not be monitoring that process.

To mitigate against the negative impacts there will be transition funding in place for a number of years to ensure that there is careful planning around staffing to avoid redundancies. The new Additional Learning Needs act sets out clearly the responsibilities of the school and Local Authority and how this is monitored. All schools received training and support from the Local Authority on what support may be required and this will continue and strengthen.

9. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

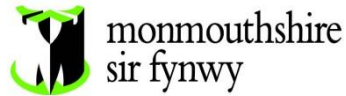
What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible
Consultation	6th January 2022 – 11th February 2022	Nikki Wellington
Feedback to School Budget Finance Forum	16th February 2022	Nikki Wellington
Final proposal presented to cabinet	2nd March 2022	Cabinet
Complete review of proposals and implement any changes	December 2022	Working Group

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
1	Consultation	6th January 2022	None.

2	Cabinet	11th February 2022	Dates updated in 'what are you going to do'

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SUBJECT:	CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT 2022-27
DIRECTORATE:	Children & Young People
MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	Wednesday 2nd March 2022
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To inform Members of the current situation regarding childcare in Monmouthshire.
- 1.2 To fulfil our statutory duty to complete a detailed Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) every five years.
- 1.3 To identify any potential gaps in childcare provision or barriers preventing families from accessing childcare and to develop an action plan to address these issues.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To approve the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-27 for submission to the Welsh Government.
- 2.2 To utilise existing resources and grant funding to address the gaps highlighted through the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and develop additional childcare, where necessary, in line with the action plan.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The Childcare Act 2006 places a statutory duty on local authorities to secure sufficient childcare for working parents and a duty to carry out childcare sufficiency assessments every five years.
- 3.2 Overall, the quality of childcare in Monmouthshire is considered to be at least good and many settings offer excellent childcare provision.
- 3.3 There are currently 110 childcare providers across Monmouthshire that are registered with CIW; there are also two after school clubs that are not registered as they run for under two hours a day and unregistered play provision (Monmouthshire Games and SHEP) that is often used by parents as cheap childcare during school holidays. These settings are spread fairly evenly throughout Monmouthshire, considering the population and demographics of each area, as indicated in the following table:

Childcare Type	Number of Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	Total
Childminder	13	13	9	7	2	44
Full Day Care	8	9	4	6	4	31
Sessional Care	3	3	4	2	0	12
Out of School	8	6	5	2	4	25
Open Access Play	2	2	2	3	0	9

- 3.4 Considering the take up of places, number of vacancies, waiting lists and feedback from parents, it appears that there are generally sufficient childcare places available to meet the current demand in all areas of Monmouthshire.
- 3.5 The number of childminders has reduced by more than 30% over the last two years, so there is a need to recruit more childminders.
- 3.6 Although there are currently sufficient childcare places for children under 5 years of age, the rollout of free childcare for 2 year olds is likely to increase demand and this may create a pressure for places in some areas.
- 3.7 There is demand for additional after school places in Abergavenny that runs until at least 5.30pm to meet the needs of working parents and carers.
- 3.8 There is a limited supply of holiday clubs and they are not available in all areas of Monmouthshire; however, many childminders and full day care settings are also providing holiday care.
- 3.9 Open access play provision is only available during term time and only in the four main towns.
- 3.10 There are only two nannies in Monmouthshire that are registered through the voluntary approval scheme and we have no information relating to any nannies that are operating within the authority, although we know that there are parents using a nanny for childcare.
- 3.11 Childcare during atypical hours, such as overnight and at weekends, is a potential gap that has been highlighted through the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.
- 3.12 There is insufficient Welsh medium childcare provision in Monmouthshire, and this is a significant gap. At present, there is one bilingual childminder in Abergavenny, one full day care provider offering childcare for children aged 2-5 years in Abergavenny and sessional care for 2-5 year olds in Caldicot and Monmouth. There is no Welsh medium provision in Chepstow or Usk & Raglan and none of the existing providers operate during school holidays, apart from one childminder. None of the out of school care or play provision is available through the medium of Welsh.
- 3.13 Affordability has been highlighted by parents and stakeholders as the main barrier that prevents families from accessing childcare in Monmouthshire.
- 3.14 Foundation Phase Nursery provision, Flying Start childcare and the Childcare Offer are all schemes that help parents with the cost of childcare. All full day care and sessional care providers and 86% of childminders are approved to offer funded childcare places through one or more of these schemes; take up of places is very good.

4. ACTIONS:

- 4.1 Register ten new childminders across Monmouthshire and support existing providers to at least maintain the current level of provision.
- 4.2 Develop three full day care or sessional care providers or extend existing provision to offer more places for 2 year olds.
- 4.3 Develop an after school club in the Abergavenny area or increase the number of after school places offered at an existing setting.
- 4.4 Develop an additional two holiday clubs in different areas of Monmouthshire.
- 4.5 Develop open access play provision in Usk & Raglan and rural areas.
- 4.6 Increase the opening hours of at least one existing childcare provider in each of the five areas of Monmouthshire to include atypical hours such as before 8am, after 6pm, overnight and at weekends.
- 4.7 Establish a cylch meithrin in Chepstow and another in Usk & Raglan so that each of the five areas of Monmouthshire has Welsh medium pre-school provision.
- 4.8 Encourage existing Welsh medium providers to extend their hours and to consider providing childcare during school holidays.
- 4.9 Open after school provision in the two Welsh medium primary schools.
- 4.10 Provide Welsh training and activities to enable at least 15 providers to change from English only to English with some bilingual elements.
- 4.11 Encourage and support existing out of school clubs and any new childcare settings that are developed to register with CIW.
- 4.12 Support childcare settings to move over to the new digital system for the Childcare Offer.
- 4.13 Continue to promote the Family Information Service and advertise the availability of financial support to assist with the cost of childcare.
- 4.14 Collate information on nannies in Monmouthshire and add this to the Dewis website.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 There is already a Childcare Development Officer in post that is funded through the Early Years budget; their role is to provide business support to new and existing childcare providers and to facilitate training.
- 5.2 The Welsh Government provide the Local Authority with a Childcare and Play Grant. This grant can be used to sustain existing childcare settings, to develop new provision, to raise the quality of childcare provision and to meet any gaps highlighted by the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment. The indicative grant allocation for April 2022 – March 2023 is £70,785; however, there has also been additional funding of just over £100k awarded during the year in the last two financial years.

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 The Integrated Impact Assessment is attached, which incorporates Equalities, Future Generations, Welsh Language and Socio-Economic Duty.
- 6.2 The main purpose of the CSA is to inform the Local Authority on the current position relating to childcare and any potential gaps, to ensure we are able to meet our statutory duty to provide sufficient childcare to meet the needs of working parents. Supporting parents and carers to work will have a positive impact on those who might potentially suffer socio-economic disadvantage. This, in turn, will contribute to the wellbeing goals of creating a prosperous and more equal Wales with cohesive communities and a thriving Welsh language.

7. SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Lead Officer for Safeguarding in Education has been consulted with as part of this assessment and they have developed strong links with existing childcare providers. Regular safeguarding training is offered to all childcare providers and take up is monitored to ensure settings are complying with regulations and are fully aware of safeguarding practices. Childcare providers are also encouraged to complete a Safeguarding Audit (SAFE) every two years.

8. CONSULTEES:

- 7.1 Childcare providers and parents or carers were asked to complete an online questionnaire to establish the supply of childcare in Monmouthshire and the demand for places.
- 7.2 Consultation took place with relevant stakeholders such as umbrella organisations, schools, Job Centre Plus, neighbouring local authorities and other departments within the Local Authority.
- 7.3 Focus groups took place with children currently attending childcare provision.
- 7.4 All comments received through consultation have been incorporated within the final report.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-27 Full Report with Annexes

9. AUTHOR:

Sue Hall
Early Years Manager

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Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022 - 2027

Name of Local Authority: Monmouthshire County Council

Name of Responsible Officer: Sue Hall, Early Years Manager

Date of Completion: 8th February 2022

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Introduction

Principal Statement

Every Local Authority in Wales has a statutory duty under The Childcare Act 2006 to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the provision of childcare is sufficient to meet the requirements of parents in their area who require childcare in order to enable them—

(a) to take up, or remain in, work, or

(b) to undertake education or training which could reasonably be expected to assist them to obtain work.

The Local Authority also has a statutory duty to undertake Childcare Sufficiency Assessments at least every five years and to provide information, advice and assistance relating to the provision of childcare or any other services or facilities, which may be of benefit to parents, prospective parents, children or young people.

Conducting the Assessment – Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment will provide details of the supply of childcare within the Local Authority, along with the demand for this provision. This should enable the Local Authority to establish if there is sufficient childcare to meet the needs of families in the area and to identify any potential gaps in the childcare market or barriers that are preventing families from accessing childcare.

Once these gaps and barriers have been identified, an action plan will be developed detailing how the Local Authority aims to address these areas and to support the childcare market.

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment must demonstrate that the Local Authority has taken into account and assessed the matters set out in The Childcare Act 2006 (Local Authority Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2016 and the Statutory Guidance.

Context

Monmouthshire Family Information Service holds details of all childcare provision throughout Monmouthshire, both registered and unregistered. 94% of registered childcare providers completed their CIW SASS return in 2021. Additional information was collected from unregistered childcare providers and those that were unable to complete their SASS return. This information, combined with data already held by the Local Authority, was used to inform the childcare supply sections of this Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA).

An online survey conducted by Welsh Government was used to consult with parents in order to gather their views on childcare, to analyse how it is used currently, to identify possible barriers to using childcare and to assess future demand for childcare.

Relevant stakeholders and other Local Authority departments have also been consulted with and their views have been incorporated within this document.

An action plan has been produced and this will form the basis of our Early Years' Service Improvement Plan for the next five years. Progress made against these targets will be monitored and reported internally on a quarterly basis. An annual CSA Progress Report will be submitted to Welsh Government and the action plan will be reviewed each year and revised, as necessary. Funding available through the RSG and external grant funding will be allocated to address the priorities in the CSA action plan.

Prior to submission, the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment will be shared with colleagues within the Children & Young People's Directorate and members of the Early Years Development & Childcare Partnership. It will also be shared with County Councillors at a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday 2nd March 2022. Following this, the CSA will be available for public consultation on the Local Authority website from 1st May 2022 for a period of 28 days before being submitted to Welsh Government.

Partnership Working and Consultation

A range of methods were used to consult with relevant stakeholders and gather their views of on the demand, supply and quality of childcare provision throughout Monmouthshire; this consultation included questionnaires, telephone conversations, emails, online meetings and focus groups.

Cwlwm Partners

The majority of childcare umbrella organisations are represented on our Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) and we have good working relationships with them. The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and progress made against the action plan is discussed at EYDCP meetings. Several of the Cwlwm organisations receive a small amount of funding from Monmouthshire County Council to provide support to their member settings and we work together to agree and monitor targets.

As part of the consultation process, umbrella organisations were asked to complete a questionnaire to express their views on childcare in Monmouthshire. They were also asked their views on how the needs of vulnerable groups are met and any improvements they consider necessary. On the whole, they didn't feel they were best placed to comment on the range or quality of childcare in Monmouthshire, but those that did felt that there was a good range of childcare providers and that the quality was excellent. They expressed a view that childcare providers in Monmouthshire are well supported by Cwlwm development workers and local authority officers. Gaps highlighted by umbrella organisations included a need for more Welsh medium provision, availability of childcare for those working atypical hours and the need for more registered after school clubs. Recruitment and retention of qualified staff was raised as a concern by all umbrella organisations, along with sustainability of settings due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the increase in running costs. One of the stakeholders was concerned that new settings opening on school sites could risk displacing existing childcare places at day nurseries, this would ultimately lead to day nurseries becoming unsustainable or a larger financial burden on families of younger/unfunded children. Another stakeholder would like to see childcare providers recognised as highly skilled and paid appropriately.

The main response in relation to improvements for low income families was that more flexible and longer childcare hours need to be developed to support shift workers and parents with atypical working patterns. Affordability is a barrier for low income families and some stakeholders felt that supporting the development of registered childcare will also support low income families by ensuring they are able to benefit from financial support schemes where eligible. A third of stakeholders believe that Flying Start provision should be extended to all areas in order for all low income families to benefit from free childcare and support.

Stakeholders felt that provision for children with additional learning needs or a disability is very good in Monmouthshire and financial support is available to enable settings to employ additional staff to integrate these children within the setting. They acknowledged that training in the new ALN systems has been provided and settings are generally aware of the requirements the ALNET (Wales) Act places on them.

In relation to improvements for working families, stakeholders have commented that there needs to be sufficient, quality, registered childcare opportunities available for children of all ages, in the language of choice. A third of stakeholders believe that there should be an extension of the age range at which children can access funded childcare places, as this is a financial pressure for working families. There needs to be sufficient funding and support to prevent unnecessary raising of fees. Childcare should be available in every community including rural areas of Monmouthshire, so that a lack of childcare in the local vicinity does not impact work. Accessibility and cost of care during the school holidays can be a challenge for working parents/carers but unregulated childcare can impact on the short-term viability and long-term sustainability of existing registered settings. Effective communication of the Childcare Offer was also raised as a factor.

All stakeholders believe that parents should be provided with financial support to meet childcare costs for an initial period when starting employment and that the Childcare Offer should be extended to include parents and carers seeking work.

Schools

A questionnaire was sent to all primary schools to ascertain their views on childcare but there was a limited response. All schools that responded have some type of childcare provision on their school site, ranging from school nurseries, playgroups, after school clubs and unregistered childcare prior to the commencement of their free breakfast club.

Nearly all schools that responded thought that it was beneficial to have childcare located on their school sites. The main reason for this is that it is invaluable to parents as it allows them to work longer hours. One school commented that because they only provide part time school nursery provision, they lose out on attendance figures because parents need longer hours than they can offer. Only one school thought that childcare wasn't beneficial to their school and it should be kept completely separate, as it is a private provision and behaviour within the school could decline as a result of lower expectations at the club. All schools apart from one were aware of childcare providers in their local area, these were primarily childminders who pick up and drop off at the school or after school clubs nearby that have wraparound arrangements with the school.

Only half of the schools were aware of the Childcare Offer, but this is possibly due to the fact that the others don't have school nurseries, so it doesn't affect them. One school commented that having the 30 hours available to parents has meant that they have opted for private nurseries rather than attend the school nursery, as they could only offer 12.5 hours weekly.

Only one school was of the opinion that there was sufficient childcare locally to cater for the needs of the families that attend their schools. All other schools feel that childcare is limited locally and state that parents have approached them about childcare. The most popular request has been for after school care, followed by holiday care. Breakfast club also appears to be an issue as demand exceeds capacity in two instances, although one school commented that breakfast club is being used as cheap childcare and they didn't feel this was the intention when it was established. Two schools have responded that they would be interested in setting up after school clubs at their schools and they do have space to do so but there are ongoing issues such as finding and funding qualified staff. Almost all schools stated that parents at their school would want childcare if it became available at their school but several commented that parents would struggle to meet childcare costs if there were no funding streams available. One school didn't think that there were many families that used or needed childcare.

More than half of the schools that responded stated that the covid-19 pandemic had affected their ability to have childcare on the school site. This was mainly due to the need to protect bubbles and restrict numbers, so not all children who required the provision were able to attend when it did reopen. The majority of schools don't think that the pandemic will affect the future use of childcare within their schools, apart from one school who thinks there will be continual short term disruptions such as children catching covid-19 leading to small numbers attending or staff catching the virus leading to club closures.

Job Centre Plus

Job Centre Plus work with the PaCE project to help parents get support for childcare whilst training and gaining skills to get a job. The PaCE Delivery Officer sits on the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership for Monmouthshire and provides regular updates, they also liaise with the Family Information Service and Childcare Offer Engagement team.

The PaCE Delivery Officer has made the following points with regards to childcare in Monmouthshire:

- There is usually a space available at a school nursery if parents wish to access this.
- Wraparound care is limited when used with a school nursery or Flying Start provision. Parents often have to use childminders but childminder spaces are limited. In some cases, the parent would prefer to access all their provision at a private nursery in order to receive the maximum benefits of the Childcare Offer or universal credit.
- When supporting a parent who is due to start work or a training course, they contact childminders in the area and they often find that they don't have availability on the specific days they need.
- In some cases, a parent only has access to an unregistered out of school club and, therefore, they are unable to apply for funding through Universal Credit and this makes it not financially viable for the parent to take up a job offer.
- Free holiday provision has been accessed for parents on a low income and this has helped the parent to stay in work.
- Overall, there seems to be a shortage of childminders across Monmouthshire compared to previous years.

- There have only been two occasions when a parent has not been able to take up work in the last year. This was a result of the cost for children under the age of 3 years and the lack of availability with childminders.
- Forthcoming perceived challenges were that the retail and hospitality sectors have become more favourable to working parents in relation to suitable part time hours so it would be more difficult to promote a career in childcare and employers experiencing insufficient staffing levels due to working parents being unable to secure childcare for atypical working hours; this would leave a void in the labour market and increase complex childcare barriers for parents.
- Potential opportunities for partnership working may be that the Local Authority, DWP and PaCE would be able to work together to provide relevant training and support for participants moving into the childcare sector; this should be ongoing training and not a one-off course. There should also be sufficient funding to market childcare, delivery of childcare and to develop childcare to fill gaps within the local area.

Local Employers

Monmouthshire County Council sought to consult with employers to identify concerns and gaps within childcare that might impact their organisation in a positive or negative way. More specifically, questionnaires were sent out to a range of local employers in Monmouthshire to engender their views and seek to consider employers opinions on the demand, quality, accessibility and affordability of childcare. The response from businesses was extremely poor and we, therefore, liaised with Local Business Support teams based in Abergavenny, Monmouth, Caldicot and Chepstow areas to look at anecdotal evidence of any childcare issues. The conclusion from all areas of the county was that currently there are issues that are more pressing for employers than childcare. In light of the current situation, employers are having to be more flexible with working patterns and staff time off. An officer in the Business Support team stated: “I am not aware of any childcare issues with Monmouth businesses, it’s not something that has ever come up.”

Local Safeguarding Board

The MCC Lead Officer for Safeguarding in Education was contacted on behalf of the Local Safeguarding Board, as she has a role in supporting Monmouthshire childcare settings with safeguarding arrangements and concerns, and her response was as follows:
“There is evidence that safeguarding at settings is of a good standard. Settings are committed to completing safeguarding training to the standard prescribed in the MCC Corporate Safeguarding Policy; safeguarding self assessments (SAFEs) are completed and submitted to the LA for consideration; attendance is good at termly safeguarding which enables settings to keep up to date with safeguarding processes and developments; and where safeguarding concerns are raised for individual children and their families the quality of safeguarding information provided is good and advice is sought appropriately. Where concerns are highlighted regarding safeguarding arrangements at a setting, there is a willingness to work with the Local Authority and to seek and follow advice to support improvement.”

Family Information Service

Monmouthshire Family Information Service (FIS) currently supplies information and advice about childcare, early education, Childcare Offer, Flying Start, parenting courses and local services for children and young people. The FIS continues to promote new and existing childcare providers, as well as providing information regarding financial support that is available to help families with the cost of childcare. Specific information relating to Welsh medium provision and the benefits of being bilingual are regularly promoted by the FIS. Promotion and advice are provided through the telephone, email, Dewis website, council website, Instagram, Twitter and Facebook. The majority of enquiries are received through email and social media.

Feedback is received through social media campaigns, feedback forms on websites and email requests for feedback. The results of these enquiries are as follows:

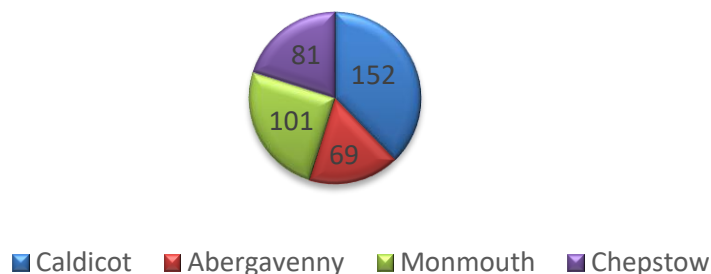
- 89% of enquirers are satisfied with the information they have received through the FIS.
- 71% of enquirers use childcare that they found out about through the FIS.
- In the last year, there have been 11 enquiries from people who have been unable to access childcare that accommodates their needs.

The parental survey indicates that 65% of parents know where to find information about childcare and 44.7% of parents know where to find information about financial assistance for childcare.

Focus Groups with Children

Consultations were held in nine different settings and a total of 461 children aged between 5 and 11 years of age contributed to this consultation activity. The distribution of respondents and their responses were as follows:

Respondents From Each Area



Response
99% would attend the provision again
96% liked the staff at the setting
95% have made new friends
95% enjoyed their time at the provision
88% want to actively travel more
80% have tried new activities
78% would recommend the provision to someone else
66% of children arrived at the setting in the car
31% walked to the provision

Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

The Early Years Manager is a member of the Welsh Medium Education Forum and has contributed towards the development of the Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022-2032.

Relevant targets for the first five years of this plan are as follows:

- Establish a new Cylch Meithrin in Chepstow so that there is Welsh medium childcare available in four of the five main settlements within Monmouthshire.
- Establish Welsh medium Flying Start childcare places in the south of the county.
- Welsh medium childcare in Monmouthshire is secure and sustainable.
- The demand and uptake of Welsh medium childcare places is at least 100 across the county.
- More than 60% of practitioners within childcare are confident in communicating through the medium of Welsh within the setting.
- Establish an apprenticeship scheme to support the expansion of childcare across the county, including in Welsh medium settings.
- Increase the rate of transfer from Welsh medium childcare providers and nursery provision into Welsh medium primary provision to 95%.

Planned actions to achieve these targets are:

- Continue to support existing Welsh medium childcare providers, certainly in the short term, to ensure they are sustainable.
- Explore opportunities to establish a Cylch Meithrin in Chepstow and one in Usk so that every town in Monmouthshire has a Welsh medium pre-school option. In doing so, we will continue to support increased demand for Welsh medium primary places.
- Extend access to Welsh medium Flying Start childcare places in Cylch Meithrin Cil Y Coed in the south of the county so that children of all backgrounds have access to high quality Welsh medium childcare. We will work to build the capacity to provide as many Flying Start services as possible through the medium of Welsh; for example, Baby yoga and access to a Welsh speaking Health Visitor.
- Continue to work closely with Mudiad Meithrin to provide support for existing Welsh medium childcare providers and to stimulate demand for Welsh medium provision.
- Continue providing funding to Mudiad Meithrin towards the cost of a Cylch Ti a Fi Officer and to promote the Cymraeg I Blant activities that take place within Monmouthshire.
- Provide all childcare settings with training to build the Welsh medium capacity of staff such as Cwlwm’s ‘Camau’ Course, Mudiad Meithrin’s ‘Clebran’ support for English medium settings and ‘Crosei’r Bont ‘for Welsh medium Cylchoedd Meithrin.
- Develop an in-house apprenticeship scheme to encourage more Welsh speakers to train to work in childcare within the county.
- Work with Mudiad Meithrin and Welsh medium childcare providers to ensure a high level of transfer from Welsh medium settings into Welsh medium schools

Local Well-Being Assessment

Monmouthshire’s Well-Being Assessment is currently out for consultation.

This Assessment is based around five clusters: Abergavenny and surrounding area; Monmouth and surrounding area; heart of Monmouthshire which includes Usk & Raglan; Chepstow and the Lower Wye Valley; Severnside which includes Caldicot and Magor. In order to ensure consistency, the same five clusters have been used within the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment but, for ease of reference, we have referred to these as Abergavenny, Monmouth, Usk & Raglan, Chepstow and Caldicot.

The Monmouthshire Well-being Assessment 2022 provides a breakdown of the population by area and the percentage of children (aged 0-15 years) in each area, this is summarised in the table below:

	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan
Population Estimate	27,000	20,000	19,762	17,000	10,476
Percentage Aged 0 - 15 Years	15.7%	16.8%	16.3%	16.9%	13.2%
Number of 0 – 15 Year Olds	4,239	3,360	3,221	2,873	1,383

The percentage of the population that are children is similar for most areas, apart from Usk & Raglan where the percentage of children aged 0 – 15 years is significantly lower. Overall, Monmouthshire has an aging population and the percentage of children aged 0 – 15 years is decreasing over time.

The section on Child Development includes the following statement relating to childcare: “Legislation requires the provision of, as far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient childcare to meet the requirements of parents in their area who require childcare to work, to undertake training or education, or to prepare for work. Parents have reported a lack of adequate childcare for children with a disability, including after school clubs, child minders, and holiday provisions. They struggle to find adequate suitable carers when using direct payments, and there is a lack of places at after school clubs. On the whole, the quality of childcare provision in Monmouthshire is very good and there is sufficient provision to meet the needs of most families; however, there are some gaps in provision that have been identified and need to be addressed (such as Welsh Language provision). An action plan was drawn up to address highlighted gaps and to reduce the barriers to accessing childcare that were identified.”

Key emerging issues identified in Monmouthshire’s Well-being Assessment include the fact that the well-being of children has been affected by disruption to their learning as a result of the pandemic and one in ten children is experiencing mental health issues (and one in four adults). There are significant income inequalities within communities with wealth sitting alongside relative poverty on a scale not seen in other parts of Wales. Research suggests that gaps between rich and poor within a community have negative repercussions for a whole range of things from educational attainment to physical health.

Population

Monmouthshire is situated in South East Wales and it occupies a strategic position between the major centres in South Wales and the South West of England and the Midlands. It is close to the big cities of Cardiff and Newport, sits on the M4 corridor towards Bristol and is on the edge of the Heads of the Valley. It is a largely rural authority and forms part of the Wye Valley Area of Natural Beauty. It borders six other local authorities, four in Wales (Torfaen, Newport, Blaenau-Gwent and Powys) and two in England (Herefordshire and Gloucestershire). It is considered to be one of the most affluent local authorities in Wales.

Unless stated otherwise, the demographic information included within this document is based on data from the Census 2011, along with more recent population estimates produced by Welsh Government. This is the same information that has been used by the Local Authority to develop the Local Well Being Needs Assessment. Information from the Census 2021 was not available at the time of producing the CSA.

Population Data

The population in Monmouthshire has been steadily increasing over the past 25 years, as has the population of Wales as a whole. The census data shows that the county of Monmouthshire had a population of 91,323 in 2011 and recent data shows that in 2021 the population had increased to 95,134. This is expected to increase still further reaching 97,089 by 2027 and 98,455 by 2032. Projections indicate that the population of Monmouthshire will reach over 100,000 by the year 2039.

Despite the fact that the population of Monmouthshire is on the increase, there is evidence to suggest that it is an aging population. The table below shows that there were 17,586 children within the 0 – 17 age brackets in 2020, which was 18.5% of the total population. It is projected that this number will slightly decrease by 2027 to 17,383 (17.9% of the projected population) and further decrease again by 2032 to 16,767 (17% of the projected population).

Age Range	2020 Data	Projected for 2027	Projected for 2032
0 – 2	2,337	2,378	2,354
3 – 4	1,795	1,709	1,695
5 – 7	2,829	2,683	2,662
8 – 10	3,088	2,872	2,824
11 – 14	4,353	4,255	3,900
15 – 17	3,184	3,486	3,332
Total	17,586	17,383	16,767

Live Birth Rates

According to Health data, there were 709 live births in Monmouthshire between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020; this can be broken down into areas as follows:

Abergavenny – 196

Caldicot – 218

Chepstow – 121

Monmouth – 111

Usk & Raglan – 48

This figure is 11% lower than was reported in the previous Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and again suggests that Monmouthshire has an aging population.

As of September 2021, there were 4,885 children in Monmouthshire’s secondary schools (an increase of 45 pupils from the previous CSA) and 6,701 children in Monmouthshire’s primary schools (an increase of 143 pupils from the previous CSA).

Vulnerable Children

During the lockdown between January and February 2021, there were 908 children registered as either vulnerable or children of critical key workers that would need support at one of Monmouthshire’s school hubs.

In 2021, Monmouthshire County Council had 215 looked after children, broken down into the following age ranges:

Age Range	Total
0 - 1	15
1 - 4	45
5 – 9	50
10 - 15	80
16 - 17	25

There were 9 gypsy traveller children attending Monmouthshire schools, 7 in primary schools and 2 in secondary schools.

Children with a Disability

There are 144 disabled children in Monmouthshire registered with the Children with Disabilities Team; this includes 54 children on the Disability Index (as at 31/12/2021).

During the Summer Term 2021, Monmouthshire Early Years section funded additional support to enable 15 children with additional needs to attend pre-school settings and 14 children with additional needs to attend after school clubs and holiday clubs.

As at April 2021, there were 1,069 children with minor and major disabilities or developmental delays in Monmouthshire primary schools (458 SA, 492 SA+ and 119 stated); this is an increase of 40 since the previous CSA was carried out. There were 929 children with either major or minor disability or developmental delay in Monmouthshire secondary schools (562 SA, 240 SA+ and 127 stated); this is an increase of 65 children compared to the previous CSA.

Households

Of the 42,348 occupied households in Monmouthshire, 5,567 are housing association properties, 31,987 are privately owned outright or with a mortgage and 4,794 are privately rented properties.

The Local Housing Market Assessment 2020-2025 identifies a need for 468 affordable units per annum (or 7,020 units over the plan period), of which 68% is for social rent and 32% intermediate need. The greatest demand is for one bed properties across Monmouthshire, with the level of housing need greatest in the sub-market area of Chepstow and Caldicot (at 46%).

To address housing affordability, the Council aims to deliver 10% (705 units) of the identified need on sites of 50:50 affordable and market housing, thus providing an additional 1,410 affordable and market units over the plan period.

As of June 2021, there were 1,500 unemployed people aged 16-64 years living in Monmouthshire; this is significantly lower than the All Wales average. It is anticipated that this figure will reduce still further to 1,300 in 2027.

	Total	Percentage
Number of households with dependent children	10,629	27.8%
Number of workless households with dependent children	994	2.6%
Number of lone parent families with dependent children	2,057	5.4%

Despite the fact that Monmouthshire is a relatively affluent area when compared with the rest of Wales, there are still 12.9% of dependent children living in low income families in Monmouthshire. 1,500 dependent children living in households claiming Job Seekers Allowance, 180 dependent children living in households claiming Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit, 270 dependent children living in households claiming just Child Tax Credit and 15,115 dependent children living in households claiming Child Benefit.

Ethnic Background

In December 2020, the ethnicity of the Monmouthshire population is 96.5% White (British, Irish or Other) and 3.5% Black, Asian or other ethnic minority.

Welsh Language Profile

According to the most recent data, the number of Monmouthshire residents who can speak, read, write and understand Welsh is as follows:

Welsh Language	2021	2017	Comparison
Speak Welsh	16.4%	15.6%	+0.8%
Read Welsh	15.1%	13.4%	+1.7%
Write Welsh	13.3%	11.9%	+1.4%
Understands Spoken Welsh	18.9%	17.4%	+1.5%

There are two Welsh medium school nurseries in Monmouthshire offering a total of 90 part time places and each of these has wrap around provision on site. There are also 67 part time childcare places available at three cylchoedd meithrin.

There are four cylch ti a fi groups situated across Monmouthshire with links to a variety of organisations that provide Welsh medium support and activities, including Mudiad Meithrin and Cymraeg I Blant.

There are currently 30 primary and 4 secondary schools in Monmouthshire but only two schools (6%) provide first language Welsh medium provision. The number of pupils of statutory school age attending Welsh Medium education has increased from 215 in January 2009 to 320 in January 2021, an increase of 49%.

Overview – Childcare Types, Services and Places

Number of Childcare Providers & Type of Services

Childcare Type	Childcare Services Offered	Registered	Unregistered
Childminder	TOTAL CHILDMINDERS	44	0
	Full day care throughout the year	43	0
	Half day care throughout the year	44	0
	Before school	41	0
	After school	44	0
	Wrap Around	34	0
	Holiday Provision	41	0
	Other	43	0
Full Day Care	TOTAL FULL DAY CARE	31	0
	Full day nursery	17	0
	Morning Session (am)	31	0
	Afternoon Session (pm)	29	0
	Before school	20	0
	After School	16	0
	Wrap Around	12	0
	Lunch	29	0
	Term Time Only	13	0
	Holiday Provision	17	0
Sessional Day Care	TOTAL SESSIONAL CARE	12	0
	Morning Playgroup (am)	10	0
	Afternoon Playgroup (pm)	4	0
	Wrap Around	0	0
	Lunch	0	0
	Term Time Only	12	0
	Holiday Provision	0	0

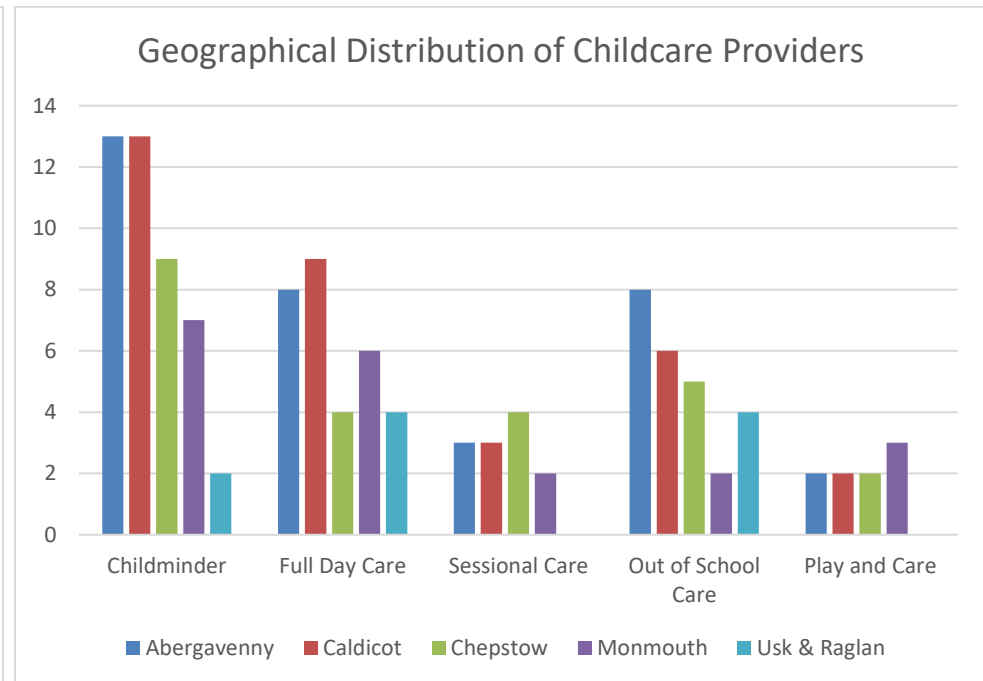
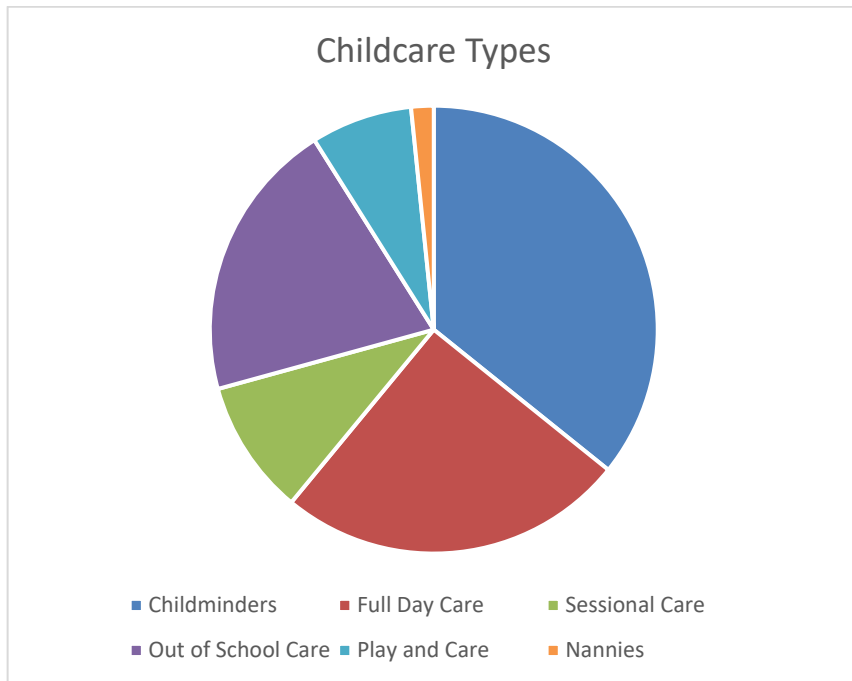
Out of School Care	TOTAL OUT OF SCHOOL CARE	23	2
	Before School	4	0
	After School	12	2
	Holiday Provision	7	0
Play and Care Provision	TOTAL OPEN ACCESS PLAY PROVISION	0	9
	Monmouthshire Games	0	4
	School Enrichment Programme	0	5
Nanny	TOTAL NANNIES	2	0
	Full day care throughout the year	2	0
TOTAL	TOTAL CHILDCARE PROVISION	114	11

- There is a good spread of childcare types across Monmouthshire offering a range of different services.
- The main change since the last full CSA was conducted in 2017 is that almost a third of sessional care providers have changed their registration to full day care, this enables them to offer more flexibility to families.
- Most childcare settings are registered with CIW, with the exception of out of school care and open access play provision. 92% of out of school childcare clubs in Monmouthshire are now registered with CIW, the remaining two settings are limited to under two hours of provision a day. There is no registered open access play provision in Monmouthshire and the unregistered provision is only available during school holidays.
- We are aware of two nannies in Monmouthshire who are registered through the Voluntary Approval Scheme, but we have been unable to make contact, so we don't have any more detail than this. We don't have any other information relating to nannies working within Monmouthshire, although three parents, one in Monmouth and two in Usk, reported through the parental survey that they currently utilise a nanny for childcare.
- There was one registered crèche operating in Abergavenny at the time of the data completion, but this setting deregistered on the 31st August 2021 and, therefore, will not be included in this assessment. We are not aware of any unregistered crèches operating in Monmouthshire at this time.

Geographical Distribution of Childcare Providers & Services Provided

Childcare Type	Number of Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	Total
Childminder	13	13	9	7	2	44
Full Day Care	8	9	4	6	4	31
Sessional Day Care	3	3	4	2	0	12
Out of School Care	8	6	5	2	4	25
Play and Care	2	2	2	3	0	9

- There is a reasonable spread of childminders across all areas, with the highest number in Abergavenny and Caldicot and the least in Usk & Raglan. The majority of childminders offer a full range of services including full day care, half day care, before and after school care, wrap around care and holiday care. 7% of childminders only operate in term time and don't provide childcare during any school holidays.
- There is a relatively even spread of full day care provision across all areas, with Caldicot having the highest number and Chepstow and Usk & Raglan having the lowest number. All providers offer a range of services and 55% of providers offer childcare during school holidays as well as term time.
- There are more sessional care providers in Chepstow than any other area. There is no sessional care in Usk & Raglan but the day care providers in this area offer a range of sessions, not just full day care. Ten sessional care providers offer morning playgroup sessions but only four providers offer afternoon playgroup sessions. None of the sessional care providers currently offer lunch or wraparound care and they are all term time only.
- Out of school care is available in all areas of Monmouthshire and approximately half of all primary schools have access to an after school club either on site or within walking distance. There are a limited number of before school clubs but this is due to the fact that 90% of primary schools in Monmouthshire operate a free breakfast club that also offers a fee paying element for childcare. There are a limited number of holiday care places, with half of all provision being offered by full day nurseries who provide care for older children during school holidays.



Childcare Places – Supply and Demand per Childcare Type

Registered Provision – Term Time

Childcare Type	Registered Childcare Places in Term Time			
	Maximum Capacity of Childcare Places Available Daily	Number of Children Using Service	Number of Vacancies	Number of Children on Waiting List
Childminder	339	371	189	30
Full Day Care	1,207	1,620	2,646	345
Sessional Day Care	269	322	270	5
Out of School Care	701	965	139	2
Play and Care	-	-	-	-
Nanny	-	-	-	-

Unregistered Provision – Term Time

The only unregistered provision operating in term time is two after school clubs that have a combined maximum capacity of 62 places available daily. We were unable to gather any information relating to vacancies or waiting lists at these settings.

Registered Provision – School Holidays

Childcare Type	School Holidays			
	Maximum Capacity of Childcare Places Available Daily	Number of Children Using Service	Number of Vacancies	Number of Children on Waiting List
Childminder	309	343	169	6
Full Day Care	893	1,306	2,332	5
Sessional Day Care	-	-	-	-
Out of School Care	250	780	1,883	0
Play and Care	-	-	-	-
Nanny	-	-	-	-

Unregistered Provision – School Holidays

The only unregistered provision operating in school holidays is the play and care provision that has a combined maximum capacity of 560 places available daily. There were 1,322 children that used this service in the summer holidays 2021. Due to the nature of this service, the number of vacancies or on waiting lists would differ for each holiday and would only be available once the booking systems open prior to a holiday period.

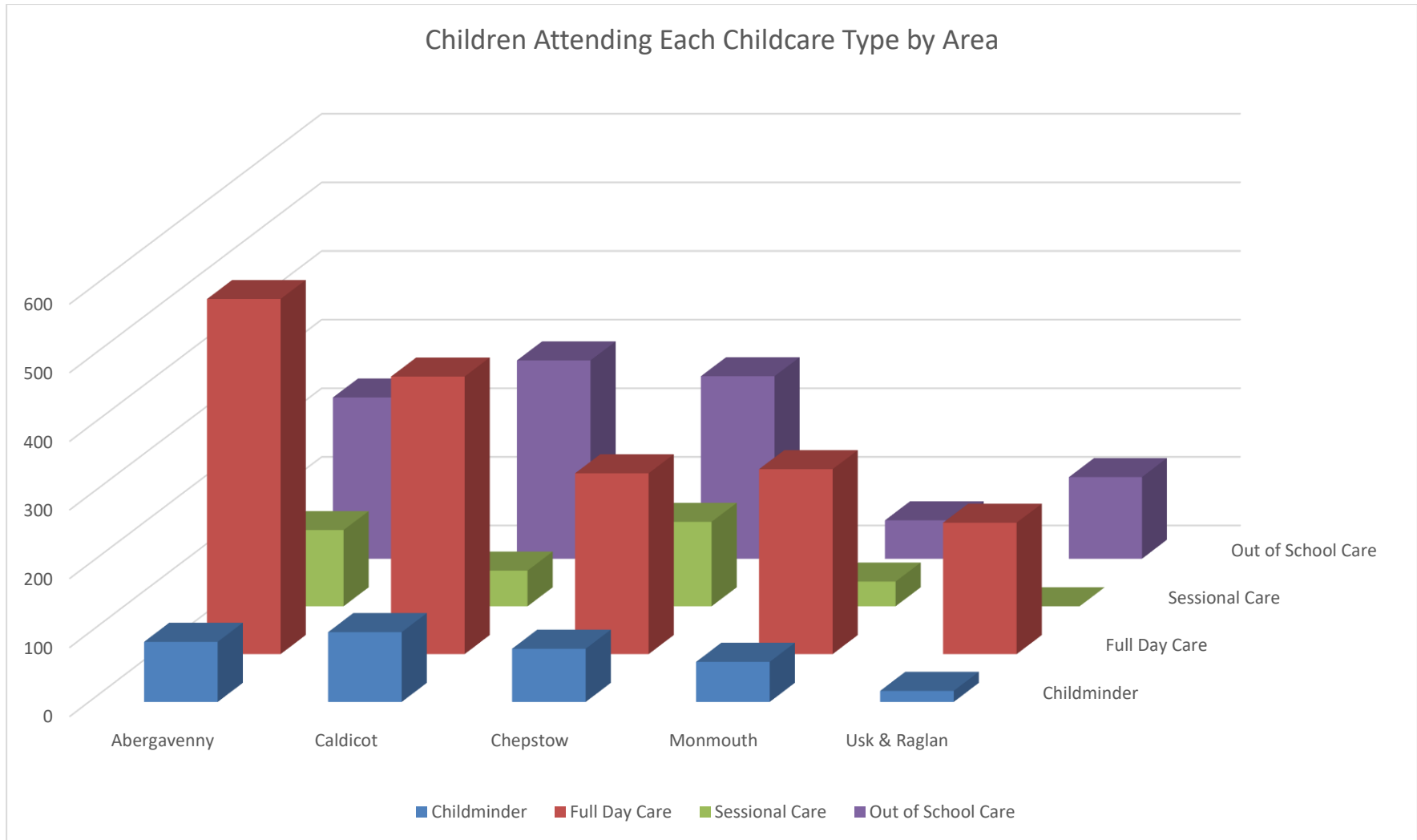
Geographical Distribution of Childcare Places per Childcare Type – Supply

	Abergavenny		Caldicot		Chepstow		Monmouth		Usk & Raglan	
	Children Attending	Vacancies	Children Attending	Vacancies	Children Attending	Vacancies	Children Attending	Vacancies	Children Attending	Vacancies
Childminder	87	51	101	51	77	65	58	22	16	-
Full Day Care	517	272	404	482	263	391	269	49	191	1,452
Sessional Day Care	111	157	52	18	123	95	36	-	-	-
Out of School Care	235	11	289	46	266	47	56	12	119	23

N.B. We were unable to obtain the breakdown of those attending the open access play provision or the vacancies, as this differed every day. We were informed that the provision was well attended for the duration of the schemes in all areas it was available.

- The number of places is lower during school holidays than term time for all childcare types apart from play and care; however, this is matched by a reduced take up of places, suggesting that demand for all types of childcare is lower during school holidays.
- For each childcare type, the number of children using the service is higher than the maximum capacity, suggesting that places are shared by more than one child on different days or at different times of the day.
- Vacancies recorded are higher than the maximum capacity for full day care, sessional care and holiday clubs as providers are counting sessions that are available rather than full time places. This makes it almost impossible to use this data to make any meaningful judgements on vacancies.
- It appears that some settings have included children on waiting lists that are not yet due to start, rather than just children that are waiting for a place to become available, so this doesn't provide a great deal of information in relation to the sufficiency of childcare places.
- There are no childminder vacancies in the Usk and Raglan area but there are only two childminders in this area, so there may be a need for more.
- There are no vacancies for sessional care in the Monmouth area but, again, there are only two sessional care providers in this area. There are vacancies within full day care in the Monmouth area and these settings offer sessional care, if required.
- Out of School Care provision shows the smallest number of vacancies by childcare type. This reflects the feedback that we are receiving from parents, who report a lack of after school provision, specifically in some parts of Abergavenny.

Children Attending Each Childcare Type by Area



Summary of All Childcare Types

Childminders

Analysis of Supply of Childcare Provision

Number of providers - We currently have 44 childminders operating in Monmouthshire; this figure is similar to when we completed the last full CSA in 2017. We had managed to recruit a significant number of childminders and this had increased to 64 registered childminders by March 2019. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a negative impact and we have lost a total of 20 childminders since 2019. We are aware of 6 people that have completed a Childminder Briefing session and are currently undergoing training to become a childminder.

Range of services provided - All childminders provide a range of services, including half day sessions and after school provision. The majority (93%) of childminders operate during school holidays, although some don't operate in all of the school holidays. Only 77% of childminders stated that they provide wrap around care.

Number and type of childcare places filled (full time, part time, ad-hoc) – There are a total of 339 places available with childminders during term time, this reduces to 309 places during school holidays. Take up of places is shared between 371 children but only 13% of these attend full time, 78% attend part time and 9% attend on an ad hoc basis. Childminders did not differentiate between vacancies available during term time or school holidays. Although there are the highest number of childminders in the Abergavenny and Caldicot areas, the average number of children cared for per childminder is higher in the other areas, as illustrated in the table below:

Area	Number of Childminders	Children Attending	Average Children per Childminder
Abergavenny	13	87	6.7
Caldicot	13	101	7.8
Chepstow	9	77	8.6
Monmouth	7	58	8.3
Usk & Raglan	2	16	8

Vacancies and waiting lists - There are vacancies with childminders in all areas apart from Usk & Raglan; however, several childminders reported that they had a waiting list. There are 30 children currently on a waiting list for term time provision and 6 children during the school holidays; the majority of these require full day care.

Number of Welsh language places filled - There is only one childminder in Monmouthshire that provides their service bilingually and only 32% of childminders reported that they have some bilingual elements. One childminder has selected other as the language of their provision, but they haven't stated what this language is.

Opening times - Almost all childminders operate throughout the working day, with only one childminder providing after school care only. There is childcare available in all areas of Monmouthshire between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday. All areas apart from Usk & Raglan have care available before 8am and there are childminders open after 6pm in Abergavenny, Caldicot and Chepstow. There is one childminder working as early as 6am in the Abergavenny area and one working as late as 10pm in the Caldicot area. There are currently no childminders providing childcare on weekends and only one childminder in Abergavenny that is willing to consider overnight care. 18% of childminders have stated they are flexible with their opening hours. This range of opening times and session lengths is the same during all school holidays, apart from Christmas week when there is a limited service available across all areas.

Age range of children - There are childminders in each area of Monmouthshire that accommodate children aged between 0 and 11 years. According to the SASS data, there is only one childminder in Monmouth that accommodates children aged 12 – 14 years and there are no childminders that accommodate children aged 15 – 17 years. Take up of childminder places is spread across the age ranges but more than half (56%) are under 4 years of age, 34% are aged 4 – 7 years and 10% are aged 8 and over (only one of whom is aged 12 – 14 years).

Range of charges – The hourly rate varies between £4 and £6.50 per hour, with the greatest range being in Chepstow where they have the cheapest and the most expensive provision. The majority (75%) charge either £4.50 or £5 per hour for their childminding services. 27% of childminders charge an additional fee for food and snacks and 23% of childminders offer a discount for siblings.

Number of places filled by children who have additional learning needs or who require specialist care due to a disability - There are 8 children with additional learning needs or a disability currently being cared for by childminders, none of these are in either Caldicot or Usk & Raglan. According to our records, none of these children have been identified as requiring additional support by Monmouthshire Early Years ALN Panel.

Foundation Phase Nursery, Flying Start, Childcare Offer and other funding streams – Monmouthshire County Council doesn't approve childminders to provide Foundation Phase Nursery provision but there is one childminder in Abergavenny, Caldicot and Monmouth that provides Flying Start childcare places. 86% of all childminders in Monmouthshire are registered for the Childcare Offer and there are currently 31 children accessing the Childcare Offer through a childminder. 77% of childminders are registered for tax free childcare or childcare voucher schemes.

Covid-19 Impact – Although only 5% of childminders stated that they had positive cases in their provision, 66% of childminders had to close their doors at some point during the pandemic. The majority of childminders (91%) were satisfied with the PPE equipment they were provided with or compensated for. 20% of childminders stated that the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted their training or staffing ratios.

Summary of Key Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths:

- There is a good spread of childminders throughout Monmouthshire and a wide range of services provided by these childminders.
- The majority of childminders are registered for the Childcare Offer.
- Childminders are willing and able to provide childcare for children with additional learning needs or a disability.
- Families generally use this provision on a part time basis or make ad hoc arrangements, so it is flexible enough to meet the changing needs of individual families.
- There are vacancies in all areas of Monmouthshire, apart from Usk & Raglan.
- There is a wide spread of ages being cared for by childminders throughout Monmouthshire. Although there are currently no childminders caring for children aged 15 – 17 years and only one reporting they care for a child aged 12 – 14 years, this is due to a lack of demand as most childminders are able and willing to accommodate older children, if required.
- Childminders supply a significant amount of after school care for children aged 5 and over.
- The cheapest childcare provision is available in the Chepstow area and they also offer sibling discounts in this area.
- The majority of childminders update their information with the FIS regularly throughout the year, ensuring all information is as accurate as possible.
- Engagement between the Local Authority and childminders has improved significantly as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Childminder recruitment is advertised regularly through the Family Information Service and Monmouthshire County Council are working closely with Pacey to recruit more childminders.

Weaknesses:

- Childminders tend to be transient so there is a relatively high turnover and a constant need to recruit new childminders.
- The number of childminders has dropped from 64 to 44 since March 2019 and the recruitment rate has been slow.
- There are no Welsh medium childminders in Monmouthshire, only one bilingual childminder and 64% have no bilingual elements to their provision.
- There are no childminders approved to provide Foundation Phase Nursery places and only a limited number offering Flying Start places.
- There is very limited provision available during atypical hours such as before 8am, after 6pm and on weekends. There is no provision overnight; however, we are aware that some childminders do provide these services to families on an ad hoc basis.

Full Day Nursery

Analysis of Supply of Childcare Provision

Number of providers - All full day care providers completed the SASS return, apart from two that started operating slightly after the SASS date, so their information was collated by the FIS and has been included within this assessment. The number of full day care providers has increased since the last full CSA was completed in 2017, although this is in part due to the fact that several sessional care providers have changed their registration to full day care in response to the increased demand for wrap around childcare as a result of the Childcare Offer. The full day care providers are spread throughout Monmouthshire with availability in each of the areas.

Range of services provided – There are 31 childcare providers registered as full day care but only 17 of these (55%) state that they provide full day care to individual children. All providers offer a morning session and only two are not open for an afternoon session. Many (65%) provide care before school and 56% provide care after school. Nearly all (94%) provide care over the lunch period. Only 17 providers (53%) remain open during the school holidays.

Number and type of child places filled (full time, part time, ad-hoc) – There are 1,207 childcare places registered as full day care across Monmouthshire and these places are currently being accessed by 1,620 children. The highest number of childcare places being used in this childcare type are in the Abergavenny area, with 517 children sharing 299 places. The majority of these children (67%) attend on a part time basis, with only 49 children (9%) attending full time. Caldicot has the second highest rate of attendance with 404 children sharing 281 places. Again, the majority of children (84%) attend part-time; however, 15% attend full time. In the other areas, the number of registered places and take up of places is lower than this but the number of children accessing childcare exceeds the number of places in Chepstow and Monmouth. There are very few children outside of the Abergavenny area using childcare on an ad hoc basis. Overall, 13% of children attend full time, 79% attend part time and only 8% attend on an ad hoc basis.

Vacancies and waiting lists - Settings in Usk & Raglan report the highest number of vacancies, but there is a particularly large day nursery in this area. Monmouth reports the lowest number of vacancies and they only have 23 full days vacant. Abergavenny has the next lowest number of vacancies, but these are spread relatively equally between full day care, morning sessions and afternoon sessions, with the highest number of vacancies after school. Chepstow have only reported vacancies for full days and morning sessions, there are no vacancies for afternoon sessions or wrap around provision. Caldicot has a significant number of vacancies, particularly for afternoon sessions. Only 38 lunch vacancies have been reported across the full day care sector and only 47 for early education places. The total number of vacancies is 2,646; although this appears high more than half of these places are in the Usk & Raglan area. These vacancies generally refer to individual daily places and the different services overlap so some of these are double counted. The full day care providers reported a total of 345 children on their waiting lists, however, 270 of these were reported by one provider in Chepstow which is likely to be an error, so it is likely the actual figure is much lower than this.

Number of Welsh language places filled - There is only one full day care provider in Monmouthshire that is registered to provide care through the medium of Welsh, this is situated in the Abergavenny area next to the Welsh medium primary school. Even though they are registered as full day care, they are only open in term time until 4pm and provide sessional care or wrap around for the school nursery. They are registered for 28 children and currently have 53 children attending. More than 90% of all full day care providers state they are English with some bilingual elements.

Opening times and range of session lengths - All areas have a range of sessions and are available between the hours of 8am and 6pm. No provider starts earlier than 7am or finishes later than 6:30pm and none offer overnight or weekend care. Almost half of all full day care providers (48%) close by 4pm at the latest; there is one full day care provider in Caldicot that currently only opens between 9am and 12:30pm. There are settings in each area operating during school holidays.

Age range of children – There is full day care available in each area for children under 5 years of age, although less than half of all providers cater for children aged 2 and under and only 6 full day care providers (19%) take children older than 5, none of which are in the Chepstow area. Three full day care providers are able to offer care to children aged 8 – 11, these are in the Abergavenny, Caldicot and Usk & Raglan areas. No settings are registered for children aged 12 or older. More than half (53%) of all children attending are aged 3 and 4 and only 4% are aged 5 and over.

Range of charges – According to the SASS data, the hourly cost of full day care ranges between £4 and £8, with the average cost working out as £5.29 per hour and 55% of providers charging £4.50 or £5 per hour. The majority (58%) of full day care providers have included the cost of food in their hourly charge. Only three providers allow the children to bring their own lunch, the remaining 10 providers charge an additional fee for lunch and snacks. 10 settings offer a discount for siblings, none of these are in the Usk & Raglan area.

Number of places filled by children who have additional learning needs or who require specialist care due to a disability – According to the SASS, there are 46 full day care places filled by children who have a disability or additional learning need; however, the number of children referred to the MCC Early Years ALN Panel is slightly higher than this.

Foundation Phase Nursery, Flying Start, Childcare Offer and other funding streams – Out of the 31 full day care providers, 22 are approved to provide Foundation Phase Nursery places and these are spread across the five areas of the county. Two full day care providers in Monmouth and one in Abergavenny are signed up to provide Flying Start places. All except one full day care provider (97%) are registered for the Childcare Offer and these are all currently receiving funding through the Childcare Offer, with a total of 290 children currently accessing the Childcare Offer at a full day care setting.

Covid-19 Impact – Although only 13 full time care providers stated that they had positive cases in their provision, 26 had to close their doors at some point during the pandemic and these were spread across all five areas. The majority of providers (94%) were satisfied with the PPE equipment they were provided with or compensated for. Just over half of all full day care providers stated that the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted their training or staffing ratios.

Summary of Key Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths:

- There is a good range of services provided by full day care settings and more than half of all settings are available during school holidays.
- Full day nursery is the most commonly used service and can accommodate children on a full-time, part-time or ad hoc basis.
- There are currently full day care vacancies reported across all areas.
- There are a wide range of session lengths available in all areas and there is provision in all areas between 8am and 6pm.
- Children with additional learning needs or a disability are catered for.
- There are a sufficient number of places available for Foundation Phase Nursery provision and the Childcare Offer and eligible parents or carers are able to access the full 30 hours at one setting.
- Hourly charges vary considerably; however, the majority are in line with the hourly rate for Foundation Phase Nursery and the Childcare Offer.

Weaknesses:

- There is only one Welsh medium full day care provider in Monmouthshire and it does not provide childcare after 4pm or during school holidays.
- Very few full day care providers offer before school or wrap around care; this is partly due to the age range of the children they care for as many of them are currently only registered for children up to the age of 5 years.
- There are very few vacancies for full day care reported in the Monmouth area.
- There are no full day care providers offering overnight or weekend care and only one provides childcare after 6pm.
- There is limited provision for children aged over 5 but this may be due, in part, to low demand because of the nature of this type of care.

Sessional Day Care

Analysis of Supply of Childcare Provision

Number of providers - All sessional care providers in Monmouthshire are registered with CIW, we are not aware of any non-registered provision. The number of sessional care providers has dropped in recent years, either closing due to a lack of numbers or having registered as full day care. One third of our existing sessional care providers are Flying Start settings maintained by the Local Authority and they only take Flying Start children.

Range of services provided - There is no sessional care available in Usk & Raglan but the day care providers in this area offer sessions, if required. All settings, apart from the two Welsh medium settings, offer morning sessions and this is available in the other four areas of Monmouthshire. There are only two settings offering both morning and afternoon playgroup places and there are no afternoon sessions available in Chepstow. There is no record of any provision providing wraparound or lunch time care. No sessional care provision is open during school holidays.

Number and type of child places filled (full time, part time, ad-hoc) – There are 269 sessional care places available across Monmouthshire and there were 322 children accessing this provision in the summer term 2021. There is a significantly higher take up of places in morning sessions than afternoon sessions. There are more places filled on a part time basis (66%) than full time (34%), there are no children attending sessional care provision on an ad hoc basis.

Vacancies and waiting lists - There are a total of 270 childcare places reported as vacant with the majority being in the Abergavenny area (58%), although there seems to be a discrepancy as 119 lunch time spaces have been reported even though no one reported providing lunch time care. If these are removed, there are only 151 vacancies and there are no vacancies reported in the Monmouth settings. Only 5 children have been reported as being on a waiting list, all of these are for lunch time provision in the Caldicot area, which is not currently offered at any settings according to the information provided in the SASS.

Number of Welsh language places filled - There are two Welsh medium sessional care settings in Monmouthshire, one in the Caldicot area and one in the Monmouth area. They both provide care during the afternoons in term time only. They are both flexible with their opening hours and will provide additional sessions to meet demand. During the summer term 2021, there were 28 children using Welsh medium sessional care. All of the remaining sessional care providers are English with some bilingual elements.

Opening times and range of session lengths – Only two settings provide both morning and afternoon sessions. All others operate sessions that are between 2 ½ hours and 3 ¾ hours and try to coincide with school times, particularly those on school sites. There are no sessional care providers operating before 8:45am or after 3:15pm.

Age range of children – According to the SASS data, 10 settings are registered for 2 year olds, 8 are registered for 3 year olds and 7 for 4 year olds; none of the settings appear to cover the full age range of 2 – 4 year olds. There are more 2 year olds than any other age group but this is due to the fact that four settings are Flying Start and only cater for 2 year olds. There is a fairly equal split of places being taken up by 3 year olds (29%) and 4 year olds (27%), with the majority of 3 year olds being in the Chepstow area and the majority of 4 year olds being in the Abergavenny area.

Range of charges – Flying Start provision is free, the other settings range in price from £2.65 to £5.50 per hour. The cheapest provision is in the Monmouth area and the most expensive provision is in the Caldicot area. Sessional care appears to be the cheapest of all childcare provision available. Two settings don't provide a snack, four settings include the cost of food and snacks within their hourly rate, whilst the remaining six settings charge an extra fee for food. Only two settings offer a discount for siblings, both are in the Caldicot area.

Number of places filled by children who have additional learning needs or who require specialist care due to a disability - There are 6 children with additional learning needs or a disability attending sessional care, these are all in the Abergavenny and Caldicot area and are known to MCC Early Years ALN Panel.

Foundation Phase Nursery, Flying Start, Childcare Offer and other funding streams – There are four sessional care settings that are approved to provide Foundation Phase Nursery provision and a different four sessional care settings offering Flying Start places. There are six sessional care providers registered for the Childcare Offer and during the summer term 2021, there were 22 children accessing the Childcare Offer across these six settings. Six settings reported that they were registered for tax free childcare or childcare voucher schemes.

Covid Impact – 8 out of the 12 providers had to close at some point due to the pandemic but only 3 sessional care providers reported having a positive case in their setting. Nearly all (83%) reported that they were satisfied with the PPE equipment they were provided with or compensated for. Only two sessional care providers stated that the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted their training or staffing ratios.

Summary of Key Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths:

- A third of our sessional care providers are Flying Start providers and offer free childcare places.
- There are sessional care providers that are approved to offer Foundation Phase Nursery provision.
- Provision for children with special educational needs or a disability is good and support is available for those who need it.
- There are sufficient vacancies for sessional care in all areas of Monmouthshire, apart from Usk & Raglan where there are no sessional care settings.
- There are a range of charges for sessional care but it tends to be cheaper per hour than other types of childcare.
- Sessional care provision is available through the medium of Welsh in both the south and the north of the county.

Weaknesses:

- There are fewer sessional care providers than any other type of registered provision and there are no sessional care providers available in the Usk & Raglan area. We are, however, aware of childcare providers in this area that are registered as full day care but also offer sessional care.
- The hours of sessional care available mean it is often unsuitable for working parents.
- The range of services available is limited and is only available during term time.
- There are limited sessional care places available in the afternoon.

Out of School Care

Analysis of Supply of Childcare Provision

Number of providers – There were 14 providers that completed their SASS as out of school providers or full day care and out of school providers; however, many of these operate more than one type of provision, so we have counted these separately. There are also two out of school clubs that are not currently registered with CIW but offer an after school club that runs for under two hours a day, this makes a total of 25 provisions.

Range of services provided – The majority of out of school provision is after school care (56%) and this is available in all five areas. There are only four providers who state they provide before school care and none of these are in the Chepstow area, but this doesn't include school free breakfast clubs that operate in 27 of our 30 primary schools. There is limited registered holiday care available, although there is provision in all areas apart from Monmouth.

Number and type of child places filled (full time, part time, ad-hoc) - There are 1,013 places available in out of school clubs and a total of 965 children accessed this provision in summer 2021; however, some of these may be the same children attending different types of provision. The majority of out of school places are at after school clubs (61%), with 14% at breakfast clubs and 25% at holiday clubs. The majority (56%) of children attend this provision part time, 8% attend full time and 36% attend on an ad hoc basis.

Vacancies and waiting lists - There are no vacancies at before school clubs in Caldicot, Chepstow and Monmouth and only a few spaces in Abergavenny and Usk & Raglan. There are after school club vacancies across all areas, although only 2 reported in the Abergavenny area. The SASS data did not record school holiday vacancies. There are only 2 children on a waiting list for after school care and this is in the Usk and Raglan area.

Number of Welsh language places filled – There are no out of school providers that operate through the medium of Welsh. The majority (68%) report to be English only and only 32% of providers stated that they run their service in English with bilingual elements.

Opening times and range of session lengths - Before school clubs start at different times between 7:30am and 8am and all finish at 9am when school starts. After school care starts when the feeder school finishes for the day and end between 5:25pm and 6pm, there are no after school clubs that operate after this time. Holiday club provision begins between 7am and 8am and finishes between 5:30pm and 6pm.

Age range of children – All after school provision caters for children aged 5 – 7 years and all bar one provider in the Abergavenny area also cater for children aged 8 – 11 years. One provider in Abergavenny and one in Caldicot are registered for children aged 12 – 14 years. There are only six settings that cater for children aged under 5 years. 91% of places taken up in out of school provision are children aged 5 – 11 years and 8% are 4 year olds. There are also three children aged 12 – 14 years and four children aged 3 years accessing out of school provision.

Range of charges – Hourly costs range between £2 per hour and £8 per hour with before school clubs tending to be the cheapest and holiday care the most expensive. The lowest cost is in the Chepstow area and the highest cost is in the Abergavenny area, with two providers charging £8 per hour. The average cost of out of school provision in Monmouthshire is £4.55 per hour. Three clubs don't provide food and three clubs charge extra for food, these are all in the Caldicot area. Sibling discounts are available at 7 clubs but none of these are in the Caldicot area.

Number of places filled by children who have additional learning needs or who require specialist care due to a disability - There are 26 children reported to have additional learning needs or a disability attending out of school care and they are spread across all areas apart from Monmouth.

Covid Impact – All out of school care clubs closed their doors at some point during the pandemic and many remained closed for a significant period of time. Despite this, only 10 out of school care providers reported having a positive case in their clubs. All providers reported that they had sufficient PPE equipment. 15 settings stated that the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted on their training and 3 had seen an impact on staffing ratios.

Summary of Key Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths:

- There is a good spread of after school childcare available across Monmouthshire and nearly all out of school provision is now registered with CIW.
- After School Club provision is well attended and utilised mostly by primary school aged children, who would find it more difficult to access other types of childcare provision.
- There are sufficient vacancies for out of school provision in almost all areas.
- The average cost of out of school care is similar to that of other childcare types but 68% of clubs are cheaper than this.
- Children with additional learning needs or a disability are supported to enable them to access out of school childcare.

Weaknesses:

- There is no Welsh medium out of school childcare provision in Monmouthshire.
- There are very few before school clubs in Monmouthshire; however, this is due to the fact that the majority of Monmouthshire primary schools have a free breakfast club on site, so there is no demand for this additional provision.
- There is no registered holiday care provision in the Monmouth area and only one club in the Chepstow and Usk & Raglan areas.
- Although there are vacancies reported in after school clubs in all areas of Monmouthshire, this is very limited in the Abergavenny area and we have been made aware through our FIS that there is no availability in some parts of Abergavenny, particularly after 5.30pm.
- None of the after school clubs or holiday clubs operate after 6pm; there is no provision for parents or carers that work atypical hours.

Play and Care Provision

Analysis of Supply of Childcare Provision

Number of providers - There is no registered open access play provision in Monmouthshire and none currently available during term time. Although this 'play and care' provision isn't classed as childcare, the data is included in this assessment because of the importance parents place on these services to provide childcare for their children during the school holidays.

Range of services provided - Provision was available at nine locations during the summer holidays, three in Monmouth, two each in Abergavenny, Caldicot and Chepstow; there is no provision in Usk & Raglan. The intention is that four of these settings will operate in each of the school holidays.

Number and type of child places filled (full time, part time, ad-hoc) – There were a total of 560 places available across the four areas and 1,322 children attended this provision during the summer holidays 2021. All places were required to be booked in advance and the majority of places were taken up on a part time or ad hoc basis.

Vacancies and waiting lists – As places were booked in advance for both schemes, waiting lists were managed and attendance was not at capacity for any provision. It is estimated that another 400 children could have been accommodated over the summer holidays to maximise capacity.

Number of Welsh language places filled - There are no Welsh language places available, all providers describe themselves as English only.

Opening times and range of session lengths – The Monmouthshire Games were open from 8am – 5pm for five weeks of the summer holidays. The School Holiday Enrichment Programme was open from 9:30am – 2:30pm for four weeks during the summer holidays.

Age range of children – All provision was available to children aged between 5 and 11 years, breakdown of take up by age was not available.

Range of charges - There was no cost to attend the School Holiday Enrichment Programme. The Monmouthshire Games cost £20.50 per day; this equates to as little as £2.28 per hour if a child attends for a full day. There was also some funding to provide free places for 36 vulnerable children.

Number of places filled by children who have additional learning needs or who require specialist care due to a disability - 50 children with additional learning needs or disability were supported to attend Monmouthshire Games and 42 to attend Summer Holiday Enrichment Programme.

Covid-19 Impact – Both the Monmouthshire Games and the School Holiday Enrichment Programme did not run in the summer 2020 as a direct result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The schemes were able to go ahead during summer holidays 2021 with various safety measures in place.

Summary of Key Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths:

- The provision offered during the school holidays was well attended and it is intended to offer similar provision during future school holidays.
- There is support available to enable vulnerable children and those with additional learning needs or a disability to attend.
- Over half of the provision available is free of charge and the other provision is relatively cheap when compared with registered childcare.

Weaknesses:

- There is no play provision outside of the four main towns of Monmouthshire and there is no provision in the Usk & Raglan area.
- The provision is unavailable during term time and the School Holiday Enrichment Programme is only available in the summer holidays.
- There is no Welsh medium or bilingual open access play provision in Monmouthshire.
- The provision is only available to children aged 5 – 11 years.

Nannies

Analysis of Supply of Childcare Provision

There are currently two nannies registered in Monmouthshire and neither of these, or any other nannies, advertise through the Family Information Service. We have promoted this through social media and asked them to share their details with the FIS, but this hasn't been forthcoming; therefore, we were unable to collect any specific data relating to nannies.

Summary of Key Strengths and Weaknesses

There is a need for more information as to the availability of nannies within Monmouthshire and to encourage existing nannies to register through the voluntary approval scheme.

Foundation Phase Nursery Provision (FPN)

Number of schools and childcare providers funded to provide Foundation Phase Nursery places – In Monmouthshire, children can access their entitlement to free part time early education (FPN) at either a Local Authority maintained nursery class or an approved non-maintained childcare setting. We currently have 12 LA nurseries and 26 approved non-maintained childcare providers; these settings are spread throughout all areas of Monmouthshire. The majority of the non-maintained settings are registered as full day care, there are only 4 sessional care providers but all settings offer sessional care, if requested. In Monmouthshire, we don't currently use childminders to deliver early education.

Two of the Local Authority nurseries operate through the medium of Welsh, one in Abergavenny and one in Caldicot. None of the approved non-maintained settings operate through the medium of Welsh, they are all English with some bilingual elements.

Number of Foundation Phase Nursery places filled, required and available – There are currently 1,416 Foundation Phase Nursery places available in Monmouthshire; 696 of these places are in non-maintained childcare settings and 720 are in LA school nurseries. Take up of places is at its highest in the summer term, as this is when there are the most eligible children. Take up of places in the summer term 2021 is recorded in the table below and compared with places available:

Childcare Type	Abergavenny		Caldicot		Chepstow		Monmouth		Usk & Raglan		Total	
	Places	Take up	Places	Take up	Places	Take up	Places	Take up	Places	Take up	Places	Take up
Full Day Care	141	155	140	87	90	90	74	69	145	91	590	492
Sessional Care	48	32	0	0	58	41	0	0	0	0	106	73
LA Nursery	210	134	270	202	120	83	120	62	0	0	720	481
Total	399	321	410	289	268	214	194	131	145	91	1,416	1,046

The overall take up of places has reduced compared to previous years, there were 1,046 places taken up in the summer term 2021 (74% of places) compared with 1,220 places in the summer term 2019 (86% of places). This is partly due to the drop in the birth rate and partly to the introduction of the Childcare Offer, as 20 hours is sufficient for some families so they are choosing to keep them at their existing setting rather than move them to an approved Foundation Phase Nursery provider or school nursery. Take up of FPN has also been impacted by the pandemic; some parents are now working from home and no longer need childcare, others are making alternative arrangements as they are reluctant to use childcare provision due to infection rates.

In all areas, apart from Caldicot, there are more children accessing their Foundation Phase Nursery place in approved non-maintained settings rather than LA school nurseries. The highest number of FPN places taken up is in the Abergavenny area, this is also the area with the lowest percentage of surplus

places (20%), along with Chepstow. Take up of places is monitored by geographical area on a termly basis and it has been relatively consistent for a number of years. Additional childcare settings are only approved to provide Foundation Phase Nursery places when a need has been highlighted in a specific geographical area. The reason for this is to ensure there are sufficient places in all areas, whilst keeping surplus places to a minimum to improve the sustainability of settings and schools.

Number of parents not claiming their free entitlement and reasoning – Less than 2% of respondents to the parental survey stated they were not claiming their free entitlement to early education (FPN). The reasons given for this were that one parent preferred to use a childcare setting that was not approved for Foundation Phase Nursery and one parent was not aware of this entitlement. Based on the take up of places when compared with live birth data, there are not a large number of Monmouthshire children that are not accessing their free entitlement to early education (FPN). It is estimated that approximately 75% of eligible children accessed their entitlement to free part time Foundation Phase Nursery provision in the summer term 2021. Again, this is slightly lower than previous years, as take up in the summer term 2019 and the years preceding this was nearer 85% of eligible children.

Childcare required by parents to enable them to claim their full entitlement – There were 8 respondents to the survey who asked for Foundation Phase Nursery provision to be available for longer hours each day to enable them to fit in with working hours. Many of our approved Foundation Phase Nursery providers are registered for full day care and offer wrap around childcare. Many of our sessional care settings and LA nurseries have arrangements with other childcare providers who will collect from the setting and provide wrap around childcare in order to try and address this issue.

Summary of Key Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths:

- There is a good range of Foundation Phase Nursery providers so parents can choose the type that best suits their needs.
- Monmouthshire has cross border arrangements in place with all six neighbouring authorities (in England and Wales) so parents can access provision across the border if this is more convenient.
- Provision with non-maintained childcare providers is very flexible; children only have to attend for three sessions a week in order to access funding and their entitlement can be shared across more than one setting.
- Wrap around childcare is available with most providers to meet the needs of working parents.
- Take up of Foundation Phase Nursery provision is very good.

Weaknesses:

- There is no flexibility within LA school nurseries, children must attend for either five morning or five afternoon sessions a week and many schools don't have wrap around provision on site.
- There is a lack of Welsh medium Foundation Phase Nursery places, particularly within non-maintained childcare settings.

The Childcare Offer

Number of childcare providers registered to provide the Childcare Offer - We currently have 74 childcare providers within Monmouthshire registered for the Childcare Offer, this can be broken down as indicated in the table below:

	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	Total
Childminder	10	8	7	8	2	35
Full Day Care	9	7	4	5	4	29
Sessional Care	2	2	2	3	1	10
Total	20	20	14	12	5	74

There are also 63 childcare providers situated out of county that are registered to provide Childcare Offer places for Monmouthshire children; however, of these, only 29 are currently funded for children through the Childcare Offer.

Attendance profile of children accessing the Childcare Offer – In the autumn term 2021, there were 418 children that accessed the Childcare Offer. Take up is always at its lowest in the autumn term as there are less eligible children. Take up was 553 in the spring term 2021 and 601 in the summer term 2021, when take up tends to be at its highest.

	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	Out of County	Total
Childminder	8	9	6	12	-	-	35
Full Day Care	76	83	67	35	45	39	345
Sessional Care	15	11	4	3	-	5	38
Total	99	103	77	50	45	44	418

The highest take up of children using Childcare Offer funding is in the Caldicot area (25%), closely followed by the Abergavenny area (24%). Approximately 10% of Monmouthshire children using Childcare Offer funding access a setting in another local authority.

Number of parents not accessing the Childcare Offer and reasoning – 76 respondents (17.2%) of the parental survey stated that they were accessing the Childcare Offer but only 2 respondents (0.5%) stated they were not claiming the Childcare Offer. The reason given for this was that they choose not to use childcare as they don't need it. There were no other comments in the parental survey specifically related to the Childcare Offer.

Summary of Key Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths:

- Most parents appear to be aware of the Childcare Offer.
- Uptake of this scheme is good as approximately half of all 3 to 4 year olds accessed this funding in the autumn term 2021.
- More than 85% of childcare providers are registered for the Childcare Offer and this is spread across all childcare types and areas of the county.
- Families are able to access provision across the border if this is more convenient.
- There are 24 providers across Monmouthshire that are able to offer both Foundation Phase Nursery places and the Childcare Offer, so parents can access the full 30 hours at one setting; 14 of these childcare settings are also open during school holidays.
- Anecdotally, the Childcare Offer funding has helped several parents in Monmouthshire start or return to work or study.

Weaknesses:

- With Monmouthshire being so close to the border of England, there are many English families who wish to use childcare in Monmouthshire but are unable to access funding through the Childcare Offer.
- There are many rules and complications surrounding the Offer and its application process leading to much confusion amongst some parents.
- Many parents assume they will get the full 30 hours at any provision they wish, and this is not necessarily the case.
- The Childcare Offer doesn't benefit many of our vulnerable families, particularly those where parents or carers are unemployed.
- The Childcare Offer is not accessible until the term following a child's birthday, many parents could benefit from it when their children are younger and childcare is at its most expensive.

Flying Start Provision

There are only a small number of childcare providers funded to provide Flying Start in Monmouthshire, as the number of families eligible for Flying Start is much lower than other local authorities. All of the Flying Start only providers are run by the Local Authority and they are registered as sessional care. There is one LA Flying Start setting in each of the four main towns - Abergavenny, Caldicot, Chepstow and Monmouth. There is no Flying Start provision in Usk and Raglan as there are no eligible children in this area.

Childcare Type	Abergavenny		Caldicot		Chepstow		Monmouth		Total	
	Providers	Places	Providers	Places	Providers	Places	Providers	Places	Providers	Places
Full Day Care	1	6	0	0	0	0	2	12	3	18
Childminder	1	2	1	2	0	0	1	2	3	6
Flying Start Only Provision	1	16	1	20	1	12	1	20	4	68
Total	3	24	2	22	1	12	4	34	10	92

There is one full day care provider in Abergavenny that can provide childcare to Flying Start children through the medium of Welsh. Flying Start are working with Welsh medium settings in Caldicot and Monmouth with the intention of bringing them on board in the near future.

Number of places filled and required - According to the Flying Start Manager, all places in Abergavenny are taken up and the provision in Monmouth and Caldicot are both running at 80% capacity. Chepstow are currently only running at 50% capacity but take up changes on a termly basis.

Number of parents living in a Flying Start area who are accessing free childcare – Of the 149 respondents that answered this question in the parental survey, only 10.7% stated that they were accessing free childcare through Flying Start. The reasons given for not accessing free childcare suggests that most of these families were not eligible for Flying Start. According to data supplied to Welsh Government, the percentage of 2 year old children eligible to receive Flying Start in Monmouthshire is 16%.

Number of parents not accessing free childcare and reasoning – The main reasons given for not accessing free childcare is that they do not live in a Flying Start area or they do not know what Flying Start is (likely to be because they do not live in a Flying Start area.) One respondent stated they were unable to access Welsh medium Flying Start provision, two respondents do not need to access the provision and four respondents needed childcare that offered longer hours.

Summary of Key Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths:

- Take up of Flying Start places is good and most families who are eligible do access this provision.
- In Abergavenny, parents can choose between 3 different settings, including Welsh medium childcare.
- Children who access Flying Start generally receive the support they need in many areas, including health and education.

Weaknesses:

- In some areas, the type of childcare available that provides Flying Start places is limited to sessional care and this doesn't meet the needs of working parents.
- Welsh medium Flying Start childcare is currently only available in Abergavenny.
- Flying Start is not available in all areas; there are many vulnerable families in other areas of Monmouthshire that could benefit from this free provision but they are ineligible to do so.

Free Breakfast Club Provision

As at autumn term 2021, there were 27 primary schools in Monmouthshire that operated a free breakfast club; two additional schools have a fee paying before school childcare club serving the school instead. There is only one primary school in the Caldicot area of Monmouthshire that doesn't have access to a breakfast club of any kind. There are no free breakfast clubs at any secondary school in Monmouthshire.

Services & Take Up	Number of Clubs and Take Up by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	Total
Total Number of Breakfast Clubs	8	7	5	6	1	27
Average Attendance for Free Breakfast	293	139	160	155	46	793
Average Attendance for Before School Childcare	135	39	99	101	39	413

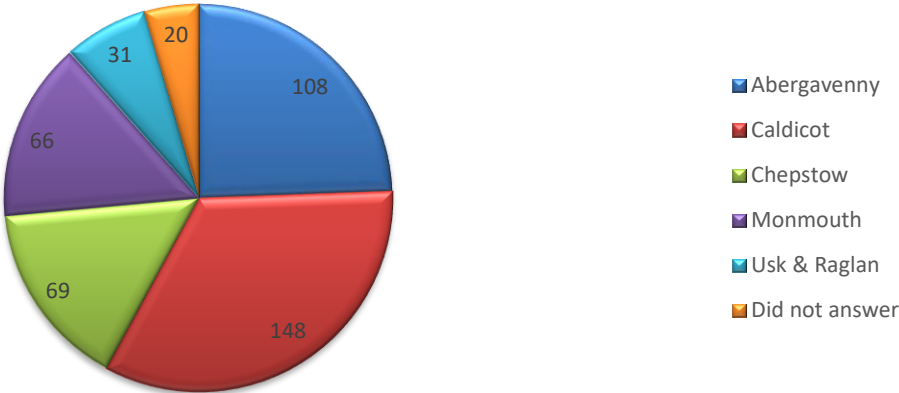
All 27 primary schools in Monmouthshire that participate in the free breakfast scheme also offer a fee paying childcare element for children that arrive before the free breakfast club commences; however, 3 of these primary schools didn't operate this provision during the autumn term 2021 due to Covid-19.

Understanding the Needs of Parents/ Carers

Number of Responses to the Parental Survey

- There were 443 responses received to the parental survey and these were spread across all areas of Monmouthshire.
- There were more responses received from the Caldicot area than any other area of Monmouthshire.
- This is a relatively low response rate when compared to the population of Monmouthshire and the number of families that we know are using childcare, so the information that can be obtained from it is limited and isn't necessarily representative of the entire childcare market.

Respondents By Area



Analysis of Current Use and Future Demand for Childcare Provision

Foundation Phase Nursery – There were 118 respondents who access early education (FPN) funding in Monmouthshire plus another 9 respondents who access the funding in another authority. The only reasons for parents not accessing the funding were that they were using a provider not approved for the funding (1) and they didn't know what it was (1). There were 8 parents that commented that the part time aspect of it was not suitable to support the needs of working parents and one respondent commented that it should be more widely available at more schools.

Flying Start – There were 16 respondents who stated that they access Flying Start provision and 133 respondents who have children of that age but do not access Flying Start; 15 respondents were not sure whether or not they use the provision. 44 respondents stated the reasons why they don't access Flying Start, with the most popular reason being that they are not eligible (12) or that it is not available in their area (12). 11 respondents stated that they did not know what Flying Start provision was and another 5 responded that the Flying Start childcare hours available were not long enough for their needs.

The Childcare Offer – Of the 82 respondents who have children of the right age, 78 (95%) of them are accessing the Childcare Offer. Only 3 respondents said that they did not access the funding and the reasons were that they didn't require childcare (1), they didn't work so were not eligible (1) and one respondent didn't answer the question.

Children who have additional learning needs or a disability – 41 respondents stated their child has a disability, 61 respondents stated their child had a special educational or additional learning needs. Although it is not clear from the survey how many of those use or require childcare provision, there were 4 respondents that wished their childcare was better at meeting their child's additional needs and there were 16 respondents that commented that there was a lack of suitable childcare for children with additional learning needs.

Childcare used in term time - In term time, the most utilised type of childcare is informal free childcare with family or friends (25%), closely followed by private day nurseries (22%) and breakfast clubs (14%). Nobody reported using a drop off creche or an au pair. 66 respondents (9%) reported not using childcare during term time.

Childcare used in school holidays - In school holidays, the most utilised type of childcare again is informal free childcare with family or friends (37%) followed by private day nurseries (25%) and holiday care (19%). No respondents used a cylch meithrin or a drop off creche. 6 respondents stated they use a playgroup, but they must be using a full day care provider, as we have no sessional care open during school holidays. 56 respondents (10%) recorded that they did not use any childcare during the school holidays but there were also 70 fewer responses for those using childcare during school holidays compared to term time, so presumably the actual number is higher than this. It is likely that some respondents would refer to the play provisions running throughout the county as holiday care or playscheme provision, even though it's not classified as that.

Number of hours childcare is used – The most common number of hours that childcare is used during term time is between 6 and 10 hours (18% of respondents), followed by 0 – 5 hours (16%) and then 26 – 30 hours (15%). The highest number of hours used per week during term time was 60 hours. During school holidays, the most common number of hours that childcare is used is between 0 – 5 hours (17%) followed by 26 – 30 hours (16%). The highest number of hours used per week during school holidays was 80 hours.

Childcare costs – The highest number of respondents (26%) spent between £100 - £199 on childcare per week, closely followed by 19% of respondents who spend between £50 and £99 per week. 17% of respondents do not spend anything on childcare each week but 5% of respondents spend £300 or more on childcare each week.

Childcare satisfaction – Over half (56%) of all respondents were very satisfied with the childcare providers they currently use. 120 respondents (33%) were quite satisfied with the childcare provision accessed. There were only 7% of respondents that were either quite or very dissatisfied with the childcare provision they use.

Improvements to childcare – 59 respondents stated that there are areas of childcare provision that needed to be improved. These included that childcare needed to be more affordable (15%), earlier mornings available (14%), later evenings available (14%), more flexible sessions available (12%) and better quality provision (12%). Reasons added in on top of the drop down list included that the childcare they need doesn't exist (8%) and that parents required more support from providers (2%).

Reasons for not accessing childcare – There were 297 respondents who explained the reasons why they do not access childcare. The most common response from 17% of parents was that childcare is too expensive. This was closely followed (16%) by parents using informal childcare such as a family member or friend. Other reasons were being a stay at home parent and having no need for childcare (8%) and the childcare available not being flexible enough for their needs (8%).

Number of Welsh medium places used – 89% of respondents stated that they did not use childcare through the medium of Welsh, 5% do use Welsh medium provision and 6% were unsure. Of the respondents that didn't access Welsh medium childcare, 9% would like to and 17% would consider it. 63% of respondents stated they wanted to use childcare in the medium of English. Even though there were only 66 respondents altogether who said they wanted to use or would consider using Welsh medium childcare, there were 85 respondents who gave reasons as to the issues they face not being able access the provision. The most common reason was the lack of availability of Welsh medium provision (45%), followed by distance (22%) and insufficient hours of care (14%).

Thoughts about childcare – The highest level of agreement to the statements was that childcare is too expensive (223 respondents) and that the quality of childcare is high (207). 185 respondents strongly agreed that they were satisfied with their childcare in term time and 179 respondents strongly agreed that childcare caters for their children's needs.

Work and study impact – There were 443 responses to the issues surrounding childcare that have affected them or their partner, the highest response was that childcare caused problems at work (47%). There were 17% of respondents that stated that childcare issues affected their continuation of work and 16% responded that childcare issues stopped them from working or getting a job.

Future childcare plans – 47% of respondents stated that they will need more childcare in the future. Of these, 18% of respondents think that they will need a private day nursery, followed by 17% needing a before school club and 17% needing an after school club. 23% think that the childcare they will need will stay the same as it is now.

Help towards childcare costs – 72% of respondents use childcare vouchers or tax free childcare to help them towards the cost of childcare, 23% still access the childcare element of the working tax credit or universal credit. The remainder of respondents access either a childcare grant for students, employer contribution for childcare or foster carer support.

Covid-19 impact – 9 respondents stated that they had childcare issues during the pandemic but that these had now been resolved. 2 respondents have commended that they will continue to use less childcare because they were concerned about covid-19 infections and disruptions.

Parental views on the childcare offered - There were an additional 185 comments made about childcare at the end of the survey with the most common one (14%) being that there is a general lack of childcare availability across Monmouthshire. Other comments were that there is a lack of early starts available (9%), a lack of after school care (8%) and a lack of reasonably priced or free childcare (8%).

Summary of Key Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths:

- Most eligible respondents have access to childcare funding through Flying Start provision, early education or the Childcare Offer.
- Many respondents are able to receive some type of help towards the cost of childcare.
- Most respondents are able to access the childcare provision they need in the area of their choosing.
- Most respondents are generally satisfied with the childcare they use both during term time and school holidays.
- Most respondents consider the childcare they access to be of a high quality.
- Many respondents have reliable childcare arrangements.
- Many respondents understand where to access information about childcare.

Weaknesses:

- Most respondents consider childcare to be too expensive.
- Many respondents have had problems at work or in training due to childcare issues.
- Some respondents consider there to be a lack of childcare availability and long waiting lists.
- Some respondents require longer and more flexible childcare arrangements that are currently not available.
- Some respondents with children who have an additional need are unable to find suitable childcare

Cross Border Provision

Monmouthshire County Council has cross border arrangements in place for Foundation Phase Nursery provision with all six neighbouring authorities, four in Wales and two in England; therefore, families are able to access their entitlement to free part time early education (FPN) in any of these local authorities.

The number of Monmouthshire children that we are aware of that accessed their Foundation Phase Nursery provision outside of the Local Authority during the autumn term 2021 was as follows:

Local Authority	Number of Monmouthshire Children
Newport	None that we are aware of
Torfaen	3
Blaenau-Gwent	None that we are aware of
Powys	None that we are aware of
Gloucestershire	13
Hereford	12
TOTAL	28

The breakdown of children from outside the Local Authority that accessed their Foundation Phase Nursery provision within Monmouthshire during the autumn term 2021 was as follows:

Local Authority	Number Attending Non-Maintained Setting	Number Attending LA Nursery	TOTAL
Newport	3	11	14
Torfaen	0	0	0
Blaenau-Gwent	1	2	3
Powys	1	4	5
Gloucestershire	0	2	2
Hereford	1	0	1
TOTAL	6	19	25

Of the 127 parental survey respondents that were accessing Foundation Phase Nursery provision, 9 respondents (7%) indicated that they were accessing this in an authority other than Monmouthshire.

We consulted with Family Information Service colleagues in nearby local authorities as part of this process to enquire in relation to any contact that they have had with Monmouthshire residents accessing childcare within their local authority or making enquiries. They all responded that they don't record whether an enquiry comes from another local authority, so they were unable to provide any useful data.

Based on the various sources of information and feedback we have received, it appears that the vast majority of Monmouthshire residents are able to access suitable childcare or Foundation Phase Nursery provision within the Local Authority. Those that want to access provision in a different local authority other than their own are able to do so. The reasons for this tends to be that it is the nearest setting to where they live, it is near to where they work so it is more convenient or it is nearer to family or friends that are providing informal wrap around childcare. The majority of those accessing Foundation Phase Nursery provision outside of Monmouthshire are attending a setting in Gloucestershire or Herefordshire. This may be due, in part, to the fact that they can access 15 hours free in England, whereas we only fund 10 hours in a non-maintained setting and 12.5 hours in an LA maintained school nursery.

Workforce Development

Information on workforce development obtained through the SASS questionnaire can be summarised as follows:

- According to the SASS data, there are currently 461 staff working within childcare settings in Monmouthshire - 51 childminders and their assistants, 303 staff in full day care settings, 55 in sessional care settings and 52 in out of school care.
- Only 11.7% of the childcare workforce in Monmouthshire have no formal childcare qualification but one of these (0.2%) is currently working towards a qualification; there may be more than this, as this wasn't specifically asked in the SASS.
- A further 13% of staff have stated they have a qualification relating to childcare or play but they haven't specified what qualification they have.
- According to the SASS data, the childcare type with the highest number and percentage of unqualified staff is full day care (15.2% of full day care workforce).
- 74 staff (16.1%) in childcare settings in Monmouthshire have a level 5 qualification and almost three quarters of these are working in full day care; a further practitioner is working towards a level 5 qualification.
- 46.6% of the childcare workforce have a level 3 qualification and 11.7% have a Level 2 qualification.
- 45.1% of childminders have a CYPOP 5, 15.7% have a level 2 qualification, 45.1% have a level 3 qualification and 7.8% have a level 5 qualification.
- 64% of staff working in full day care are qualified at level 3 or higher and a further 9.2% have a level 2 qualification.
- The majority of sessional care workers (45.5%) have a level 3 qualification, 30.9% have a level 2 qualification and 21.8% have a level 5 qualification.
- In registered out of school settings, 5.8% of staff have a level 5 qualification, 69.8 % have a level 3 qualification and 1.9% have a level 2 qualification. The percentages would be lower if all unregistered settings were included, as the lack of suitably qualified staff is often a barrier to registration.
- There has been a high turnover of childcare staff in the last year with 115 practitioners leaving their employment. There are also 31 childcare staff currently on zero hour contracts.

Monmouthshire Early Years organise a training programme each year to ensure that there are sufficient courses available across Monmouthshire that can be accessed by the childcare workforce. Courses offered during the summer term 2021 included Behaviour Management, Safeguarding, Food Hygiene, Paediatric First Aid, Manual Handling, ALN, Outdoor Play and Incontinence Support. Due to the Covid pandemic, the majority of training courses since March 2020 have been held online or through a blend of online and face to face learning. We have previously funded the Transition to Playworks qualification for childcare practitioners working in play settings, to ensure settings were able to meet CIW regulations and we would be happy to do so again if there was a need for it.

Childcare settings in Monmouthshire are reporting significant difficulties in recruiting and retaining qualified staff; this message has been echoed by the umbrella organisations.

Covid-19 and Sustainability

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on childcare settings in Monmouthshire. The SASS asked a number of questions in relation to this and the responses are summarised in the table below.

Childcare Type	Percentage of Settings with a Positive Case	Percentage of Settings that Closed Temporarily Due to Covid-19	Percentage of Settings Satisfied with Supply of PPE	Percentage of Settings Reporting an Impact on Training or Staff Ratios
Childminders	5%	66%	91%	20%
Full Day Care	42%	84%	94%	52%
Sessional Care	25%	67%	83%	17%
Out of School Care	40%	100%	100%	60%

Well under half of all childcare providers reported a positive case in their setting when they completed their SASS return in the summer term 2021. We are aware, however, that there were more cases in the autumn term 2021 and the beginning of the spring term 2022, so the actual number is significantly higher than this. Overall, 79% of providers closed temporarily due to Covid-19, but this doesn't include the childminders that have permanently closed during the pandemic, many of these as a direct result of Covid-19. The majority of full day care and out of school care providers reported that Covid-19 has had an impact on training or staffing ratios. The childcare type that appears to have been most affected by the Covid-19 pandemic is out of school care.

During the academic year 2020-2021, take up of childcare places was lower across all childcare types, although full day care settings were least affected. This was largely due to the fact that more parents and carers were working from home and didn't necessarily need childcare. There was also anxiety around infection rates, so some families chose to make alternative arrangements that they felt were less risky. Again, the childcare type most affected by this was out of school care. Take up of childcare places has increased during the academic year 2021-22 but after school clubs are still seeing a reduced demand for places, which could cause sustainability issues for some providers in the future.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a financial impact on childcare providers; however, the sustainability grants and other funding streams that have been available to settings has significantly reduced this impact and, at present, we don't have any childcare providers in Monmouthshire that are reporting that they are facing financial difficulties. During the financial year 2020-2021, a total of £183,792 was awarded in sustainability grants and this was shared between 39 settings; this can be broken down as 5 childminders, 18 full day care settings, 6 sessional care settings and 10 out of school providers. To date, in the financial year 2021-2022, a total of £94,184 has been awarded in sustainability grants to 22 settings; this can be broken down as 4 childminders, 9 full day care settings, 3 sessional care settings and 6 out of school providers.

Gap Analysis & Areas for Improvement

On the whole, the quality of childcare provision in Monmouthshire is very good and there is sufficient provision to meet the needs of most families; however, there are some gaps in provision that have been identified and need to be addressed.

Childcare Types and Location

The total number of childcare providers in Monmouthshire has fluctuated over the last six years, as illustrated in the table below:

Childcare Type	Number of Childcare Providers by Year					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Childminders	46	54	64	60	52	44
Full Day Care	23	24	25	27	30	31
Sessional Care	18	19	20	17	13	12
Out of School Care	18	20	20	22	20	25
Open Access Play	8	8	8	8	8	9
Creches	1	0	0	0	0	0
Nannies	0	0	0	0	2	2
Total	114	125	137	134	125	123

Although there are more settings than there were when we last completed the full CSA in 2017, the total number of childcare providers has decreased every year since 2019. It is thought that this is largely a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and it is hoped this picture will improve as we start to move out of the pandemic.

Despite this, there appears to be sufficient childcare places in all areas of Monmouthshire to meet the current demand. There is a good range of services offered by these providers and they are generally flexible enough to meet the needs of families.

The geographical distribution of childcare provision in Monmouthshire is good and is relative to the population and characteristics of each area. The highest number of childcare settings are situated in Abergavenny and Caldicot, then Chepstow and Monmouth, with Usk & Raglan having the fewest number of settings and childcare places.

Based on the data provided by childcare settings through their SASS return, then comparing this with the demand for childcare as evidenced through parental surveys and consultation responses from stakeholders, there appears to be sufficient provision of childminders, full day care, sessional care and after school care overall but there are small pockets where provision is tight.

Childminders is the one childcare type where we have seen a significant reduction in providers and places available over the last few years; the number of childminders has reduced by 31% from 64 in March 2019 to 44 at present. During our consultation with stakeholders, the PaCE Delivery Officer specifically raised this as a concern and reported that this has made it difficult for them to place children to enable parents or carers to access work or training opportunities.

Full day care is growing in Monmouthshire and places are spread throughout Monmouthshire, with providers in each of the five areas. The SASS data suggests that there are a significant number of vacancies, but this seems to be contradicted by the number of children on waiting lists, many of whom are at the same settings that are reporting vacancies. Our conversations with full day care providers suggest that demand for places has increased in the last few years, particularly for younger children below the age of 3; this is particularly noticeable in day nurseries. The rollout of free childcare for 2 year olds is likely to increase this demand, so there may be a need for more childcare places in full day care settings in the future.

The number of sessional care providers has reduced by 33% in the last 5 years but this is mainly due to the fact that many providers have changed their registration to full day care in order to meet the needs and demands of working parents, with families requesting longer hours since the introduction of the Childcare Offer. We have lost two sessional care settings in rural areas, who were forced to close due to consistently low demand. Sessional care is not available in Usk & Raglan but there are full day care settings and childminders in this area providing sessional care, so it is not a significant gap and has not been raised as a concern by stakeholders or through the parental survey. Again, the rollout of free childcare for 2 year olds may increase the demand for sessional care and there may be a need to develop additional provision or expand the existing provision.

There are free breakfast clubs at more than 90% of primary schools, so there is very little demand for before school care and there is only one primary school in Caldicot that doesn't have some form of before school care on site. The majority of after school clubs are now registered with CIW, so parents can access financial support to help towards the cost of their childcare. Although there is more after school provision in Abergavenny than any other area of Monmouthshire, demand appears to be higher and we have recently been contacted by parents in this area who have been unable to find after school care to meet their needs. There is a limited supply of holiday clubs and they are not available in all areas of Monmouthshire; however, many childminders and full day care settings are also providing holiday care and this has not been raised as a concern through the parental survey.

There is no registered open access play provision in Monmouthshire and the unregistered play provision is only available during school holidays; there is no play provision in the Usk & Raglan area.

The one creche that was registered with CIW when the SASS was completed has since deregistered and is no longer open. We are not aware of any unregistered creches operating in Monmouthshire.

There are only two nannies in Monmouthshire that are registered through the voluntary approval scheme and we have no information relating to any nannies that are operating within the authority, although we know that there are parents using a nanny for childcare.

Areas for Improvement:

- *Support existing childminders to stem the flow of de-registrations and recruit new childminders in all areas of Monmouthshire.*
- *Continue to monitor take up of places in full day care and sessional care settings and extend existing provision or develop additional provision, to cater for the rollout of free childcare for all 2 year olds.*
- *Develop or expand after school care in the Abergavenny area.*
- *Increase the number of holiday clubs and the range of childcare available during school holidays.*
- *Open access play is required during term time, as well as school holidays, and this provision must be accessible to families living in Usk & Raglan or more rural areas.*
- *More information is needed in relation to nannies operating in Monmouthshire.*

Age Range

There are only 55 children aged under 1 accessing childcare in Monmouthshire and 89% of these are attending a full day care setting. 80% of the 322 children age 1 year who are accessing childcare are also doing so at a full day care setting.

The majority of places in sessional care are taken up by 2 year olds; nevertheless, this only accounts for 20% of all 2 year olds that are accessing childcare, whereas 67% are accessing childcare at a full day care setting.

According to the SASS data, there are 1,120 childcare places accessed by children aged 3 – 4 years, although some of these may be the same children accessing multiple settings. Population data for 2020 suggests that there are 1,795 children aged 3 – 4 years, so it appears that approximately 62% of this age group are currently accessing childcare.

The majority of children aged 5 – 11 years that are accessing childcare are doing so at an out of school club (77% for 5-7 years olds and 88% for 8 – 11 year olds).

Play and care provision is only available for children aged 5 – 11 years.

There are very few children aged under 5 accessing holiday clubs; nevertheless, most childminders and more than 40% of full day care settings offer holiday care and there are places available in all areas of Monmouthshire for this age group.

Childminders are able to accommodate the largest age range of children, from 0 – 14 years. According to the SASS data, there are no childminders that can accommodate children aged 15 – 17 years; however, there is currently no demand for places for this age group. There is only one childminder that states they can accommodate children aged 12 – 14 years but, again, there is very little demand for this age group.

There are no significant areas for improvement in relation to age range.

Opening Hours

Most childminders and full day care settings offer a range of session lengths in order to meet the individual needs of families during the typical working day.

The majority of childminders and full day care providers operate between the hours of 8.30am and 5.30pm and there are providers in each area of Monmouthshire that operate from 8am and up until 6pm.

There are 17 childminders and 9 full day care settings that open before 8am and one of these offers childcare as early as 6am. There is one childminder in Caldicot that is open until 10pm but there is no childcare available after 10pm or at weekends and only one childminder in Abergavenny that says they would be willing to consider overnight care.

11 of the 14 after school clubs are open until 6pm; one is only open until 5pm as they are not registered so have to run under two hours but this doesn't necessarily meet the needs of most working families.

Only 8% of respondents to the parental survey stated that the reason they didn't access childcare was because the childcare available isn't flexible enough to meet their needs. 14% of respondents felt that childcare could be improved if there were earlier mornings and later evenings available and 12% stated that more flexible childcare would be an improvement.

Area for Improvement:

- *More provision is required during atypical hours such as before 8am, after 6pm, overnight and at weekends.*

Welsh Medium Childcare Provision

There is a significant shortage of Welsh medium childcare provision in Monmouthshire. There is only one cylch meithrin in Abergavenny offering full day care, two cylch meithrin in Caldicot and Monmouth offering sessional care and one bilingual childminder setting in Abergavenny. There used to be an after school club attached to the Welsh medium school in Abergavenny but this closed during the pandemic and hadn't reopened at the time the SASS was completed. There is no out of school care or open access play provision operating through the medium of Welsh.

All full day care and sessional care providers that are not Welsh medium settings describe themselves as English with some bilingual elements. Nevertheless, the majority of childminders (64%) and out of school providers (68%), and all play provision is described as being English only.

Of the 85 respondents who gave reasons as to the issues they face not being able to access Welsh medium childcare, 45% stated that there was a lack of availability of Welsh medium provision, 22% stated it was the distance and 14% said there were insufficient hours of childcare.

Areas for Improvement:

- *Encourage existing Welsh medium providers to extend their hours and to consider providing childcare during school holidays.*
- *Develop Welsh medium childcare provision of all childcare types to ensure there is provision in all areas of Monmouthshire.*
- *Encourage all childcare settings to provide at least some bilingual elements.*
- *Increase the number of Welsh medium Flying Start places.*

Childcare Provision for Different Language Categories

According to the population data in December 2020, 96.5% of the Monmouthshire population are White British, Irish or other and only 3.5% are Black, Asian or other ethnic minority; hence, it would be difficult to develop sustainable childcare provision in different languages and it is not necessary to meet the current demands of families in the local authority.

One childminder states that they use French at their setting and two full day care settings use Spanish but it is likely that this to provide learning opportunities for the children rather than meeting an individual language need of a child in their setting.

There are no significant areas for improvement in relation to different languages, other than English or Welsh.

Affordability of Childcare

Affordability is highlighted by parents and stakeholders as a barrier to childcare.

50% of respondents to the parental survey agreed with the statement that childcare is too expensive and the most popular reason given for not accessing childcare was that it is too expensive, this was mentioned by 17% of respondents. 15% of respondents felt that childcare could be improved if it was more affordable.

Of those respondents that indicated they are receiving help towards the cost of childcare, 72% are using childcare voucher schemes and tax free childcare, whilst 23% still access the childcare element of working tax credit or universal credit.

Almost all childcare provision in Monmouthshire, apart from two after school clubs, are registered with CIW so parents and carers are able to access funding towards the cost of their childcare.

86% of childminders, 97% of full day care providers and 50% of sessional care settings are registered for the Childcare Offer. Take up of Childcare Offer funding is very good in Monmouthshire.

Areas for Improvement:

- *Encourage and support existing out of school clubs and any new childcare settings that are developed to register with CIW.*
- *Support childcare settings to move over to the new digital system for the Childcare Offer.*
- *Continue to promote the various schemes and financial support that is available to parents and carers to help with the cost of childcare.*

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment – Action Plan

The Action Plan has been developed to address gaps highlighted in this Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and to reduce barriers that are preventing families from accessing childcare in Monmouthshire

Target	Why is it Required?	How will it be Achieved?	How will it be Monitored?	Timescale
Register 10 new childminders across Monmouthshire and support existing providers to at least maintain the current level of provision.	<p>There is always a high turnover of childminders due to the transient nature of the job, but this was even more of an issue during the pandemic and the total number of childminders has reduced significantly.</p> <p>Childminders are best placed to provide childcare during atypical hours.</p>	<p>Work with Pacey on a recruitment campaign and promote this widely.</p> <p>Provide childminder briefing sessions and ongoing support through the registration process.</p> <p>Continue to offer financial support for CYPOP5 training and start-up grants.</p>	<p>Number of newly registered childminders and de-registered childminders will be monitored through CIW monthly reports.</p> <p>Monitor take up of CYPOP training and number of childminder start-up grants awarded on a termly basis.</p>	March 2025
Develop 3 full day care or sessional care providers or extend existing provision to offer more places for 2 year olds.	<p>Places for children under 5 years of age are tight in some areas of Monmouthshire and, although there are vacant sessions, it is not always possible to offer a full time place.</p> <p>The rollout of free childcare for all 2 year olds is likely to exacerbate this situation.</p>	<p>Monitor take up of places in full day care and sessional care settings through take up of Flying Start, FPN and Childcare Offer, as well as regular communication with providers.</p> <p>Offer advice and support along with financial incentives to develop new provision or increase places.</p>	<p>Number of settings will be monitored through CIW monthly reports and take up of places will be monitored termly.</p> <p>Development grants will be monitored through CSG quarterly reports.</p>	September 2025

Develop an after school club in the Abergavenny area or increase the number of after school places offered at an existing setting.	Feedback received from parents is that there is a shortage of after school places in some parts of Abergavenny, particularly those that operate until at least 5.30pm to meet the needs of working parents.	Childcare Development Officer will work closely with Clybiau Plant Cymru to develop additional after school provision. Development grants will be provided.	Number of settings will be monitored through CIW monthly reports and take up of places will be monitored termly. Development grants will be monitored through CSG quarterly reports.	March 2023
Develop an additional 2 holiday clubs in different areas of Monmouthshire.	There is a need to increase the range of childcare available during school holidays to meet the needs of working parents.	Childcare Development Officer will work closely with existing providers to expand their provision. Offer financial incentives such as development and sustainability grants to cover start up costs and a proportion of running costs.	This will be included as a target for the Childcare & Play Grant and monitored through quarterly progress reports.	July 2024
Develop open access play provision in Usk & Raglan and rural areas.	Open access play is currently only available in the four main towns and there is nothing available during term time.	Work closely with the Play Monitoring Group to extend the provision of open access play across the authority.	This will be reviewed and monitored as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment.	March 2025
Increase the opening hours of at least 1 existing childcare provider in each of the 5 areas to include atypical hours such as before 8am, after 6pm, overnight and at weekends.	There is a lack of childcare available to meet the needs of parents who work atypical hours such as shift workers and those that work at weekends.	Offer financial incentives to encourage existing childcare providers to extend their opening hours and to provide childcare during atypical hours.	FIS will send update forms to childcare providers annually and the childcare supply will be updated accordingly and compared with the previous year.	March 2027

<p>Establish a cylch meithrin in Chepstow and another in Usk & Raglan so that each of the five areas of Monmouthshire has Welsh medium pre-school provision.</p>	<p>There is currently no Welsh medium pre-school provision in Chepstow or Usk & Raglan.</p> <p>Lack of Welsh medium provision and distance from existing provision has been raised by parents as a reason for not accessing Welsh medium childcare.</p>	<p>Monmouthshire Early Years will work closely with Mudiad Meithrin to develop additional Welsh medium pre-school provision.</p> <p>Offer financial incentives such as development and sustainability grants to cover start up costs and a proportion of running costs.</p>	<p>The number of Welsh medium childcare places is included in the Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and this is reviewed termly.</p>	<p>March 2027</p>
<p>Encourage existing Welsh medium providers to extend their hours and to consider providing childcare during school holidays.</p>	<p>There is not sufficient Welsh medium childcare provision, in particular full day care and childcare during school holidays, to meet the needs of working parents.</p>	<p>Monmouthshire Early Years will work closely with Mudiad Meithrin and the existing providers to expand the provision of Welsh medium childcare provision.</p> <p>Development grants will be provided.</p>	<p>The number of Welsh medium childcare places is included in the Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and this is reviewed termly.</p>	<p>March 2027</p>
<p>Open after school provision in the 2 Welsh medium primary schools.</p>	<p>There is currently no Welsh medium out of school care available in Monmouthshire.</p>	<p>Childcare Development Officer will work with Clybiau Plant Cymru and members of the Welsh Education Forum to develop after school provision.</p> <p>Offer financial incentives such as development and sustainability grants to cover start up costs and a proportion of running costs.</p>	<p>Number of childcare settings by type is monitored termly through the Service Business Plan and as part of the CSG progress report.</p>	<p>September 2024</p>

<p>Provide Welsh training and activities to enable at least 15 providers to change from English only to English with some bilingual elements.</p>	<p>There are a number of providers that describe themselves as English only and don't offer any bilingual elements.</p> <p>We are required to actively promote speaking Welsh.</p>	<p>Identify a suitable Welsh course, cover the cost of the training and promote with childcare providers.</p> <p>Produce a bank of Welsh activities for all ages to share with providers.</p>	<p>Attendance lists will be kept and follow up will be carried out to assess the impact this has had on settings.</p> <p>Annual SASS data will be monitored if it is available to the Local Authority.</p>	<p>March 2027</p>
<p>Encourage and support existing out of school clubs and any new childcare settings that are developed to register with CIW.</p>	<p>Parents and carers are unable to access funding to support with the cost of childcare if settings are not registered with CIW.</p> <p>In unregistered settings, it is difficult to ensure childcare is of a sufficient standard.</p>	<p>Childcare Development Officer to support existing clubs and new settings to take them through the CIW registration process.</p> <p>Training to be funded if this is the barrier preventing settings from registering.</p>	<p>Number of registered settings to be monitored through CIW monthly reports.</p> <p>Take up of training to be monitored through CSG quarterly progress reports.</p> <p>Staff qualifications to be monitored annually.</p>	<p>March 2025</p>
<p>Support childcare settings to move over to the new digital system for the Childcare Offer.</p>	<p>Take up of the Childcare Offer is very good in Monmouthshire and the majority of providers are registered to offer places through the Childcare Offer.</p> <p>The current system will be replaced with a digital system and providers will need to sign up from September 2022 to continue to offer funded places.</p>	<p>The move to the digital system will be widely promoted with settings and parents through social media and emails.</p> <p>Childcare Engagement Officer and Family Information Officer will run sessions to take providers through this process and offer advice by telephone or email.</p>	<p>Number of providers signed up to the digital Childcare Offer system will be monitored weekly from September onwards, moving to monthly once the system goes live.</p> <p>Providers who haven't signed up will be contacted and encouraged to do so.</p>	<p>December 2022</p>

<p>Continue to promote the Family Information Service and advertise the availability of financial support to assist with the cost of childcare.</p>	<p>According to the parental survey and consultation with stakeholders, affordability is the main barrier to accessing childcare in Monmouthshire</p> <p>There are many schemes available to support with the cost of childcare.</p>	<p>The Family Information Service will create a section on the MCC website and use social media to promote the availability of these schemes.</p>	<p>The Family Information Officer produces monthly reports including details of promotional activities. Users of the FIS website complete evaluation forms.</p> <p>Take up of Flying Start, FPN, Childcare Offer and Assisted Places are monitored termly.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Collate information on nannies in Monmouthshire and add this to the Dewis website.</p>	<p>There are only two nannies in Monmouthshire that are registered through the voluntary approval scheme and we have no information on non-registered nannies that are operating in Monmouthshire.</p>	<p>Social media campaign will take place to encourage nannies to contact us and agree to add their details on the Dewis website.</p> <p>Contact nanny organisations and ask them to promote this.</p>	<p>Number of nannies (both registered and non-registered) will be added to the termly report of the Service Business Plan and the CSA Progress Report.</p>	<p>September 2023</p>

Annex 1 – Childminder Supply Data

Summary of Provision (Registered and Unregistered Provision)

Childcare Type	Language of Provision					TOTAL
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other	
Total Childminders (Registered)	-	1	14	28	1	44
Total Childminders (Unregistered)	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	1	14	28	1	44

Services Provided	Language of Provision					TOTAL
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other	
Full Day Care	-	1	13	28	1	43
Morning Session	-	1	13	28	1	43
Afternoon Session	-	1	14	28	1	44
Before School	-	1	13	26	1	41
After School	-	1	14	28	1	44
Wrap Around	-	1	10	22	1	34
Holiday Provision	-	1	12	27	1	41

Childcare Types and Services - Geographical Distribution

Childcare Type and Services	Area of Provision					Total
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk	
Total Childminders	13	13	9	7	2	44
Full Day Care	12	13	9	7	2	43
Morning Session	12	13	9	7	2	43
Afternoon Session	13	13	9	7	2	44

Before School	11	13	9	7	1	41
After School	13	13	9	7	2	44
Wrap Around	9	10	7	6	2	34
Holiday Provision	12	10	8	7	2	39

Childcare Places – Capacity and Attendance – Term Time

Services	Number of Places by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk	TOTAL
Maximum Capacity	87	101	77	58	16	339
Full Day Care	81	101	77	58	16	333
Morning Session	81	101	77	58	16	333
Afternoon Session	87	101	77	58	16	339
Before School	81	101	77	58	10	327
After School	87	101	77	58	16	339
Wrap Around	54	89	65	52	16	276

Take Up	Number of Places by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk	TOTAL
Attending Full Time	14	9	3	19	3	48
Attending Part Time	67	79	90	41	14	291
Attending on an Ad Hoc Basis	19	10	1	2	0	32
Total	100	98	94	62	17	371

Childcare Places – Capacity – Holidays

	Number of Places by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Maximum Capacity during School Holidays	75	95	71	52	16	309

Childcare Places – Vacancies – Geographical Distribution

Services	Number of Vacancies by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Childminder Vacancies	51	51	65	22	-	189
Before School	18	15	10	8	-	51
After School	5	8	12	12	-	37
Full Day Care	14	10	13	2	-	39
Morning Session	7	10	13	-	-	30
Afternoon Session	7	8	17	-	-	32

Childcare Places – Waiting List (Term Time) – Geographical Distribution

Services	Number on Waiting Lists by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Before School	3	-	-	-	-	3
After School	-	-	-	-	-	-
Full Day Care	-	3	13	3	4	23
Morning Session	-	2	-	-	-	2
Afternoon Session	-	-	2	-	-	2
Total	3	5	15	3	4	30

Childcare Places – Waiting Lists (School Holidays) – Geographical Distribution

Services	Number on Waiting Lists by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Summer Holiday	4	-	-	2	-	6
October Half Term	3	-	-	-	-	3
Christmas Break	3	-	-	-	-	3
February Half Term	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easter Holidays	3	-	-	-	-	3
May Half Term	3	-	-	-	-	3

Age Range Accommodated and Geographical Distribution

Age Ranges	Number of Childminders by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Under 1 year	1	3	-	0	1	5
1 year	6	9	7	5	2	29
2 years	7	9	7	5	2	30
3 years	5	9	8	5	2	29
4 years	7	7	8	6	2	30
5-7 years	9	8	4	5	0	26
8-11 years	6	6	2	5	0	19
12-14 years	-	-	-	1	0	1

Geographical Distribution of Users by Age Range

Age Ranges	Take Up of Places by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Under 1 year	2	3	-	-	1	6
1 year	8	15	25	7	9	64
2 years	17	15	27	11	4	74
3 years	11	14	21	11	3	60
4 years	18	13	12	12	-	55
5-7 years	20	30	6	11	-	67
8-11 years	15	8	3	10	-	36
12-14 years	-	-	-	1	-	1
TOTAL	91	98	94	63	17	363

Range of Opening Hours

Length of Sessions		Number of Childminders by Area					
Start	Finish	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
06:00	18:00	1					1
07:00	17:00		1				1
07:00	18:00	1	1				2
07:00	18:15		1				1
07:15	17:30				1		1
07:30	17:30	1	1				2
07:30	17:45		1				1
07:30	18:00		1		2		3
07:30	18:30	1		2			3
07:30	22:00		1				1
07:45	17:45	1					1
08:00	16:00		1				1
08:00	17:00	3	3				6
08:00	17:15			1			1
08:00	17:30	1		3	3	1	8
08:00	18:00	2	2	3	1	1	9
08:30	18:00	1					1
15:30	18:00	1					1

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Childcare Operating Outside of Normal Working Hours

Provision of Care	Number of Childminders by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Childcare before 8am	4	7	2	3	-	16
Childcare after 6pm	1	1	2	-	-	4
Overnight Care	1	-	-	-	-	1

Range of Childcare Costs per Hour

Range of Costs per Service – Hourly Charge	Number of Childminders by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
£4.00	-	-	1	-		1
£4.50	1	8	2	3		14
£5.00	9	4	2	2	2	19
£5.15	1	-	-	-		1
£5.50	2	1	-	2		5
£6.00			2	-		2
£6.50	-	-	2			2

Additional Costs to the Service User for Food

Additional Charges	Number of Childminders by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Does not provide food	4	7	-	1	-	12
Charges an additional fee for Food and Snacks	5	3	1	2	1	12
Provides Food – does not charge extra	4	3	8	4	1	20

Sibling Discounts and Geographical Distribution

Sibling Discounts	Number of Childminders by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Discount for Siblings Available	3	3	3	1	-	10

Number of Children with Additional Learning Needs or Disability Cared for by Childminders – Geographical Distribution

Number of Children with Additional Learning Needs or Disability					
Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
2	-	4	2	-	8

There were no childminded children recorded as being funded due to an Additional Learning Need or Disability

Funding and Geographical Distribution

Funding	Number of Childminders by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Provide Flying Start places	1	1	-	1	-	3
Registered for the Childcare Offer	10	11	9	7	1	38
Currently receiving funding from the Childcare Offer	7	9	8	6	1	31
Registered for Tax Free Childcare / Childcare Vouchers	9	9	8	7	1	34
Approved for Early Years Part Time Education	-	-	-	-	-	-

Covid-19 Impact and Geographical Distribution

Covid-19 Impact	Number of Childminders by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Temporarily closed	7	8	9	5	0	29
Positive case(s) on premises	1	1	0	0	0	2
Sufficient PPE equipment	10	12	9	7	2	40
Impacted staff ratios	0	0	0	1	0	1
Training impacted	3	4	0	2	0	9

Annex 2 – Full Day Care Supply Data

Summary of Provision (Registered and Unregistered Provision)

Childcare Type	Language of Provision					
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other	TOTAL
Total Full Day Care (Registered)	1	-	28	-	2	31
Total Full Day Care (Unregistered)	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	-	28	-	2	31

Services Provided	Language of Provision					
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other	TOTAL
Full Day Nursery	-	-	15	-	2	17
Morning Session (am)	1	-	28	-	2	31
Afternoon Session (pm)	1	-	26	-	2	29
Before School	-	-	18	-	2	20
After School	-	-	14	-	2	16
Wrap Around	1	-	11	-	-	12
Lunch	1	-	26	-	2	29
Term Time Only	1	-	12	-	-	13
Holiday Provision	-	-	15	-	2	17

Childcare Types and Services - Geographical Distribution

Childcare Type and Services	Area of Provision					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	Total
Total Full Day Care	8	9	4	6	4	31
Full Day Nursery	5	6	3	2	1	17
Morning Session (am)	8	9	4	6	4	31
Afternoon Session (pm)	8	8	4	5	4	29

Before School	6	7	4	2	1	20
After School	5	5	3	2	1	16
Wrap Around	4	5	1	1	1	12
Lunch	8	8	4	5	4	29
Term Time Only	3	4	1	2	3	13
Holiday Provision	5	5	3	3	1	17

Childcare Places – Capacity and Attendance

Services	Number of Places by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Maximum Capacity	299	281	213	189	225	1,207
Full Day Nursery	233	216	195	94	150	888
Morning Session (am)	299	281	213	189	225	1,207
Afternoon Session (pm)	299	262	213	165	225	1,164
Before School	261	236	213	94	150	954
After School	233	197	195	94	150	869
Wrap Around	168	160	18	44	150	540
Lunch	299	262	213	165	225	1,164
Term Time Only	66	84	18	71	75	314
Holiday Provision	233	197	195	118	150	893

Take Up	Number of Places by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Attending Full Time	49	61	37	45	13	205
Attending Part Time	346	339	224	193	178	1,280
Attending on an Ad Hoc Basis	122	4	2	7	0	135
Total	517	404	263	245	191	1,620

Childcare Places – Vacancies – Geographical Distribution

Services	Number of Vacancies by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Full Day Care Vacancies	272	482	391	49	1,452	2,646
Full Day Nursery	46	89	174	23	459	791
Morning Session	31	99	217	12	459	818
Afternoon Session	45	146	-	9	459	659
Before School	7	97	-	-	67	171
After School	102	20	-	-	-	122
Lunch	-	25	-	5	8	38
Early Years Placement	41	6	-	-	-	47

Childcare Places – Waiting List (Term Time) – Geographical Distribution

Services	Number on Waiting Lists by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Full Day Care Vacancies	42	13	270	20	-	345
Full Day Nursery	23	8	4	5	-	40
Morning Session	9	4	3	5	-	21
Afternoon Session	4	1	263	5	-	273
Before School	-	-	-	-	-	-
After School	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lunch	-	-	-	-	-	-
Early Years Placement	6	-	-	5	-	11

Childcare Places – Waiting Lists (School Holidays) – Geographical Distribution

Services	Number on Waiting Lists by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Summer Holiday	-	-	-	-	-	-
October Half Term	5	-	-	-	-	5

Christmas Break	-	-	-	-	-	-
February Half Term	5	-	-	-	-	5
Easter Holidays	5	-	-	-	-	5
May Half Term	5	-	-	-	-	5

Age Range Accommodated and Geographical Distribution

Age Ranges	Number of Full Day Care Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Under 1 year	4	3	3	2	1	13
1 year	5	4	3	2	1	15
2 years	8	8	4	6	4	30
3 years	8	9	4	6	4	31
4 years	8	8	4	6	4	30
5-7 years	3	1	0	1	1	6
8-11 years	1	1	0	0	1	3
12-14 years	0	0	0	0	0	0

Geographical Distribution of Users by Age Range

Age Ranges	Take Up of Places by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Under 1 year	19	10	5	10	5	49
1 year	96	45	66	30	21	258
2 years	124	104	55	61	41	385
3 years	102	151	76	70	49	448
4 years	125	86	61	73	63	408
5-7 years	31	4	0	1	9	45
8-11 years	20	4	0	0	3	27
12-14 years	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	517	404	263	245	191	1,620

Range of Opening Hours

Length of Sessions		Number of Full Day Care Providers by Area					
Start	Finish	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
07:00	18:00	3			1		4
07:30	18:00	1		2	1		4
07:30	18:30		1				1
08:00	15:00		1	1			2
08:00	15:15		1			1	2
08:00	16:00	1					1
08:00	17:30		3				3
08:00	18:00	1	1	1		1	4
08:30	15:00					1	1
09:00	12:30		1				1
09:00	15:00	1			1		2
09:00	15:15	1					1
09:00	15:30		1		2		3
09:15	13:15				1		1
09:15	15:15					1	1
TOTAL		8	9	4	7	4	31

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Childcare Operating Outside of Normal Working Hours

Provision of Care	Number of Full Day Care Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Childcare before 8am	4	1	2	2	0	9
Childcare after 6pm	0	1	0	0	0	1
Overnight Care	0	0	0	0	0	0

Range of Childcare Costs per Hour

Range of Costs per Service – Hourly Charge	Number of Full Day Care Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
£4.00	1					1
£4.20				1		1
£4.50	1	3	1	1	1	7
£5.00	3	3	2	1	1	10
£5.15					1	1
£5.50	1			1	1	3
£6.00		2		2		4
£6.50		1	1			2
£7.55	1					1
£8.00	1					1

Additional Costs to the Service User for Food (Number of Full Day Care Providers) and Geographical Distribution

Additional Charges	Number of Full Day Care Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Does not provide food (child brings own)	0	0	0	2	1	3
Charges an additional fee for Food and Snacks	2	3	0	2	3	10
Provides Food – does not charge extra	6	6	4	2	0	18

Sibling Discounts and Geographical Distribution

Sibling Discounts	Number of Full Day Care Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Discount for Siblings Available	4	2	2	2	0	10

Number of Children with Additional Learning Needs or Disability Cared for by Full Day Care Providers – Geographical Distribution

Number of Children with Additional Learning Needs or Disability					
Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
10	16	5	7	8	46

Funding and Geographical Distribution

Funding	Number of Full Day Care Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Provide Flying Start places	1	0	0	2	0	3
Registered for the Childcare Offer	8	9	4	5	4	30
Currently receiving funding from the Childcare Offer	8	9	4	5	4	30
Registered for Tax Free Childcare / Childcare Vouchers	8	9	4	6	4	31
Approved for Early Years Part Time Education	6	6	3	3	4	22

Covid-19 Impact and Geographical Distribution

Covid-19 Impact	Number of Full Day Care Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Temporarily closed	6	8	2	6	4	26
Positive case(s) on premises	4	3	2	3	1	13
Sufficient PPE equipment	8	8	3	6	4	29
Impacted staff ratios	1	1	1	0	0	3
Training impacted	3	3	3	3	4	16

Annex 3 – Sessional Care Supply Data

Summary of Provision (Registered and Unregistered Provision)

Childcare Type	Language of Provision					
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other	TOTAL
Total Sessional Care (Registered)	2	-	10	-	-	12
Total Sessional Care (Unregistered)	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	-	10	-	-	12

Services Provided	Language of Provision					
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other	TOTAL
Morning Session (am)	-	-	10	-	-	10
Afternoon Session (pm)	2	-	2	-	-	4
Wrap Around		-	0	-	-	0
Lunch		-	0	-	-	0
Term Time Only	2	-	10	-	-	12
Holiday Provision	-	-	0	-	-	-

Childcare Types and Services - Geographical Distribution

Childcare Type and Services	Area of Provision					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk	Total
Total Sessional Care	3	3	4	2	-	12
Morning Session (am)	3	2	4	1	-	10
Afternoon Session (pm)	1	2	0	1	-	4
Wrap Around	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lunch	-	-	-	-	-	-
Term Time Only	3	3	4	2	-	12
Holiday Provision	-	-	-	-	-	-

Childcare Places – Capacity and Attendance

Services	Number of Places by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk	TOTAL
Maximum Capacity	80	65	88	36	-	269
Morning Session (am)	80	46	88	20	-	234
Afternoon Session (pm)	38	45	0	16	-	99
Wrap Around	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lunch	-	-	-	-	-	-
Term Time Only	80	65	88	36	-	269
Holiday Provision	-	-	-	-	-	-

Take Up	Number of Places by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk	TOTAL
Attending Full Time	0	23	71	16	-	110
Attending Part Time	111	29	52	20	-	212
Attending on an Ad Hoc Basis	0	0	0	0	-	0
Total	111	52	123	36	-	322

Childcare Places – Vacancies (Term Time) – Geographical Distribution

Services	Number of Vacancies by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Total Sessional Care Vacancies	157	18	95	-	-	270
Morning Session	23	8	95	-	-	126
Afternoon Session	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lunch	119	-	-	-	-	119
Early Years Placement	15	10	-	-	-	25

Childcare Places – Waiting List (Term Time) – Geographical Distribution

Services	Number on Waiting Lists by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Total Sessional Care	-	5	-	-	-	-
Morning Session	-	-	-	-	-	-
Afternoon Session	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lunch	-	5	-	-	-	5
Early Years Placement	-	-	-	-	-	-

Age Range Accommodated and Geographical Distribution

Age Ranges	Number of Sessional Care Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 years	3	1	4	2	-	10
3 years	2	2	3	1	-	8
4 years	2	2	2	1	-	7
5-7 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
8-11 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
12-14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-

Geographical Distribution of Users by Age Range

Age Ranges	Take Up of Places by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 years	41	28	33	15	-	117

3 years	29	10	33	4	-	76
4 years	41	14	15	3	-	73
5-7 years	-	-	-	-	-	
8-11 years	-	-	-	-	-	
12-14 years	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL	111	52	81	22	-	266

Range of Opening Hours

Length of Sessions		Number of Sessional Care Providers by Area					
Start	Finish	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
08:45	15:15	1				-	1
09:00	11:30	1		1			2
09:00	15:00		1				1
09:05	11:50	1				-	1
09:15	11:45		1		1	-	2
09:15	13:00			1			1
09:30	12:00			1			1
09:30	12:30			1			1
11:45	15:00		1			-	1
12:30	15:00				1	-	1
TOTAL		3	3	4	2	-	12

Range of Childcare Costs per hour

Range of Costs per Service – Hourly Charge	Number of Sessional Care Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Free	1	1	1	1	-	4
£2.65	-	-	-	1	-	1
£3.00	1	-	-	-	-	1

Range of Costs per Service – Hourly Charge	Number of Sessional Care Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
£3.25	-	-	1	-	-	1
£3.60	-	-	1	-	-	1
£4.00	1	1	1	-	-	3
£5.50	-	1	-	-	-	1

Additional Costs to the Service User for Food (Number of Sessional Care Providers) and Geographical Distribution

Additional Charges	Number of Sessional Care Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Does not provide food / snacks	-	2	-	-	-	2
Provides Food/ Snacks	-	-	3	1	-	4
Charges extra for Food / Snacks	3	1	1	1	-	6

Sibling Discounts and Geographical Distribution

	Number of Sessional Care Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Discount for Siblings Available	-	2	-	-	-	2

Number of Children with Additional Learning Needs or Disability Cared for by Sessional Care Providers and Geographical Distribution

Number of Children with Additional Learning Needs or Disability						
Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL	
4	2	0	0	-	6	

Funding and Geographical Distribution

Funding	Number of Sessional Care Providers					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Provide Flying Start places	-			-	-	-
Flying Start Provision Only	1	1	1	1	-	4
Registered for the Childcare Offer	2	2	1	1	-	6
Currently receiving funding from the Childcare Offer	2	2	1	1	-	6
Registered for Tax Free Childcare / Childcare Vouchers	1	1	3	1	-	6
Approved for Early Years Part Time Education	2	-	2	-	-	4

Covid-19 Impact and Geographical Distribution

Covid-19 Impact	Number of Sessional Care Providers					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Temporarily Closed	2	2	3	1	-	8
Had Positive case(s) had premises	1	1	0	1	-	3
Had sufficient PPE equipment	2	3	4	1	-	10
Impacted staff ratios	0	1	0	0	-	1
Training impacted	1	1	0	0	-	2

Annex 4 – Out of School Care Supply Data

Summary of Provision (Registered and Unregistered Provision)

Childcare Type	Language of Provision					
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other	TOTAL
Total Out of School Care (Registered)	-	-	8	15	-	23
Total Out of School Care (Unregistered)	-	-	-	2	-	2
TOTAL	-	-	8	17	-	25

Services Provided	Language of Provision					
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other	TOTAL
Before School Care	-	-	2	2	-	4
After School Care			3	11		14
Holiday Care			3	4		7

Childcare Types and Services - Geographical Distribution

Childcare Type and Services	Number of Out of School Care Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk	Total
Total Out of School Care	8	6	5	2	4	25
Before School Care	2	1	0	0	1	4
After School Care	3	3	4	2	2	14
Holiday Care	3	2	1	0	1	7

Childcare Places – Capacity and Attendance

Services	Number of Places by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk	TOTAL
Maximum Capacity	281	224	316	80	112	1,013
Before School Care	85	28	-	-	28	141
After School Care	104	118	260	80	60	622
Holiday Care	92	78	56	-	24	250

Take Up	Number of Places by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk	TOTAL
Attending Full Time	20	27	13	7	15	82
Attending Part Time	47	146	197	45	104	539
Attending on an Ad Hoc Basis	168	116	56	4	0	344
Total	235	289	266	56	119	965

Childcare Places – Vacancies (Term Time) – Geographical Distribution

Services	Number of Vacancies by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Before School	9	0	0	0	13	22
After School	2	46	47	12	10	117
Total	11	46	47	12	23	139

Childcare Places – Waiting Lists (Term Time) – Geographical Distribution

Services	Number on Waiting Lists by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Before School	0	0	0	0	0	0
After School	0	0	0	0	2	2

Holiday Provision Plans

Holiday Provision Plans	Date of Holiday					
	Summer	October HT	Christmas	February HT	Easter	May Half Term
Planning to Open?	8	5	3	5	6	4
Maximum Number of Days To Open	34	5	8	5	8	4
Numbers on Waiting List	0	0	0	0	0	0

Age Range Accommodated and Geographical Distribution

Age Ranges	Number of Out of School Care Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 years	-	1	-	-	-	1
4 years	1	1	3	1	-	6
5-7 years	8	6	5	2	4	25
8-11 years	7	6	5	2	4	24
12-14 years	1	1	-	-	-	2

Geographical Distribution of Users by Age Range

Age Ranges	Take Up of Places by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 years	-	4	-	-	-	4
4 years	39	27	8	2	-	76

5-7 years	69	116	122	18	45	370
8-11 years	132	111	136	25	45	449
12-14 years	1	2	-	-	-	3
TOTAL	241	260	266	45	90	902

Range of Opening Hours

Length of Sessions		Number of Out of School Care Providers by Area					
Start	Finish	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
BEFORE SCHOOL CARE							
07:30	09:00	1					1
07:45	09:00					1	1
08:00	09:00	1	1				2
AFTER SCHOOL CARE							
15:00	18:00	1	2		2	1	6
15:15	17:30		1				1
15:15	18:00	1		1			2
15:30	17:25			1			1
15:30	18:00			2		1	3
15:45	17:00	1					1
HOLIDAY CARE							
07:00	18:00	1					1
07:30	18:00	1					1
08:00	17:30		1				1
08:00	18:00	1	1	1		1	4
TOTAL:		8	6	5	2	4	25

Range of Childcare Costs per Hour

Range of Costs per Service – Hourly Charge	Number of Out of School Care Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
£2.00			1			1
£2.75		2			2	4
£3.20			1			1
£3.30	3					3
£3.50					1	1
£4.00	1	1	2			4
£4.40		2				2
£4.50		1				1
£5.55				2	1	3
£7.00			1			1
£7.55	2					2
£8.00	2					2

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Additional Costs for Food to the Service User (Number of Out of School Care Providers) and Geographical Distribution

Additional Charges	Number of Out of School Care Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Does not provide food / snacks	-	2	1	-	-	3
Provides Food/ Snacks	8	1	4	2	4	19
Charges extra for Food / Snacks	-	3	-	-	-	3

Sibling Discounts and Geographical Distribution

	Number of Out of School Care Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Discount for Siblings Available	2	0	1	2	2	7

Number of Children with Additional Learning Needs or Disability Cared for by Out of School Care Providers and Geographical Distribution

Number of Children with Additional Learning Needs or Disability					
Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
1	16	2	0	7	26

Covid-19 Impact and Geographical Distribution

Covid-19 Impact	Number of Out of School Care Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Temporarily Closed	8	6	5	2	4	25
Had Positive case(s) had premises	7	2	0	0	1	10
Had sufficient PPE equipment	8	6	5	2	4	25
Impacted staff ratios	0	3	0	0	0	3
Training impacted	5	2	2	2	4	15

Annex 5 – Play & Care Provision Supply Data

Summary of Provision (Registered and Unregistered Provision)

Childcare Type	Language of Provision					
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other	TOTAL
Total Play and Care Provision (Registered)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Play and Care Provision (Unregistered)	-	-	-	9	-	9
TOTAL	-	-	-	9	-	9

Play and Care Types and Services - Geographical Distribution

Childcare Type and Services	Area of Provision					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk	Total
Total Open Access Provision	2	2	2	3	-	9
Monmouthshire Games	1	1	1	1	-	4
School Holiday Enrichment Programme	1	1	1	2	-	5

Play and Care Places – Capacity and Attendance

Services	Area of Provision					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk	TOTAL
Maximum Capacity	130	130	130	170	-	560
Monmouthshire Games	50	50	50	50	-	200
School Holiday Enrichment Programme	80	80	80	120	-	360

Take Up	Number of Children Supported	Total Attendances
Monmouthshire Games	899	4131
School Holiday Enrichment Programme	423	3620

Age Range of Play and Care Provision

All Play and Care Provision is available for children aged 5 – 11 years

Play and Care Provision – (School Holidays) – Geographical Distribution

Services	Number of Play and Care Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Summer Holiday	2	2	2	3	-	9
October Half Term	1	1	1	1	-	4
Christmas Break	1	1	1	1	-	4
February Half Term	1	1	1	1	-	4
Easter Holidays	1	1	1	1	-	4
May Half Term	1	1	1	1	-	4

The Monmouthshire Games operates every school holidays. The School Holiday Enrichment Programme operated in the summer holidays only.

Range of Opening Hours

Length of Sessions		Number of Play and Care Providers by Area					
Start	Finish	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
8am	5pm	1	1	1	1	-	4
9:30am	2:30pm	1	1	1	2	-	5
TOTAL		2	2	2	3	-	9

Range of Costs per Hour

Range of Costs per Service – Daily Charge	Number of Play and Care Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
£0.00	1	1	1	2	-	5
£20.50	1	1	1	1	-	4

Additional Costs to the Service User for Food and Geographical Distribution

Additional Charges	Number of Play and Care Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	TOTAL
Does not provide food (child brings own)	1	1	1	1	-	4
Charges an additional fee for Food and Snacks	-	-	-	-	-	-
Provides Food – does not charge extra	1	1	1	2	-	5

Number of Children with Additional Learning Needs or Disability Cared for by Play and Care Providers

Children Attending	Number of Children Supported
Monmouthshire Games	50
Summer Holiday Enrichment Programme	42

Annex 6 – Parental Survey Results

TOTAL NUMBER OF MONMOUTHSHIRE RESPONDENTS TO THE PARENT SURVEY ON CHILDCARE - 443

This is the number that will be used to calculate percentages of respondents, where applicable, as not all respondents have replied to each question and for some questions, respondents may have given multiple responses. For some questions, which are not applicable to all respondents, the percentage of actual responses has been calculated instead, as this is more meaningful.

Households of Respondents

Status	Number of Responses	Percentage of Respondents
I share responsibility for my children with someone I live with	348	78.6%
I have sole responsibility for my children	69	15.6%
I share responsibility for my children with someone I don't live with	28	6.3%
I am a parent to be	11	2.5%
I am a foster parent	8	1.8%
I am a grandparent	8	1.8%
Other - I am a special guardian	2	0.5%

Number of Children in the Household

Number of Children in the Household	Number of Responses	Percentage of Respondents
0 – child on the way	47	10.6%
1	136	30.7%
2	181	40.9%
3	63	14.2%
4	9	2.0%
5	5	1.1%
6	1	0.2%
Didn't say	1	0.2%

Age of Respondents' Children

Age of Children	Number of Children	Percentage of Children	Percentage of Respondents
Under 2	107	14.5%	24.2%
Age 2	82	11.1%	18.5%
Age 3	94	12.8%	21.2%
Age 4	69	9.4%	15.6%
Age 5 to 8	208	28.3%	28.3%
Age 9 to 11	108	14.7%	47.0%
Age 12 to 17	68	9.2%	15.3%
Total	736	100%	N/A

Children Accessing Funded Early Education Place at a School or Non-Maintained Setting

Do you access Early Education Funding?	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses
Yes, in the same local authority as I live	118	74.7%
No	15	9.5%
Will Start Soon	11	6.9%
Yes, in a different local authority to where I live	9	5.7%
Not Sure	5	3.2%
Total	158	100%

Reasons for Not Accessing a Funded Early Education Place

Reasons for not using Early Education Funding	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses
Provider we use is not approved for funding	1	50%
Don't know what this is	1	50%
Total	2	100%

Children Accessing Flying Start Provision

Do you access Flying Start?	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses
No	133	81.1%
Yes	16	9.8%
Not Sure	15	9.1%
Total	164	100%

Reasons for Not Accessing Flying Start Provision

Reasons for not accessing Flying Start	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses
Not Eligible	12	27.3%
Not Available in my area	12	27.3%
Do not know what it is	11	25%
Need Longer Childcare	5	11.3%
Do not need the childcare	2	4.5%
Welsh Medium FS Provision unavailable	1	2.3%
Level of Care unsuitable	1	2.3%
Total	44	100%

Respondents' Accessing the Childcare Offer

Do you wish to access the Childcare Offer	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses
Yes	78	95.1%
No	3	3.7%
Not Applicable	1	1.2%
Not Sure	0	0%
Total	82	100%

Reasons for Not Accessing the Childcare Offer

Reasons for not accessing the Childcare Offer	Number of Responses	Percentage
We do not need any childcare	1	50%
One parent doesn't work	1	50%
Total	2	100%

Respondents with Children who have Additional Learning Needs or a Disability

Additional Learning Needs or a Disability	Number of Responses
Child has a disability	41
Child has a special educational need/additional learning need	61

Use of Childcare During Term Time

Childcare	Number of Responses	Percentage of Respondents
Family and Friends (unpaid)	187	42.2%
Private Day Nursery	162	36.6%
Before School/Breakfast Club	107	24.2%
After School Club	91	20.5%
None during Term Time	66	14.9%
Childminder	43	9.7%
School Nursery	41	9.3%
Playgroup	30	6.8%
Cylch Meithrin	8	1.8%
Family and Friends (paid)	7	1.6%
Nanny	3	0.7%
Other - Babysitter (paid)	1	0.2%
Other - Carer for additional needs (paid)	1	0.2%

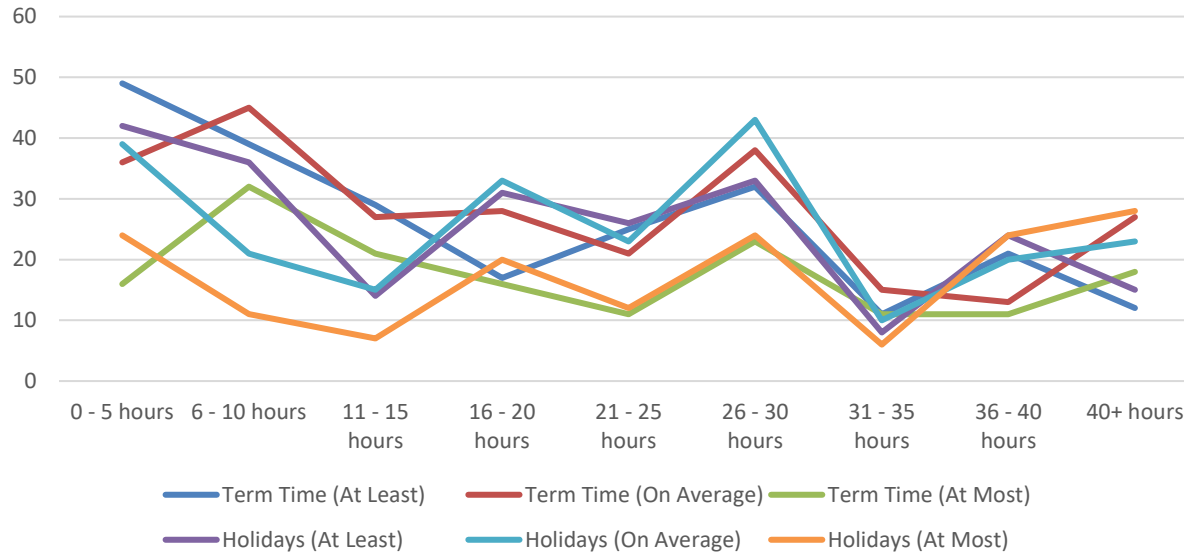
Use of Childcare During School Holidays

Childcare	Number of Responses	Percentage of Respondents
Family and Friends (unpaid)	203	45.8%
Private Day Nursery	135	30.5%
Holiday Care/Playscheme	102	23.0%
None during School Holidays	56	12.6%
Childminder	35	7.9%
Family and Friends (paid)	8	1.8%
Playgroup	6	1.4%
Pre-Prep Private School	1	0.2%
Nanny	1	0.2%
Au Pair	1	0.2%

Respondents Use of Childcare in Hours per Week

Number of Hours Using Childcare per Week	Number of Respondents					
	Term Time (At Least)	Term Time (On Average)	Term Time (At Most)	Holidays (At Least)	Holidays (On Average)	Holidays (At Most)
0 – 5 Hours	49	36	16	42	39	24
6 – 10 hours	39	45	32	36	21	11
11 – 15 hours	29	27	21	14	15	7
16 – 20 hours	17	28	16	31	33	20
21 – 25 hours	25	21	11	26	23	12
26 – 30 hours	32	38	23	33	43	24
31 – 35 hours	11	15	11	8	10	6
36 – 40 hours	21	13	11	24	20	24
40 hours+	12	27	18	15	23	28
Total	235	250	159	229	227	156

Total Number of Respondents and the number of hours used for Childcare



Average Childcare Costs per Week (not including government funded childcare)

Childcare Costs Per Week	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses
£0	64	17.4%
1p - £10	15	4.1%
£10 - £49	71	19.4%
£50 - £99	75	20.4%
£100 - £199	97	26.4%
£200 - £299	26	7.1%
£300+	19	5.2%
Total	367	100%

Respondents’ Satisfaction with their Current Childcare Providers

Level of Satisfaction	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses
Very Satisfied	207	56.3%
Quite Satisfied	120	32.6%
Quite Dissatisfied	14	3.8%
Very Dissatisfied	6	1.6%
Not Applicable	21	5.7%
Total	368	100%

Respondents’ View on Areas of Childcare to be Improved

Improvement Reason	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses	Percentage of Respondents
More affordable	9	15.2%	2.0%
Extend opening hours – early mornings	8	13.6%	1.8%
Extend opening hours – evenings	8	13.6%	1.8%
More flexible sessions (ad hoc care)	7	11.9%	1.6%
Better quality provision	7	11.9%	1.6%
More hours available (setting is too busy/full)	6	10.2%	1.4%
Other - the childcare we need doesn’t exist	5	8.5%	1.1%
Childcare that is better at meeting my child’s additional learning needs	4	6.8%	0.9%
Different location	2	3.4%	0.5%
Extend opening hours – to cover weekend	2	3.4%	0.5%
Other – more support for parents from providers	1	1.7%	0.2%
Extend opening hours – overnight care	0	0%	0%
No Improvements needed	0	0%	0%
Total	59	100%	N/A

Reasons for Not Accessing Childcare

Reason for not Accessing Childcare	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses	Percentage of Respondents
The cost of childcare is too expensive	50	16.83%	11.3%
I use informal childcare such as a family member or friend	48	16.16%	10.8%
I am a stay at home parent and have no need for childcare	25	8.42%	5.6%
The childcare available is not flexible enough for my needs	25	8.42%	5.6%
Childcare times are unsuitable	20	6.73%	4.5%
I choose not to access any childcare	18	6.06%	4.1%
I only use childcare on an ad hoc basis and it is impossible to plan	18	6.06%	4.1%
My children are old enough to look after themselves	15	5.05%	3.4%
There is no childcare with sufficient quality	14	4.71%	3.2%
There is no childcare available that is suitable for my child’s age	14	4.71%	3.2%
There is no childcare where I need it to be	13	4.38%	2.9%
There is no childcare that can cater for my child’s specific needs	13	4.38%	2.9%
Other – the childcare we need doesn’t exist	8	2.70%	1.8%
My child is on a waiting list for a provider and we are waiting for a place to become available	7	2.36%	1.6%
There is a problem with transport	6	2.02%	1.4%
There is no suitable Welsh Language provision	3	1.01%	0.7%
No suitable provision in our language, which is neither Welsh nor English	0	0%	0%
Total	297	100%	N/A

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Respondents Accessing Childcare through the Medium of Welsh

Accessing Welsh Medium Childcare	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses	Percentage of Respondents
No	241	88.6%	54.4%
Unsure / Don’t Know	17	6.3%	3.8%
Yes	14	5.1%	3.2%
Total	272	100%	N/A

Respondents who would Like to Access Childcare through the Medium of Welsh

Like to Access Welsh Childcare	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses	Percentage of Respondents
No	160	63.5%	36.1%
Maybe	44	17.5%	9.9%
Unsure / Don't Know	26	10.3%	5.9%
Yes	22	8.7%	5.0%
Total	252	100%	N/A

Issues Faced Accessing Welsh Medium Childcare

Issue	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses	Percentage of Respondents
Availability	38	44.7%	8.6%
Distance	19	22.4%	4.3%
Insufficient hours of care	12	14.1%	2.7%
Cost	9	10.6%	2.0%
Staff Language Capability	4	4.7%	0.9%
Quality of Care	3	3.5%	0.7%
Total	85	100%	N/A

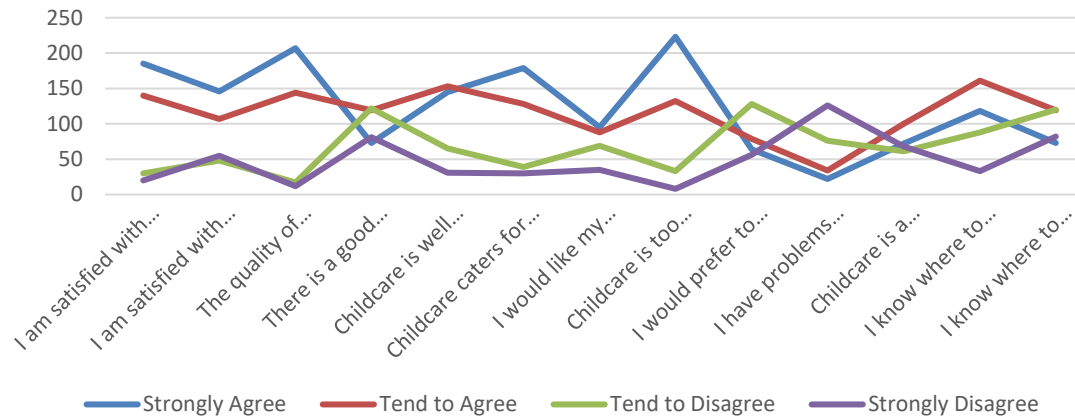
Welsh Language Ability

Welsh Ability	Number of Responses	Percentage of Respondents
No Welsh Knowledge/Skipped Question	350	79.0%
Understand Welsh	84	19.0%
Speak Welsh	51	11.5%
Read Welsh	56	12.6%
Write Welsh	42	9.5%

Respondents' Views on Childcare

Statement	Strongly Agree	Tend To Agree	Tend to Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A	Response Total
I am satisfied with my childcare in term time	185	140	30	20	51	426
I am satisfied with my childcare in school holidays	146	107	48	55	72	428
The quality of childcare is high	207	144	17	12	47	427
There is a good choice of childcare in my area	73	119	122	81	32	427
Childcare is well located	145	153	65	31	32	426
Childcare caters for my children's needs	179	128	39	30	49	425
I would like my child to attend more registered childcare	95	88	69	35	133	420
Childcare is too expensive	223	132	33	8	33	429
I would prefer to use family/friends for childcare	64	79	128	56	100	427
I have problems with arrangements that are unreliable	22	34	76	126	163	421
Childcare is a barrier to me accessing employment or training	72	100	61	68	122	423
I know where to find information about childcare	118	161	88	33	29	429
I know where to find out info on financial assistance for childcare	73	119	120	82	35	429

Respondents Views on Childcare



Issues Surrounding Childcare that have Affected Respondents

Issue	Number of Responses	Percentage of Respondents
Caused problems at work	210	47.4%
Prevented continuation of work	75	16.9%
Stopped you working/getting a job	71	16.0%
Stopped you from training	68	15.3%
Other – difficulty only during the pandemic	9	2.0%
Other – lack of flexibility	5	1.1%
Other – prevented career progression in work	3	0.7%
Other – health needs	2	0.5%

Respondents by Working Status

Working Status	Number of Respondents	Number of Partners	Response Total
Employed	350	300	650
Self Employed	39	58	97
Not working or looking for a job	26	6	32
In Education or Training	24	5	29
Unable to work	21	5	26
Looking for a job but not working yet	10	5	15

Respondents by Weekly Household Income

Gross Household Income Per Week	Number of Responses	Percentage of Respondents
Up to £100	5	1.2%
£100 - £149	1	0.2%
£150 - £249	6	1.4%
£250 - £349	25	6.1%

£350 - £499	21	5.1%
£500 - £580	28	6.7%
£581 - £750	67	16.1%
£750 - £999	79	19.1%
More than £1000	122	29.4%
Prefer not to say	61	14.7%
Total	415	100%

Respondents who Anticipate Using Less Childcare in the Future and their Reasons Why

Reason	Number	Percentage of Respondents
Child will be older	79	17.8%
Trying to have more time with family	5	1.1%
Expect to work/study less hours	3	0.7%
Expect to work / study from home more	3	0.7%
Concerns around covid-19 infections	1	0.2%
Concern about covid-19 disruption to services/closure	1	0.2%
Total	92	N/A

Respondents who Anticipate Using More Childcare in the Future

Anticipation	Number	Percentage of Respondents
More	205	46.3%
Stay the same	99	22.3%
Less	82	18.5%
Don't Know /Not Sure	46	10.4%
Total	432	N/A

Type of Childcare Respondents Anticipate Using in the Future

Reason	Number of Responses	Percentage of Respondents
Private Day Nursery	103	23.3%
Before School / Breakfast Club	99	22.3%
After School Club	99	22.3%
Holiday Club	74	16.7%
Family / Friends (not paid)	66	14.9%
School Nursery	41	9.3%
Childminder	29	6.5%
Playgroup	29	6.5%
Cylch Meithrin	15	2.63%
Family / Friends (paid)	8	3.4%
Pre-Prep (Private) School	3	0.7%
Drop Off Creche	2	0.5%
Nanny	2	0.5%
Other – specifically for ALN	1	0.2%
Au Pair	0	0%
Total	571	N/A

Help Received Towards the Cost of Childcare

Reason	Number of Responses	Percentage of Respondents
Childcare Vouchers / Tax free childcare	126	28.4%
Childcare element of the Working Tax/Universal Credit	41	9.3%
Childcare Grant for Students	4	0.9%
Employer contribution	2	0.5%
Other – Foster Carer Support	1	0.2%
Total	174	N/A

Respondents by Ethnic Group

Ethnic Group	Number of Responses	Percentage of Respondents
Welsh/English/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	403	91.0%
White and Asian	5	1.1%
Indian	4	0.9%
White and Black Caribbean	4	0.9%
Any other White Background	2	0.5%
Polish	2	0.5%
Arab	2	0.5%
Irish	2	0.5%
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	1	0.2%
American/British	1	0.2%
Austrian	1	0.2%
Czech British	1	0.2%
European	1	0.2%
Hungarian	1	0.2%
Zimbabwean	1	0.2%
White and Black African	1	0.2%
Any other Mixed/Multiple ethnic background	1	0.2%
Sri Lankan	1	0.2%
Didn't say	9	2.0%
Total	443	100%

Additional Comments (Summarised)

Childcare Issues	Number of Responses	Percentage of Respondents
Lack of Childcare Availability	26	5.9%
Lack of Early Starts	16	3.6%
Lack of After School Care	14	3.2%
Lack of reasonably priced/free childcare	14	3.2%
Lack of suitable childcare for ALN	13	2.9%
Lack of Wrap Around Care	11	2.5%
Lack of Holiday Care	8	1.8%
Lack of full time early years provision to support working parents	8	1.8%
Lack of Holiday Care that caters for working parents	6	1.4%
Lack of Late Finishes	6	1.4%
Lack of Care for under 3s	6	1.4%
Lack of longer childcare hours	6	1.4%
Lack of suitable childcare for twins or multiple births	5	1.1%
Lack of Welsh provision	5	1.1%
Lack of Good Quality Childcare	5	1.1%
Lack of Before School Care	4	0.9%
Lack of flexible fees when childcare isn't needed	4	0.9%
Lack of flexible childcare for working parents	4	0.9%
Lack of Holiday Provision for over 10s	4	0.9%
Lack of Childminders	4	0.9%
Lack of childcare funding support for those on benefits/studying	3	0.7%
Lack of suitable holiday care	3	0.7%
Lack of Holiday Provision for 4 year olds	3	0.7%
Lack of childcare funding support for under 3s	2	0.5%
Lack of Childminders suitable children 7+	2	0.5%
Lack of School Nurseries	1	0.2%
Lack of reasonably priced holiday care	1	0.2%
Lack of wrap around care for Welsh provision	1	0.2%

Annex 7 – Foundation Phase Nursery Provision

Summary of Foundation Phase Nursery Providers

Childcare Type	Language of Provision					
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other	TOTAL
Full Day Care	-	-	22	-	-	22
Sessional Care	-	-	4	-	-	4
LA School Nursery	2	-	10	-	-	12
TOTAL	2	-	36	-	-	38

Number of Providers Funded to Provide Foundation Phase Nursery – Geographical Distribution

Childcare Type	Number of Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	Total
Full Day Care	6	6	3	3	4	22
Sessional Care	2	-	2	-	-	4
LA School Nursery	3	5	2	2	-	12
Total	11	11	7	5	4	38

Attendance Profile of Children Attending Foundation Phase Nursery Provision – Geographical Distribution (Summer Term 2021)

Childcare Type	Number of Children Attending by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	Total
Full Day Care	155	140	90	69	91	492
Sessional Care	32	-	41	-	-	73
LA School Nursery	134	202	83	62	-	481
Total	321	342	214	131	91	1046

Attendance Profile of Children Attending Foundation Phase Nursery Provision by Language – Geographical Distribution (Summer Term 2021)

Language	Number of Providers by Area					Total
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	
Welsh Provision	56	16	-	-	-	72
English with bilingual elements	265	273	214	131	91	974
Total	321	289	214	131	91	1046

Overall Take Up of Foundation Phase Nursery Places by School Term (2021)

Term	Number of Children
Spring 2021	820
Summer 2021	1046
Autumn 2021	703

Take Up of Foundation Phase Nursery Provision, as per Parental Survey

Area	Number of Respondents Claiming Entitlement
Abergavenny	31
Caldicot	42
Chepstow	20
Monmouth	18
Usk & Raglan	5
Total	116

Reasoning Given by Respondents for Not Claiming Entitlement

Reasons for Not Using Foundation Phase Nursery	Number of Responses	Percentage
Provider we use is not approved for funding	1	50%
Don't know what this is	1	50%

Annex 8 – Childcare Offer Provision

Summary of Providers Registered for the Childcare Offer

Childcare Type	Language of Provision					
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other	TOTAL
Childminders	-	1	13	20	1	35
Full Day Care	1	-	28	-	-	29
Sessional Care	2	-	8	-	-	10
Outside of Monmouthshire	2	2	59	-	-	63
TOTAL	3	3	64	20	1	137

Number of Providers Registered for the Childcare Offer – Geographical Distribution

Childcare Type	Number of Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	Total
Childminder	10	8	7	8	2	35
Full Day Care	9	7	4	5	4	29
Sessional Care	2	2	2	3	1	10
Total	20	20	14	12	5	74

Attendance Profile of Monmouthshire Children Accessing the Childcare Offer (Autumn 2021)

Childcare Type	Number of Children by Area						
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	Out of County	Total
Childminder	8	9	6	12	-	-	35
Full Day Care	76	83	67	35	45	39	345

Sessional Care	15	11	4	3	-	5	38
Total	99	103	77	50	45	44	418

Overall Take Up of the Childcare Offer, by School Term (2021)

Term	Number of Children
Spring 2021	553
Summer 2021	601
Autumn 2021	418

Respondents who would like to take up the Childcare Offer when their Child becomes Eligible, as per Parental Survey

Area	Number of Respondents
Abergavenny	21
Caldicot	25
Chepstow	13
Monmouth	13
Usk & Raglan	4
Total	76

Reasoning Given by Respondents for Not Claiming Childcare Offer Funding, as per Parental Survey

Reasons for Not Accessing the Childcare Offer	Number of Responses
We choose not to use childcare	2
Total	2

Annex 9 – Flying Start Provision

Number of Providers Available to Provide Flying Start Places - by Language

Childcare Type	Language of Provision					
	Welsh	Welsh & English	English & some bilingual elements	English	Other	TOTAL
Full Day Care	1	-	1	1	-	3
Childminder	-	-	1	2	-	3
Flying Start Only Provision	-	-	4	-	-	4
TOTAL	1	-	6	3	-	10

Number of Providers Offering Flying Start Places – Geographical Distribution

Childcare Type	Number of Providers by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	Total
Full Day Care	1	-	-	2	-	3
Childminder	1	1	-	1	-	3
Flying Start Only Provision	1	1	1	1	-	4
Total	3	2	1	4	-	10

Number of Flying Start Places Available – Geographical Distribution

Childcare Type	Number of Places by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	Total
Full Day Care	6	-	-	12	-	18
Childminder	2	2	-	2	-	6
Flying Start Only Provision	16	20	12	20	-	68
Total	24	22	12	34	-	92

Take Up of Flying Start Places, as per Parental Survey

Area	Number of Respondents Accessing Free Childcare	Number of Respondents Not Accessing Free Childcare
Abergavenny	7	30
Caldicot	3	48
Chepstow	2	22
Monmouth	4	21
Usk & Raglan	-	8
Postcode not completed	-	4
Total	16	133

Reasons Given by Respondents for Not Accessing Flying Start Childcare

Reasoning	Number of Respondents by Area						
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk & Raglan	No Postcode	TOTAL
Do not live in a Flying Start area	8	5	3	4	3	-	23
Don't know about the entitlement	3	5	2	1	-	-	11
Chose a provider with longer hours	3	1	-	-	-	-	4
There is no suitable Welsh Medium provision available	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Do not need the childcare	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Total	14	11	8	5	3	-	41

Annex 10 – Workforce Development

Number of Individual Staff Working by Childcare Type and Area

Childcare Type	Number of Staff by Area					
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk	Total
Childminders	9	10	20	7	5	51
Full Day Care	96	72	54	48	33	303
Out of School Care	6	17	18	4	7	52
Sessional Care	14	12	20	9	0	55
Total	125	111	112	68	45	461

Please note: Some Full Day Care staff also provide Out of School Care but they are not listed twice.

Staff Retention by Childcare Type

Childcare Type	Number of Staff		
	Working Less than 16 hours	Zero Hour Contract	Left the Service in the Last 12 months
Childminders	4	0	4
Full Day Care	22	21	43
Out of School Care	37	9	46
Sessional Care	21	1	22
Total	84	31	115

Staff Qualifications by Childcare Type

Qualification Name	No. with qualification	% of staff
Childminders Qualifications		
CCLD Level 2	7	13.7%
CCLD Level 3	23	45.1%
CCLD Level 5	4	7.8%
Working Towards CCLD Level 5	1	2.0%

Qualification relevant to childcare	19	37.3%
Level 2 Award in Playwork Practice	1	2.0%
CYPOP 5	23	45.1%
Qualification not listed	4	7.8%
Working towards qualification not listed	1	2.0%
Full Day Care Qualifications		
CCLD Level 2	23	7.6%
CCLD Level 3	139	45.9%
CCLD Level 5	55	18.2%
Qualification relevant to childcare	24	7.9%
Level 2 Award in Playwork Practice	5	1.7%
No formal qualification	46	15.2%
Out of School Care Qualifications		
CCLD Level 3	11	21.8%
CCLD Level 5	3	5.8%
Qualification relevant to childcare	4	7.7%
Level 2 Award in Playwork Practice	1	1.9%
Level 3 Award in Transition to Playwork from Early Years	8	15.4%
Level 3 Diploma in Playwork	15	28.8%
Level 3 Diploma Playwork (P3)	2	3.8%
Qualification related to play	3	5.8%
No formal qualification	1	1.9%
Sessional Care Qualifications		
CCLD Level 2	6	10.9%
CCLD Level 3	24	43.6%
CCLD Level 5	11	20%
Qualification relevant to childcare	3	5.5%
Level 2 Award in Playwork Practice	11	20%
Level 3 Award in Transition to Playwork from Early Years	1	1.8%
Level 5 Diploma in Playwork	1	1.8%
Qualification related to play	3	5.5%
No formal qualification	6	10.9%

Annex 11 – Covid-19 Impact on Childcare

Number of Childcare Providers that Closed at Some Point During the Pandemic

Childcare Type	Number of Providers by Area											
	Abergavenny		Caldicot		Chepstow		Monmouth		Usk		Total	
	Closed	Didn't Close	Closed	Didn't Close	Closed	Didn't Close	Closed	Didn't Close	Close	Didn't Close	Closed	Didn't Close
Childminders	7	4	7	4	8	-	4	2	-	1	26	11
Full Day Care	6	2	7	1	2	-	6	-	4	-	25	3
Out of School Care	1	-	2	-	3	-	2	-	1	1	9	1
Sessional Care	2	-	2	1	3	1	1	1	-	-	8	3
Total	16	6	18	6	16	1	13	3	5	2	68	18

Number of Closures Due to Covid-19

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Childcare Type	Number of Closures by Area														
	Abergavenny		Caldicot				Chepstow		Monmouth			Usk		Total	
	Closed once	Closed Twice	Closed once	Closed twice	Closed 3 times	Closed 5 times	Closed once	Closed Twice	Closed once	Closed Twice	Closed 4 times	Closed once	Closed Twice	Closed once	Closed more than once
Childminders	6	2	7	-	-	-	6	2	-	4		-	-	19	8
Full Day Care	5	1	7	-	-	-	2	-	4	1	1	3	2	21	5
Out of School Care	1	3	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	2		-	1	1	11
Sessional Care	1	1	-	1	1	1	2	1	1	-				4	5
Total	13	7	14	1	3	1	10	6	5	7	1	3	3	45	29

Number of Providers who have had Positive Cases at their Setting

Childcare Type and Services	Area					Total
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk	
Childminders	-	1	-	-	-	1
Full Day Care	4	4	1	3	1	13
Out of School Care	1	1	-	-	-	2
Sessional Care	1	1	-	1	-	3
Total	6	7	1	4	1	19

Number of Providers who did not have Sufficient PPE at their Setting

Childcare Type and Services	Area					Total
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk	
Childminders	2	1	-	1	-	4
Full Day Care	-	-	-	-	-	0
Out of School Care	-	-	-	-	-	0
Sessional Care	-	-	-	1	-	1
Total	2	1	-	2	-	5

Number of Providers who had an Impact on Training due to Covid-19

Childcare Type and Services	Area					Total
	Abergavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Monmouth	Usk	
Childminders	4	4	3	5	0	16
Full Day Care	5	7	2	3	4	21
Out of School Care	1	1	2	2	2	8
Sessional Care	1	1	1	0	-	3
Total	11	13	8	10	6	48

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<p>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation: Sue Hall</p> <p>Phone no: 01633 644461 E-mail: susanhall@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>The proposal is to inform Members of the current situation regarding childcare in Monmouthshire and to fulfil our statutory duty to complete a detailed Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) every five years.</p>
<p>Name of Service Area: Early Years & Childcare, CYP</p>	<p>Date: 9th February 2022</p>

1. **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.

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Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment covers children aged 0-17 years and ensures there is sufficient childcare available for all ages.	The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment has identified that there is very little childcare available for children over the age of 12 and none for children aged 15-17; although there is currently no demand for this as there is only one child aged 12 that is accessing childcare with a childminder.	One of the actions in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment is to recruit more childminders, as this is the childcare type that is best placed to cater for a child of this age.
Disability	The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment indicates that there have been a number of children with additional learning needs or a disability that have been cared for within each childcare type. Links with the Local Authority are good, so almost all of these had been raised through the Early Years ALN Panel.	There were 2.9% of respondents to the parental survey that stated that there is no childcare that can cater for their child's specific needs or that childcare could be improved if it was better at meeting their child's additional learning needs.	There is a significant amount of training that is being offered to childcare settings to ensure they are aware of the requirements placed on them by the new ALNET (Wales) Act and to support them in catering for children's individual needs.

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?
Gender reassignment	Neutral		
Marriage or civil partnership	Neutral		
Pregnancy or maternity	Information will be available to parents when they are on maternity leave to enable them to research childcare options so they can plan their return to work. They can also access information on financial support that is available to help with the cost of childcare, so this isn't a barrier that prevents them returning to work.		We intend to develop the information on the Early Years Section of the MCC website to include more detail on different types of financial support that is available and promote this through social media.
Race	Neutral.		
Religion or Belief	Neutral		
Sex	Neutral		
Sexual Orientation	Neutral		

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>The purpose of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment is to inform the Local Authority on the current position and any potential gaps, so we are able to meet our statutory duty to ensure there is sufficient childcare to meet the needs of working families. Supporting parents and carers to work will have a positive impact on those who might potentially suffer socio-economic disadvantage.</p>	<p>If parents or carers are unable to find suitable childcare that meets their needs, they may be unable to continue or return to work. This would possibly increase the number of people suffering socio-economic disadvantage. This is most likely to be shift workers and those working atypical hours, as this is when there is very limited childcare available, and these are most likely to be low income families.</p>	<p>One of the actions identified in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment is to develop childcare that is available during atypical hours in each area of Monmouthshire.</p>

3. Policy making and the Welsh language



<p>How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:</p>	<p>Describe the positive impacts of this proposal</p>	<p>Describe the negative impacts of this proposal</p>	<p>What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts</p>
<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>We are working closely with the Welsh Education Forum to ensure that the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment aligns with the WESP and the same targets are included in both documents in relation to pre-school and childcare provision.</p>		
<p>Operational</p> <p>Recruitment & Training of workforce</p>	<p>Almost all full day care and sessional care providers describe themselves as English with some bilingual elements. This is an improvement since the previous assessment.</p>	<p>There are a number of childcare providers, mostly childminders and out of school care providers, that describe themselves as English only and don't offer any bilingual elements.</p>	<p>There is an action included in the CSA to provide Welsh language training for childcare practitioners. We will also provide them with Welsh language activities that they can use in their setting.</p>
<p>Service delivery</p> <p>Use of Welsh language in service delivery</p> <p>Promoting use of the language</p>	<p>The number of Welsh medium childcare places has increased since the last Childcare Sufficiency Assessment was completed in 2017.</p>	<p>The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022 has still identified a need for more Welsh medium childcare provision of all childcare types.</p>	<p>There are actions to open two Welsh medium cylch meithrins, after school provision in both Welsh medium primary schools and to encourage existing providers to extend their hours.</p>




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	Ensuring there is sufficient childcare to meet the needs of working parents will enable more parents to return or start work. This will, in turn, contribute towards the goal of creating a prosperous Wales.	Actions have been included within the CSA Action Plan to meet any potential gaps that have been identified.
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	Neutral	
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	Attending childcare provision is considered to have a positive impact on the physical and mental wellbeing of both children and parents.	Childcare settings are receiving wellbeing training and support from the Healthy Pre-school Officer. MonLife are also taking sessions in every pre-school setting to promote physical literacy.
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	Ensuring there is sufficient childcare in each community will make them more attractive to families and enable children to get to know children they are likely to attend school with in the future, so they can start to connect and build relationships.	
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	If there is childcare available in every locality, there will be less need to travel long distances for childcare, which will have a positive impact on the environment.	
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	Welsh language is considered as part of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment. There are Welsh medium	There are actions to open a Welsh medium cych Meithrin in each of these areas, as well as opening after

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?
Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	childcare places available in some areas of Monmouthshire but there are none in Chepstow or Usk & Raglan.	school provision in both Welsh medium primary schools and to encourage existing providers to extend their hours. There is also an action included in the CSA to provide Welsh language training for childcare practitioners.
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	Neutral	

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

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Long Term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p>The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment indicates that we are meeting the current demand; however, there are still plans to increase the number of childcare places to meet future demand. This is particularly relevant in relation to the rollout of free childcare for 2 year olds, as this is likely to increase the demand for this age group.</p>	<p>The CSA has a five year plan but this is reviewed and amended on an annual basis to ensure it remains appropriate and forward thinking.</p>
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>The majority of our childcare provision is run by private providers or committees, so we work very closely with them to deliver our objectives. We also work closely with the relevant umbrella organisations including Early Years Wales, Mudiad Meithrin, NDNA, Pacey & Clybiau Plant Cymru.</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>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment is based on an online parental survey conducted by Welsh Government and returns from all childcare providers. We also conducted focus groups and questionnaires to gather the views of children. In addition, we have consulted with all relevant stakeholders and included their views in the assessment.</p>	
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>The CSA Action Plan will be used as the basis for prioritising grant funding.</p>	
 <p>Integration</p> <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>We have attempted to align the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment with other plans such as the WESP and the Well-being Assessment.</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	The Lead Officer for Safeguarding in Education has been consulted with as part of this assessment and they have developed strong links with existing childcare providers. Regular safeguarding training is offered to all childcare providers and take up is monitored to ensure settings are complying with regulations and are fully aware of safeguarding practices. Childcare providers are also encouraged to complete a Safeguarding Audit (SAFE) every two years.	None	Ongoing safeguarding training will be provided.
Corporate Parenting	None	None	

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

- Supply data based on providers SASS returns
- Demand data from Welsh Government online parental survey on childcare
- Family Information Service data and feedback
- Focus groups with children
- Additional Learning Needs data
- Consultation with stakeholders including umbrella organisations, schools, Job Centre Plus PaCE worker and neighbouring Local Authorities.
- Information from other relevant Local Authority plans including the Well-being Assessment and the Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP).

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 main positive impact of the proposal is that we now know where there are gaps in childcare provision or barriers that are preventing families from accessing childcare and we have developed an action plan to address these issues.

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
Consultation with CYP Directorate Management Team	9 th February 2022	Sue Hall
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment presented to Cabinet	2 nd March 2022	Sue Hall
Public consultation on the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment via MCC website	April – May 2022	Sue Hall
Review and implement any changes raised through the consultation process	June 2022	Sue Hall
Submit final report to Welsh Government	30 th June 2022	Sue Hall

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
1	Consultation with CYP DMT	9 th February 2022	None.

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SUBJECT:	CHEPSTOW SCHOOL AND LEISURE CENTRE OUTDOOR PLAYING FACILITIES AND PITCHES
MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	2nd MARCH 2022
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL CHEPSTOW WARDS

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to progress to full application and acceptance of the Sport Wales and Football Association of Wales WG Development grants programme for funding to upgrade the outdoor playing facilities and pitches at Chepstow Comprehensive School and Leisure Centre and to receive an update on further investment into the Leisure Centre facilities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Cabinet approve a capital budget of £101,907 (19% contribution) to be created in the 2021/22 financial year from the Council's Capital Match Funding budget to match fund the upgrade and improvements of the outdoor playing facilities and pitches at Chepstow Comprehensive School and Leisure Centre, the remainder of the project costs, £433,058 (81% of total costs), being sourced through external grant funding.
- 2.2 That Cabinet agree that Officers progress and deliver the project, through partners Alliance Leisure and the UK Leisure Framework.
- 2.3 That Cabinet note the ongoing investments at Chepstow Leisure Centre, which when completed will represent a total investment of more than £1.6 million, including carbon reduction improvements to the leisure centre and outdoor facilities, upgrade of health and fitness equipment and the improvements to the outdoor playing facilities and pitches, as detailed in 3.2 of the report.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Cabinet are committed to continue their investments across the leisure portfolio, and have prioritised this as a key action in their, 'Looking Ahead, Delivering Now Our Strategy to Summer 2022. Chepstow Leisure Centre is benefiting from significant improvements to facilities which include the sports hall, outdoor playing facilities and pitches, swimming and fitness facilities, demonstrating, Our Actions of an ambitious place of hope and enterprise and contributing to Our Long Term Challenges of health inequalities. This investment will ensure that many customers have an improved experience, and more opportunities to continue to increase their health and wellbeing.

- 3.2 There are three main phases of the investment for the overall project at the Chepstow site:
- £576, 068, carbon reduction improvements, to the leisure centre, including LED lighting and shower upgrades, swimming pool plant AHU and CHP and boiler replacements, pool hall refurbishments – Complete.
 - £575,000 health, fitness and wellbeing improvements, including upgrade of fitness and studio equipment. Start date 7th March, completed by July.
 - £534, 965 outdoor facilities and pitch improvements, Start date 14th March, completion by September 2022.
- 3.3 The second phase which has Cabinet approval is the improvements to the fitness offer which is soon to commence.
- 3.4 The third phase is the improvements to the outdoor playing facilities and pitches and for which match funding is requested as part of this report. An outline of the proposed improvements can be seen in **Appendix A**.
- 3.5 The current condition of outdoor playing facilities and pitches on all School and Leisure Centre sites, particularly the Astro Turf Pitch (ATP) and Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA), are coming to the end of their life. The ATP's and outside pitches are used extensively by both school and leisure centre and as a result have suffered extreme wear and tear. The carpets require replacing and is identified as a Capital Pressure, (£250,000 per site), within the Council's capital MTFP.
- 3.6 In December 2021 MonLife were invited to apply for a grant from the Welsh Government, via Sport Wales, and a separate grant from Football Association of Wales, to develop the outdoor playing facilities and pitches at Chepstow Comprehensive School and Leisure Centre.
- 3.7 The proposed project has been developed in consultation with key stakeholders including Leisure Centre, Comprehensive School, Sport Wales, Football Association of Wales, Hockey Wales and Monmouthshire Junior Football League. The improvement of the outdoor playing facilities and pitches in this location is a priority of the Council's strategy, 'Looking Ahead, Delivering Now Our Strategy to Summer 2022. It will extend the curriculum, extracurricular and community and community sport club programme. The leisure centre will continue to build on the excellent work already being undertaken to increase provision and an improved community sport hub. A plan underpinning the support of this project is evidenced in **Appendix B**.
- 3.6 Due to tight timescales for grant application the work to pull together this project has been immense and along with the recent energy efficiency work undertaken that has received positive feedback from customers, this project will provide further enhancement to the site.
- 3.7 The development at Chepstow will also benefit Caldicot Comprehensive School and Leisure Centre, where the demand for outdoor facilities, including

the 3G and ATP, exceeds capacity. Any Clubs or Groups from Chepstow utilising facilities at Caldicot can be relocated to Chepstow. Additionally, this enables a more local offer for all Chepstow community clubs and eliminates barriers to access – such as transport.

- 3.8 These proposed improvements will see Chepstow as a site future proofed and with the ability to enhance and improve many different sports, enabling growth and providing opportunities for all Through existing provision, partnerships and identifying new links, the project has the potential to close some of the gaps already identified through the school curriculum, school sport survey and local sport club data and insight.
- 3.9 The sustainability of outdoor facilities, fresh air and the ability to exercise and play in a safe, secure environment is more important than ever before. Not only have we seen a detrimental effect to children and young people's physical and mental health as a result of the pandemic, we already knew that physical activity levels across our population in Wales was declining.
- 3.10 Football in Chepstow is popular with children, young people and adults. There are active mini, junior, girls and Welsh League Men's team. Chepstow has an active Walking Football team, who has represented the town in a number of tournaments across Wales and England. The initiative was an exit route established from our National Exercise Referral Scheme in Monmouthshire. A great example how we can build on this initiative with other sports. More than 300 adults are referred direct to the Chepstow exercise referral programme each year. More evidence of need is identified in the FAW Strategy, **Appendix C**.
- 3.11 There will be a potential loss of many grass pitches at the local Army Barracks, based in England, currently used by many local Chepstow football clubs, which is more reason to develop more opportunities at Chepstow Leisure Centre.
- 3.12 The ATP is the main facility and playing surface for many sports, football is the main sport played on the surface, for the school and the community clubs. This presents many opportunities, and more often or not, the established sports and first teams takes priority to fulfil their training and fixtures. Quite clearly we have an inequality of opportunity for all, and whilst the school, leisure centre and community clubs are working hard to find solutions, the lack of space and quality of facility is the deciding factor. Growth and opportunity to participate in junior hockey, girl's football and rugby and many recreational opportunities are limited. Subsequently children and young people are seeking opportunities, where they can access into England.
- 3.13 The sport of rugby, like football is served very well in the school and community with strong pathways. However, like other sports the school provision in winter months is delivered on the ATP. Winter training for community clubs is focused on the leisure centre, competing for space with other sports. The rugby hub officer based in the school enables the project to focus on the development of rugby, transition and those fundamental skills of primary school children.

3.14 Unfortunately, like many towns there is evidence and data on anti-social behaviour in Chepstow. Young people often get badged with a small minority of the population who go out to create anti-social behaviour. Working with our colleagues in our youth service and delivering programmes through Positive Futures, our Active Gwent PCC funded initiative, we will build on our engagement through sport sessions and target hot spots. In our other town's we have created very successful diversionary sport activities – Friday Night football projects, Operation Bang, that have included turn up and play football sessions, in a safe environment, taken some of the hardest to reach children and young people to compete and try other sport festivals, along with our Active Gwent colleagues. Chepstow will host Friday Night football projects at the leisure centre, as part of the project.

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

4.1. There are no negative impacts to note in this significant investment in sport and community wellbeing. These additional facilities and programmes will ensure there are improved opportunities for all in Chepstow and surrounding areas. A completed integrated assessment accompanies this report in **Appendix D.**

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

5.1 The opportunity to secure external funding awards of potentially 81% (£433,058) to upgrade and improve the outdoor playing facilities and pitches represents good value for money. In the event the project isn't progressed both the Comprehensive School and Leisure Centre will retain the existing provision but the consequence will be that this will remain a Capital Pressure for the Council.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA:

6.1 There will be a project evaluation commitment directly reporting to the grantees. Additionally, all measures, outcomes and impact will be measured and monitored through quarterly reporting of service business plans and against the corporate plan.

7. REASONS:

7.1 To ensure the Chepstow continues to be hub of sporting opportunity where all sports can be played by all the community and necessary funding is available in the Council's capital budget in the 2021/22 financial year to enable the project to commence.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

8.1 Pending successful grant awards being received that Cabinet approve a capital budget of £101,907 (19% contribution) to be created in the 2021/22 financial year from the Council's Capital Match Funding budget to match fund

the upgrade and improvements of the outdoor playing facilities and pitches at Chepstow Comprehensive School and Leisure Centre.

- 8.2 The ongoing revenue costs for the project will be met from within existing budgets. The delegated budgets are currently held by the schools.
- 8.3 Any additional costs, will be offset by improved maintenance. The project will purchase a ride on mower, to increase regular maintenance across the 3G and ATP surfaces. Routine maintenance and upkeep will be undertaken jointly by the school site maintenance staff and leisure centre team.
- 8.4 There is the potential for an increase in energy costs through increase usage, particularly in the winter months. However, the recent upgrade to LED lighting will mitigate some of this increase in energy costs.
- 8.5 Any costs incurred due to increase in demand will be offset by an increase in income and annual revenue grants.

9. **CONSULTEES:**

Cabinet.

Strategic Leadership Team.

10. **BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

Appendix A – Chepstow Comprehensive School and Leisure Centre Scope of Improvements.

Appendix B – MonLife Sport Development Delivery Plan 2022/23.

Appendix C – FAW Strategy Our Wales.

Appendix D – Integrated Impact Assessment document.

11. **AUTHORS:**

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<p>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Nicholas John</p> <p>Phone no: 07768055408</p> <p>E-mail: Nicholasjohn@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>To seek Cabinet approval to progress to full application and acceptance of the Sport Wales and Football Association of Wales WG Development grants programme for funding to upgrade the outdoor playing facilities and pitches at Chepstow Comprehensive School and Leisure Centre.</p>
<p>Name of Service area</p> <p>MonLife</p>	<p>Date</p> <p>01/02/2022</p>

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1. 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	Chepstow comprehensive school and MonLife have many programmes, interventions and provisions that focuses on the opportunity to create well-being, physical activity and safe spaces for children, young people and adults to participate in their chosen activity.	Evidence as shown that older people engage less in sport and physical activity in comparison to children and young people.	Building on our extensive exit routes of our National Exercise Referral, where we have developed weekly 'walking sports sessions', i.e walking football. We will continue to expand this programme to, 'walking netball', 'walking hockey', etc. MonLife has secured three year funding, through Sport Wales, to

			<p>develop a programme of Actice 60+. We will use this opportunity to target older people encouraging and supporting them to take up sport and physical activity.</p>
Disability	<p>Chepstow comprehensive school and the leisure centre have programmes and interventions to directly target children and young people of all abilities to enable them to participate in sport, and physical in a safe space.</p>	<p>Evidence as shown that people with a disability engages less in sport and physical activity for a number of reasons.</p>	<p>The proposed improvements to the outdoor playing facilities and pitches enables us to create more safe, suitable spaces, more opportunity to segregate the different sports and working with partners looking at ways how we can positively close the gaps in participation.</p> <p>MonLife has been recognised as insport Silver accreditation by Disability Sport Wales as part of a National programme of insport facility. Improvements to facilities, equipment and programmes would create improved inclusive environments, reduce potential barriers to access and provide an improved offer and opportunity for all. Specific programmes identified to directly target underrepresented groups are ongoing and will encourage and support greater participation.</p> <p>The National insport programme is applicable to our community</p>

			sport clubs and we have seen a rise in the number of clubs proactively engaging in this scheme which enables the leisure centre teams to sign post customers to accredited clubs where specific sessions are not available directly through the leisure centre, I,e football sessions and swimming specific club sessions.
Gender reassignment	Chepstow comprehensive school and MonLife promotes diversity and inclusion and encourages all children and young people to participate in sport, and physical in a safe space.	None identified at this stage.	Chepstow comprehensive school and MonLife will continue to promote diversity and inclusion and provide support for all children and young people. And work with community groups and sport clubs to identify any barriers to participation.
Marriage or civil partnership	MonLife promotes diversity and inclusion and encourages all children and young people and adults to participate in sport, and physical in a safe space.	None identified at this stage.	MonLife will continue to promote diversity and inclusion and provide support for all children and young people. And work with community groups and sport clubs to identify any barriers to participation.
Pregnancy or maternity	MonLife, through the National Exercise Referral Scheme has a direct referral pathway with clinicians for antenatal and post natal opportunities to participate in physical activity.	None identified at this stage.	More than ever there is a need for all people to exercise and exercise in the outdoors. MonLife will continue to offer support, interventions and look for new outdoor pathways.

Race	Chepstow comprehensive school and MonLife promotes diversity and inclusion and encourages all children and young people to participate in sport, and physical in a safe space.	None identified at this stage.	The Football Association of Wales has been an advocate of the campaign – NO TO RACISM, <i>Challenge Racism in Football</i> . Many of Monmouthshire schools and grass routes clubs have taken part in the campaign SHOW RACISM THE <u>RED</u> CARD, Educating Wales about racism.
Religion or Belief	Chepstow comprehensive school and MonLife promotes diversity and inclusion and encourages all children and young people to participate in sport, and physical in a safe space.	None identified at this stage.	The proposed improvements to the outdoor playing facilities and pitches enables us to create more safe, suitable spaces, more opportunity to segregate the different sports and working with partners looking at ways how we can positively close the gaps in participation.
Sex	Chepstow comprehensive school and MonLife promotes diversity and inclusion and encourages all children and young people to participate in sport, and physical in a safe space.	<p>Evidence as shown that women and girls participate less in sport and physical activity for a number of reasons.</p> <p>There is a gap in provision for grass route community sport opportunities for girls.</p>	<p>The proposed improvements to the outdoor playing facilities and pitches enables us to create more safe, suitable spaces, more opportunity to segregate the different sports and working with partners looking at ways how we can positively close the gaps in participation.</p> <p>There are clear pathways for women and girls in our National Governing Body of Sports,</p>

			through partnership working with the school, MonLife sport development and our community clubs more work needs to be carries out to provide sustainable community clubs, teams and weekly opportunites to participate in sport.
Sexual Orientation	Chepstow comprehensive school and MonLife promotes diversity and inclusion and encourages all children and young people to participate in sport, and physical in a safe space.	None identified at this stage.	MonLife will continue to promote diversity and inclusion and provide support for all children and young people. And work with community groups and sport clubs to identify any barriers to participation.

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>Chepstow comprehensive school delivers an inclusive curriculum and extra curricular opportunities for all children and young people.</p> <p>MonLife offers a number of opportunites and options for children, young people and adults</p>	<p>There is evidence that there are pockets of society who do no participate in sport or physical activity. The challenge will be to identify opportunites for indivudals to engage, ensuring we are aware of any barriers and</p>	<p>MonLife has developed a number of local initiatives across leisure centre and in the community to identify barriers to participation and develop opportunites.</p> <p>This summer MonLife deliver a successful nation scheme, food</p>

	to participate in sport and physical activity, including offering concessions, prescribed activity and taster sessions.	making opportunities attractive to those individuals.	and fun, through the school, holiday enrichment programme. MonLife will continue to work with local community group and community sport clubs to identify barriers to participation and work together to find solutions.
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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>Chepstow comprehensive school and MonLife promote the Welsh language and encourages all children and young people to participate in sport, and physical in a safe space.</p> <p>The site has bilingual signage and all forms of communication are available in the medium of Welsh.</p>	<p>None identified at this stage.</p>	<p>MonLife will continue to promote the Welsh language and provide support for all children and young people. And work with community groups and sport clubs to identify any barriers to participation.</p>
<p>Operational</p> <p>Recruitment & Training of workforce</p>	<p>MonLife would expect to recruit additional part time and seasonal staff, as the programmes and initiatives grow. All posts within MonLife sport, leisure and youth</p>	<p>None identified at this stage.</p>	

	specifies the Welsh language as desirable, and there are schemes in place to support and promote the use of the Welsh language and Welsh language skills.		
<p>Service Delivery</p> <p>Use of Welsh language in service delivery</p> <p>Promoting use of the language</p>	<p>Chepstow comprehensive school and MonLife promote the Welsh language and encourages all children and young people to participate in sport, and physical in a safe space.</p> <p>The site has bilingual signage and all forms of communication are available in the medium of Welsh.</p>	None identified at this stage.	<p>MonLife promotes the opportunities to communicate through the Welsh language and positively displays literature in Welsh. All of our communication channels has equal priority and the opportunity to communicate in Welsh. And whilst face to face instant communication isn't always possible, the willingness and support is there to try and improve these areas. A number of MonLife channels has moved to digital, where it is much more straight forward to communicate in Welsh.</p>

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?
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<p>A prosperous Wales</p> <p>Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>The improvements to the existing facilities enables future ready facilities, state of the art surfaces and flexible safe spaces to develop new ideas and initiatives, which will be critical to the new ways of thinking and delivery of the Curriculum for Wales. Projected growth in services will create part time and seasonal jobs, as well as creating volunteer opportunities through increase community sport clubs or sessions.</p>	<p>The proposals are to improve and enhance the existing facilities, using the existing footprint.</p> <p>Improved, up to date, well maintained surfaces will serve the natural environment surrounding the areas well.</p>
<p>A resilient Wales</p> <p>Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>There are no plans in the proposals to increase the footprint of the existing facilities.</p> <p>The improvements will enable the space to be used more and become more flexible to accommodate activities all year round.</p>	<p>The proposals compliments the plans to increase the biodiversity and the planting of additional trees as part of a wider Monmouthshire tree planting scheme.</p> <p>More regular maintenance of the facilities, with the appropriate equipment will enable other areas to thrive, i.e improved drainage, through the regular brushing of sandfilled meida.</p>
<p>A healthier Wales</p> <p>People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>The flexibility of the safe spaces proposed, will enable increased outdoor, all year round sport and physical activity. The growth in opportunities projected will provide early opportunities and create healthy habits for children and young people to go onto lead an adherence to regular physical activity.</p>	<p>Offering the same programmes and opportunities gives us the same results. Good is not good enough, and we know that through this project, whilst maintaining the levels of physical activity, we have a challenge, more than ever to increase regular weekly participation for all will take something different, new facilities, programmes, attitudes and opportunities. Collectively, our</p>

		stakeholders in the project has committed to work collaboratively to achieve the outcomes.
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities</p> <p>Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>Our comprehensive school and leisure centre sites are well used, safe spaces and offers choice.</p> <p>Further developments to enhance outdoor facilities gives us more opportunity to build on this. There are barriers to access and participation and the challenge will be to identify these early and make new opportunities attractive.</p>	<p>The benefit of dual use leisure centres, occupied by schools and the community are that they are based in the community, many barriers are overcome by children and young people accessing the school daily, and parents and carers are reassured of the site, facility and safe space.</p> <p>Many parents and carers also benefit from accessing services at the leisure centre which also presents more opportunities for community engagement and a sense of place.</p>
<p>A globally responsible Wales</p> <p>Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing</p>	<p>Monmouthshire has a commitment to invest in schools and leisure centres, and whilst the site is the last remaining school to benefit from the 21st Century school programme, the school has been identified for future development. The same applies to leisure services and the development of the leisure centre, where development is ongoing and have included improvements to the inside of the building, benefitting from retrofit programmes, and extensive carbon reduction measures.</p>	<p>Whilst not new 21st century buildings, the site and buildings have seen improvements, carbon reduction measures and actively encouraging children, young people and adults to make responsible decisions, whether that be waste reduction campaigns in the school, or active travel initiatives being rolled out in the community.</p> <p>The start of the Wye Valley walk at the car park of the leisure centre is a unique opportunity for the site to compliment everything that Monmouthshire represents.</p>
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</p>	<p>The very nature of the dual use site demonstrates many aspects of Wales culture and Monmouthshire.</p>	<p>Through our networks we will continue to promote the benefits of our services and Monmouthshire.</p>

Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation		
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	Chepstow comprehensive school and MonLife promotes diversity and inclusion and encourages all children and young people to participate in sport, and physical in a safe space.	MonLife will continue to promote diversity and inclusion and provide support for all children and young people. And work with community groups and sport clubs to identify any barriers to participation.

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>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p> <p>Long Term</p>	<p>The improvements of the outdoor facilities provides an all year round, flexible and safe space.</p> <p>The lifespan of the current surfaces has been more than 10 years.</p>	<p>The purchase of specialist equipment to maintain the facilities prolongs the lifespan of the facilities and maintains the functionality of the surface.</p> <p>Training and maintenance programmes will benefit the site.</p>
 <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p> <p>Collaboration</p>	<p>The project is a collective project, identifying many stakeholders and agreed outcomes.</p>	<p>The project is mainly grant funded, with agreed partner mile stones, outcomes and reporting. The outcomes are also reported through MonLife service business plan, quarterly.</p>

 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>The project has identified challenges and barriers. The success of the project will be measured against engagement, participation and outcomes.</p>	<p>There are established community forums including sport club annual general meetings, and platforms, school councils and sport development has developed initiatives where pupils voice and peer mentoring has been successful in creating opportunities, including Bronze Young Ambassadors, Play Makers, Sport Leadership groups in the comprehensive school and supporting community pathways.</p>
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>Making improvements now enables us to grow programmes. Committing resources of stakeholders to long term maintenance plans, upgraded facilities and equipment, supports the longer term life span.</p>	<p>Service level agreements are in place and will be developed to ensure long term sustainability is achieved.</p>
 <p>Integration</p> <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>Giving children the best start in life and lifelong well-being are core outcomes of this proposal.</p>	<p>The opportunity to collaborate with a number of stakeholders and agree shared goals improves our chances of success.</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?

	<p>Describe any positive impacts your proposal has</p>	<p>Describe any negative impacts your proposal has</p>	<p>What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?</p>
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Safeguarding	Chepstow comprehensive school and MonLife have stringent, monitored, training and reporting in place for safeguarding.	None identified at this stage.	<p>MonLife has in place a Safe Audit, protocols for booking facilities and measure stringent process for safeguarding.</p> <p>MonLife work with community sport clubs and the National Governeing Body criteria for keeping everyone safe are robust, regularly monitored and campaigns are regulary promoted through sport.</p> <p>Up to date training is readily available for staff and community volunteers.</p>
Corporate Parenting	Chepstow comprehensive school and MonLife commitments in place to support all children in their care.	None identified at this stage.	<p>MonLife works closely with MCC departments to ensure there are opportunites for children and young people in the care of MCC. There are a number of community clubs who offer support to prevent barriers to participation.</p>

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

Evidence generated, locally, regionally and nationally has been used to inform our decsions and develop the proposals. In the report and attached appendices to this report, references the work and strategies of our partners, and partner funding criteria to bring this project together. Visual conditions of the existing outdoor facilities and pitches is evident and the proposal bring together a collective approach to improving these spaces.

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 exercise has helped us to demonstrate the need for the project, and the opportunity to seek funding now and not wait until further deterioration of condition of facilities. Moreover, we have been able to detail our application to the funding bodies, helping to shape the outcomes, and stretch our targets and outputs, specifically to identify any barriers and work collaboratively to overcome them.

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
Form an internal working group	February 16 th 2022	Nick John

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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
1	Cabinet	2 March 2022	

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APPENDEX A

Chepstow Comprehensive School and Leisure Centre – Scope of Improvements

Existing Facility and Condition	Proposed Improvements
<p><u>MUGA area of 68x34.5m</u> (two separate courts of 34.5x34m, linked by accessible gated fence) – four porous macadam courts, fenced and floodlit, line markings for the sports of football, tennis, netball, basketball. Inset tennis nets and basketball backboards (x4). Also used for physical activity, play and winter athletics. More than 10 years old, surface poor and end of life.</p>	<p><u>MUGA area of 68x34.5m</u> – upgrade lights to LED energy efficient; repurpose the four existing porous macadam courts with a 3G carpet 60mm long pile, World Rugby shock pad and upgraded rebound fencing surround for football, line markings and new goals for the sports of rugby and football. Combining the two separate areas to make one larger playing area.</p>
<p><u>ATP area of 99x62m</u> – 2G carpet, fenced and floodlit, line markings for the sport of hockey and football, also use for physical activity, play and winter athletics. More than 10 years old, surface poor and end of life.</p>	<p><u>ATP area of 99x62m</u> – upgrade lights to LED energy efficient; replace the existing 2G carpet with a 2G hockey specific grade carpet, line markings for the sport of hockey and replacement game standard hockey goals, also use for physical activity, play and winter athletics.</p>
<p><u>Outdoor Cricket Nets x 4 bay (28x16m)</u> – individual bays and inset wickets. More than 10 years old, surface and ground levels poor, end of life.</p>	<p><u>Outdoor Cricket Nets x 4 bay (28x16m)</u> – upgrade facility including replacement of synthetics.</p>
<p><u>School yard area of 30x30m</u> – tarmac surface, no line markings, no lighting. Also used for physical activity, play and winter athletics.</p>	<p><u>School yard area of 30x30m</u> – upgrade lights to LED energy efficient; repurpose the space and retrofit and line markings for netball, tennis, basketball, physical activity and play.</p>
<p><u>Grass pitches</u> – full size football and rugby, posts and markings. Good ground conditions. Also used for physical activity, play and summer athletics.</p>	<p><u>PQS</u> – two grass pitches assessment, for sustainability of future usage and increase capacity.</p>
	<p><u>Storage Container</u> – purchase of new container for the safe storage of all outdoor related sports equipment.</p>
	<p><u>Ride on tractor</u> – purchase of new tractor and associated brushes, to maintain the improved areas and maintain standards for playing, training and matches.</p>
<p><u>Changing facilities</u> – outdoor well maintained facilities, connected to the school and accessible for community usage. Additionally, there are dry side changing facilities available at the leisure centre for outdoor and community bookings.</p>	

APPENDIX B - MonLife Delivery Plan : Monmouthshire Sport Development 2022-2023

Service / Activity Area Description; Monmouthshire Sport Development (Education, Community and Leisure provision) – impact and project delivery

Key Partners & Stakeholders; Sport Wales, Monmouthshire County Council, Newport Live, Newport City Council, Blaenau Gwent CBC, Aneurin Leisure, Caerphilly CBC, Torfaen CBC, Torfaen Leisure, Welsh Government, MonLeisure (Leisure Services), Education, Health (Aneurin Bevan Health Board), Healthy Schools Network, Youth Service, Outdoor Education, Disability Sport Wales, National Governing Body's, Housing Associations, Town Councils, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent, 3rd Sector organisations.

Links to Key Policy and Documents; MonLife Service Improvement Plan 2019-22, MonLife Business Plan 2019-23, Links with MonLife Leisure Services and GP Referral Delivery Plan / [Monmouthshire Local Sport Plan \(2019-20\)](#) / [Sport Development Delivery Overview](#) / [Active Gwent 2018 Report](#).

Other Background; This document covers the project and programme delivery as set by Monmouthshire Sport Development. All targeted interventions are measured through qualitative and quantitative data reported quarterly back through Active Gwent and in line with Sport Wales national measures, as well as local wellbeing objectives.

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MonLife Delivery Plan: Monmouthshire Sport Development

Creating a range of inclusive sport and physical activity opportunities, for all ages, to contribute towards *Creating an Active and Healthy Monmouthshire*.
Our targeted intervention across Education, Community and Leisure provision provides the platform for all individuals to thrive through regular physical activity.

Description of Activity / Scheme / Project	Lead <i>Inc. delivery partners</i>	Times cale	Status <i>Quarterly updates in italics: Including changes to plans / actions</i>	RAG	Targets and Measures <i>KPIs / other measures – targets and performance</i>	Finance <i>Source / Performance against targets or costs</i>	Priority category <i>which target category it relates to.</i>
Foundation & Participation (HOS)							
<u>Start4Life</u>	Sports dev Early Years / Flying Start /		1. <i>Pre School Physical Literacy Project (Q1-Q4)</i> 2. <i>TMG Tots Leisure Provision (Q1-Q4)</i>		1. <i>Training for 33 settings and 6 receiving support.</i>		

<p>Embedding inclusive sport, physical activity and fundamental skill development from an early age (first 1000 days).</p>	<p>Healthy Schools Network</p>	<p>2022-2023</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Engage partners such as Flying Start. (Q1, Q2) 4. Early Intervention and Support aquatics experiences for under 5's (Q1-Q4) 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Each Site to have at least one TMG Tots Provision. 3. 2 partners engaged as a target for success. 4. Funded family swim sessions 		<p>Community clubs</p>
<p>Skills4Life Participation</p> <p>Providing inclusive sport and physical activity opportunities for children and young people age 3-18 years old.</p>	<p>Sport Dev Team</p>	<p>2022-2023</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Primary School Curriculum Support (Q1-Q4) 2. Primary School Festival Provision (Q1-Q4) 3. Primary School Health Interventions (Q1 and Q2) 4. Leisure TMG and Supporting Camp Provision (Q1-Q4) 5. Inclusive and Relevant secondary school provision (Q1-Q4) 6. User Satisfaction tools, create ways to gather and evaluate feedback (Q1-Q4) 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AWR Primary Delivery. 2. 3,500 attendances estimated 3. Ysgol Y Finn Wellbeing Project 4. Estimated 4,000 attendances. 5. Estimated 10,000 attendances. 6. Ongoing Engagement and Evaluation of provision. 		<p>Leadership</p>
<p>Skills4Life Education</p> <p>Providing leadership and development opportunities for children and young people.</p>	<p>Sport Dev Team</p>	<p>2022-2023</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. YA and School Based Leadership programmes (Q1-Q4) 2. Sports Leaders UK Primary Provision – Playmaker Award (Q2-Q4) 3. Secondary School Leadership Academies (Q1-Q4). 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wider rollout to 6 schools 2. Les Mills, Wellbeing Weeks, YA Activity Challenge. 3. Delivery To All Year 5 Pupils in the Playmaker Award. 4. Continued support and impact for 110 young people. 		<p>Leadership</p>
<p>Sport4Life Volunteering</p> <p>Providing inclusive and engaging volunteer opportunities for young people involved in our leadership pathway</p>	<p>Sport Dev Team</p>	<p>2022-2023</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support for volunteers based on the Volunteer Kinetic Management System (Q1-Q4) 2. Sports Leaders UK Secondary Provision – I Can Lead Course (Q1-Q4) 3. NGB Training Courses and Support of a complete pathway – NGB Development Session (Q2) and Leadership Conference (Q3) 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All Active volunteers to have a profile and actively recording hours through the system. 2. 100 young People to receive the training. 3. 100 Young People to be upskilled through the 		<p>Leadership and aquatics</p>

					secondary school leadership conference.		
Health and Wellbeing Specific Projects	Sport Dev Team	2022-2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Links with Health Board 'Connect' Project. 2. Monmouthshire Games LAC, FSM and funded provision. 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of a referral programme linked to children's weight management. 2. Continue to provide access to TMG for some of the most vulnerable children in Monmouthshire. 		Community Clubs
Progression & Performance (SP)							
Playmaker Conference and Community Club Engagement	Sport Dev Team	2022-2023	Through our playmaker conferences we will ensure exit routes are formed for sustained participation after the event has taken place. Links to community provision to be made clear through delivery on each day. (Q1)		Provide a positive experience on the day for 914 young people attending and measure impact through NGB registrations.		Community Clubs
MonSport Festival Provision and Community Club Engagement	Sport Development Team	2022-2023	Delivery of a full cluster and Monmouthshire wide festival provision for Football, Netball, Cross Country and Cluster specific offers (Q1-Q4)		Target of 30 schools (all primary) engaged in at least one festival.		Leadership and Community clubs
Aquatics participation	Mark Jones	2022-2023	Creating, supporting and increasing participation in aquatics. (Q1-Q4)		Target of increasing the participation across all elements of aquatics. Providing a diverse program so there is something for everyone.		Aquatics
Running In Monmouthshire – Support Social Running Opportunities	Sport Dev Team	2022-2023	Running in Monmouthshire. A focus placed on supporting social running groups and developing community based opportunities, such as parkrun's. (Q1-Q4).		Increase uptake in social running group membership and current parkrun attendances. Develop new parkrun's if the opportunity is there 500 target.		Community clubs
Junior Triathlon Development (primary and secondary)	Sport Dev Team	2022-2023	Partnership work to develop triathlon opportunities across the authority for children age 8-16 years old. (Q1 - Q2)		Delivered in partnership with Monmouthshire Youth Service (refer to their plan for full details) and Cantref Primary		Community Clubs and aquatics

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					School we have a target of 600 participations.		
Support More Able & Talented (MAT) Young People Through MonLeisure Elite Pathway	Sport Dev Team	2022-2023	<i>Promotion and engagement with MAT young people to make them aware of the MonLeisure Elite pathway scheme to support their development.</i>		<i>A target of supporting at least 5 young people this financial year through the elite pathway.</i>		Community Clubs
Be Active Wales/Crowd funding	Sport Dev Team	2022-2023	<i>Through coach education and project / equipment support our club bursary scheme aims to provide a localised opportunity for club funding. All with a focus of building stronger and more resilient community sport clubs.</i>		<i>A target of 6 clubs to be supported and 10 individuals through coach education funding has been set to measure impact.</i>		Community Clubs
MonSport Club / NGB Engagement Sessions	Sport Dev Team	2022-2023	<i>Regular club engagement sessions and an NGB specific day will ensure a complete pathway from education, leisure and community provision for young people in Monmouthshire. (Q1-4)</i>		<i>Ongoing club engagement and support through coach education (such as safeguarding) if required.</i> <i>Deliver a NGB presentation in Monmouthshire will all are invited to attend. (Q2)</i>		Community Clubs
Health, Communities & Inclusion (TI)							
Women and Girls Participation Girls Stronger Ladies Stronger Women & Wellbeing		2022-2023	<i>Continue to develop a suite of opportunities for women and girls to engage in Sport and Physical Activity.</i> <i>These include Dance & Gymnastics Camps at Abergavenny, Zumba Sessions at Caldicot, 5x60 Provision at Chepstow and 'Ladies Stronger Together' in the south of the authority. (Q1-Q4).</i>		<i>Girls Stronger Target – 10 secondary school pupils engaged.</i> <i>Ladies Stronger Target – 15 Women.</i> <i>Women & Wellbeing Target – 40 women engaged.</i> <i>Dance & Gymnastics Target – 10 workshops (160 attendances).</i> <i>Target of 100 girls new to the sport across all interventions and accessing community clubs.</i>		Community Clubs and Active 60
Active 60	Sports Dev team	2022-2023	<i>Increase and maximise the reach of this program. and exceeding the minimum criteria.</i>		<i>Targets;</i>		Active 60 and aquatics

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					Increase participation for over 60s across 4 leisure centres. Create a range of activities such as dance, fitness, football, swimming and rugby		
<u>BAME Inclusion</u> Carrom Development	Mark Foster Sport Dev Team	2022-2023	Promote cultural diversity to the children of Monmouthshire by introducing the cultural board game of Carrom.		Targets 10 Primary Schools 4 TMG Sites 6 Youth Settings 5 Care Homes 5 Community Spaces		
<u>insport Club</u> Support clubs in developing their own provision that includes disabled people. Providing inclusive and disability specific physical activity and sporting opportunities across Monmouthshire.	Sport Dev Team	2022-2023	Continue the development of inclusive opportunities across Leisure provision, community sport clubs and wider MonLife services. (Q1-Q4).		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintaining and engaging with the 16 current insport accredited clubs. 2. Increase insport accredited clubs by 8, 2 in each cluster. 3. Community sport clubs on the insport journey will be measured continually with a target of 20 clubs. 		Community Clubs
<u>insport Development - GOLD</u> Ensure that disabled people are naturally part the LA's thinking; in preparation and planning, delivery and implementation, and review and refinement. At this stage, it should not be a series of separate steps that you take, but an interlinked, holistic and flowing part of your working life, that of your colleagues,		2022-2023	A commitment to working towards the Disability Sport Wales insport Development GOLD accreditation across MonLife Services. Please refer to the 'insport Development – GOLD' document on the left hand side for further information.		Develop strategic stakeholder engagement with:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education. 2. Health. 3. Social Services. 4. MonLife Service Areas. 		Community Clubs

and of the general operations of the LA.						
<u>Active Gwent - Disability Sport Wales</u> Boccia Festivals/League ABUHB Health Project Insport Series Visually Impaired Opportunities	Mark Foster AG DSW AG DSW AG DSW AG DSW	2022-2023	<i>A commitment to working as a region to identify need and gaps for specific disability sport pathways</i>		<i>4 Festivals – 1 per Quarter across the Region. Develop Health Project in collaboration with ABUHB. 3 Mass participation Events – 1 per ABUHB Children’s Centre’s.</i>	Community Clubs
<u>Positive Futures – Divisionary Activities</u> Friday Night Projects – Reduce ASB	Mark Foster Mark Foster	2022-2023	<i>Our Friday night projects continue to engage with young people, provide a safe place for them to go and use sport as a tool for engagement.</i> <i>Abergavenny and Caldicot provision to be continued with Monmouth and Chepstow provision starting in April 2020 (Q1-Q4).</i>		<i>Measurement of attendances and impact in line with previous year’s provision.</i> <i>% of young people on the ASB strike list to be monitored against attendance in provision to ensure it is impactful and fit for purpose.</i>	Community Clubs
<u>Positive Futures – Alternative Education</u> Early Intervention SHIFT RE-ENGAGE	Mark Foster	2022-2023	<i>The MonLife Positive Futures Alternative Education Provision comprises of 3 delivery models; Early Intervention for Years 1 - 5, SHIFT for Years 6 - 13, and RE-ENGAGE which has 3 pathways; Additional Learning Needs (ALN), Pupil Referral Service (PRS)/Schools and Social Care and Health.</i>		<i>The target of young people will be related to the level of PPEYP funding received.</i> <i>A target of 22 Year 6 pupils to be supported through the Shift Project.</i>	Community Clubs

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					Pilot & Develop the RE-ENGAGE Alternative Education Provision in collaboration with ALN.		
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Key Performance Indicators *(include all MonLife indicators in the Service Plan “owned” by the team / activity area)*

Section	Indicator	Target	Actual Q1	Actual Q2	Actual Q3	Actual Q4	Comment
<i>Leisure</i>	insport Accreditation (Disability Sports Wales)	<i>Gold</i>					<i>Continue to work towards data capture and service improvement with a future application to be submitted to present for Gold.</i>
<i>Leisure</i>	Number of community sports clubs achieving insport accreditation	20					<i>Annual Measurement</i>
<i>Leisure</i>	<i>Number of young people trained in the Playmaker Award</i>	900					<i>Quarterly Measurement – Main delivery during Q2 and Q3.</i>
<i>Leisure</i>	Number of young people hooked on sport	75% - By 2026					Young person engagement measures to be captured during interim years. Next full capture 2021.

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Risks *(include all MonLife risks in the Service Plan “owned” by the team / activity area)*

Risk	Reason why identified	Residual Risk Level (Pre – mitigation)	Planned Mitigation & timescales	Residual Risk Level (Post – mitigation)	Holder	Progress Q1	Progress Q2	Progress Q3	Progress Q4
		Y e L . . . m R . .		Y e L . . . m R . .					

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Ein Cymru Our Wales

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Bringing the plan to life by working in partnership to deliver mutually **beneficial outcomes**

Football Association of Wales





1

Share an overview of the football landscape

2

Explore the possibility of working together on a shared vision and plan for football

3

Seek advice on future approaches needed to help achieve the vision

Our wales

Our vision is to create a leading football nation, one where the game is inclusive, accessible & successful.

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From park football to the world stage, our VISION is for a global, local Wales.

This is our Wales.



Vision

From park football to the world stage
– a vision for a global local Wales

Strategic pillars

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- Wales on the world stage
- A flexible, inclusive and appealing offer
- A diverse, skilled and engaged football family
- Inspirational and fit-for-purpose facilities
- Clear and effective pathways for progression
- A sustainable association for the future

Enablers

- Investment
- Insight
- Engagement
- Image
- Systems



**120,000
registered
players**



**Double the
female game**

**Facilities
for all**

A flexible, inclusive & appealing offer

- 30k new players and c1.5k new teams.
- An additional 4.5k pitch hours a week.
- Grow all areas of the game, including representation from Ethnically Diverse Communities and disability football.



A diverse, skilled & engaged football family

- 11.5k new volunteers to achieve the 30K target and support the growth in participation.



Inspirational and fit-for-future facilities

- An ambition to transform grassroots facilities at club, parks and education sites.
- An indicative pan-Wales target of £100m required to maintain, upgrade and construct new facilities to meet the participation targets.



THE FAW IN NUMBERS

943

Clubs

17,125

Red Wall Members

90,000

Registered players (and growing)

80,000

Spectators every week

18,400

Volunteers

1.25m

Social Media followers

60,000

Matches every season

20%

% of matches postponed every season



THE DEMAND FOR FOOTBALL IN WALES

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189,268

School age children playing

206,000

Adults take part in outdoor football

110,758

School age children would like to do more

6%

Adults want to play more football in Wales

17,023

School age non-participants would like to play

School Sport Survey (2018) & National Survey for Wales (2018-19)



THE DEMAND FOR FOOTBALL IN MONMOUTHSHIRE

59%

School age children playing

36%

School age children want to play more football

1st

Most popular team sport

1st

Most popular extra-curricular and club activity



89.98K

Registered Football Players

18.40K

Registered Volunteers

£553.14M

Total Current Impact of Participation



social

£83.965M

Economic Impact of Social Benefits

£144.925m
2026



economy

£263.482M

Direct Contributions to the Economy

£267.885m
2026



health

£205.691M

Healthcare Savings from Football Participation

£250.781m
2026

£663.59m

Total projected impact of participation in 2026

social

£83.96M Economic Impact of Social Benefits



Volunteering
£56.81M



Crime
£85.20K



Education & Employment
£22.51M



Projects & Programs
£4.57M

economy

£263.48M Direct Contributions to the Economy



Facility Value
£216.37M



Player Spending
£47.11M



Employment
1.32K

health

£205.69M Healthcare Savings from football participation



CDV and Diabetes
£15.90M



Cancer
£266.40K



Aging
£9.20M



Subjective Wellbeing
£176.97M



Mental Health
£4.26M



Injury
£-1.57M



Projects & Programs
£664.06K



Undy Athletic FC - Monmouthshire

444.00

Registered
Football Players

67.00

Registered
Volunteers

£1.85M

Total Current Impact
of Participation



social

£420.785K

Economic Impact of social benefits



economy

£331.486K

Direct Contributions to the economy

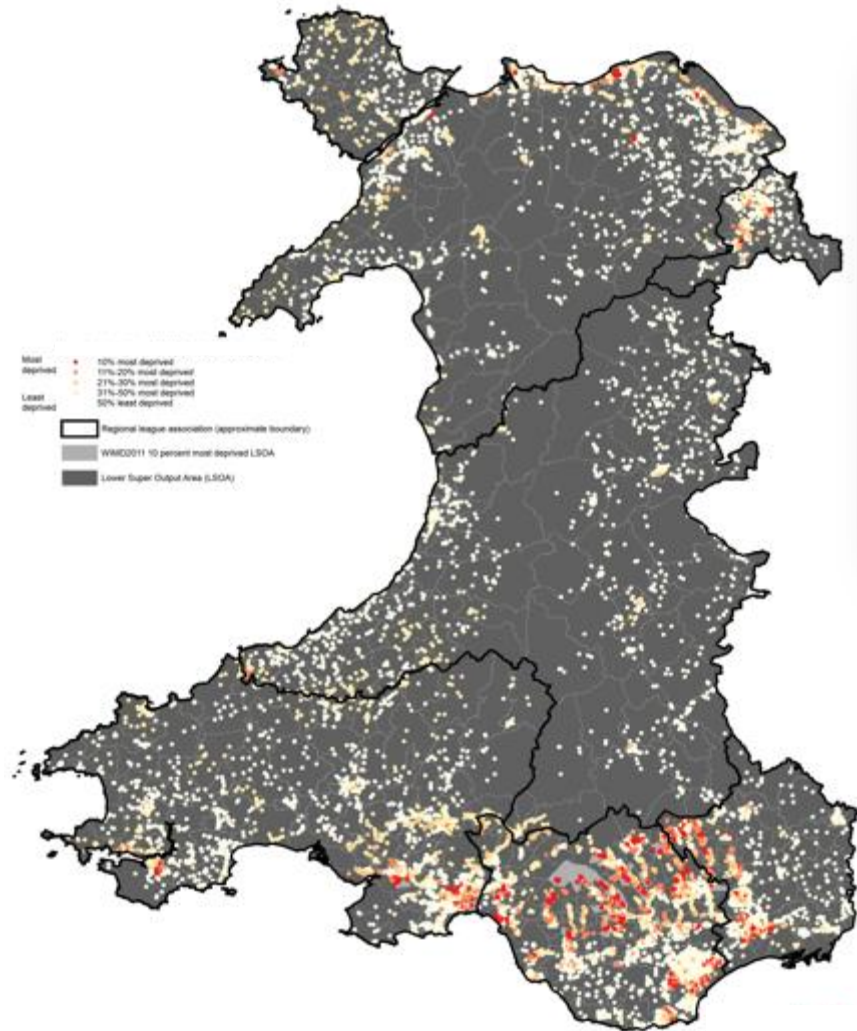


health

£1.093M

Healthcare savings from football participation

Registered players mapped against the Index for Multiple Deprivation



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Using Artificial Intelligence, COMET & data from Local Authority audits to develop a comprehensive picture of facilities in Wales



Next steps

- Seek advice and guidance from Local Authorities on future approaches and potential next steps.
- Work with Local Authorities to identify challenges, opportunities and priorities.
- FAW to produce reports detailing the following by Local Authority:
 - Number of players, coaches, referees and volunteers
 - Number of clubs and teams
 - Number and type of facilities
 - Local SROI calculations
- Develop a pan-Wales vision and a fully costed facilities improvement plan for the 22 local authorities.



Direct & indirect outcomes



Improved experiences

More & better players

Inclusive & accessible offers

A sustainable game

Quality players & teams



Health & Wellbeing

Social & community cohesion

Education attainment, skills & employment

Economic development

Visitor economy

Diolch.

Our Future
Our Responsibility
Our Wales.





SUBJECT: ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRESS AND FUNDING OVERVIEW

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 2nd MARCH 2022

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE:

1.1 To update Cabinet on the Active Travel progress and whole funding overview.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 To seek endorsement from Cabinet on active travel progress. To acknowledge the Council's ambition in recognising the importance in helping to address key longer term commitments on reducing carbon levels and health and wellbeing improvements.

3. KEY ISSUES:

3.1 Under the 'Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013', there is a requirement for authorities to continuously improve facilities and routes for pedestrians and cyclists. The overall objective is to create a modal shift away from the car for shorter journeys. The production of Active Travel Network Maps which identify existing and potential future routes is a key legal requirement of the Act, as is for any new road schemes or developments to consider the needs of pedestrians and cyclists at design stage. Active Travel has an important part to play in a number of existing policies adopted by Monmouthshire County Council.

3.2 Each financial year Welsh Government invites local authorities to bid for funding to deliver Active Travel capital infrastructure projects, as well as providing core funding to support actions in line with the act. For the last 3 financial years Monmouthshire County Council has achieved the following:

2019/20: £50,000 was awarded for one scheme – Llanfoist Active Travel bridge. Additional in year allocations 2019/20 was awarded for Abergavenny town centre active travel improvements at the sum of £300,000. £165,000 core funding was also allocated. Total grant funding of **£515,000**.

2020/21: £1,542,000 was awarded for two package schemes – 4 projects in Caldicot and 5 projects in Monmouth. £280,000 core funding was also allocated. Total funding grant of **£1,822,000**.

2021/22: £2,665,773 was awarded for three package schemes – 4 projects in Caldicot, 6 projects in Monmouth and 3 projects in Abergavenny. £370,000 core funding was also allocated. Total grant funding of **£3,035,773**.

2022/23: Officers have submitted a funding application totalling a request for **£7,916,142** grant funding to continue the existing package schemes in Abergavenny, Caldicot and Monmouth. An allocation of £500k is expected for the core funding to support county wide initiatives. Outcome of the bid is expected in March 2022. Total requested grant funding of **£8,416,142**, it is expected that the allocated amount in March will be less than requested, with additional funding secured in year once project milestones are hit.

- 3.3 Relating to 3.2, Monmouthshire has seen a significant increase in funding allocated through the national Active Travel Fund. This has been supported internally by a robust governance structure with project managers and project sponsors allocated to each project to support implementation.
- 3.4 A strategic focus has been set for Active Travel to provide clarity on our key priorities for route development. This was agreed by members as part of our Active Travel Network Map consultation and is focused on the following 'to develop routes up to 3.0 miles where the key destinations focus on travel to schools; town centres, key employment sites, bus and train stations'.
- 3.5 Throughout the past two years Active Travel has been embedded as a whole authority approach with key relationships established with statutory services, such as Education, to ensure collectively we are all playing our part.
- 3.6 Active Travel is aligned with a number of key policies such as our future generations and wellbeing objectives, Gwent PSB and decarbonisation plans. Active Travel is a key component of our collective response to climate change and providing a sustainable environment for our future generations.
- 3.7 In December 2021 officers submitted the Active Travel Network Maps to Welsh Government following an 18 month consultation period. During this process in excess of 5,000 individual responses were received, 65,844 social media impressions, 100% of Monmouthshire Schools engaged and significant support for our proposed future network. Since 2016 when the process was last undertaken, in line with the act, we have seen an increase of 73 routes added to our existing network and deemed compliant with the national design guidance. This total now stands at 100 routes and plans submitted to Welsh Government have identified our short, medium and long term prioritisation of routes to develop over the next 15 year period. Officers are awaiting feedback and approval of the proposed network.
- 3.8 Over the past two years a data led approach has been made to decision making around Active Travel. Sector leading work with Sustrans, Cardiff and Leeds Universities has provided modelling for all four of our secondary schools. Cameras and counters have been installed around the county to focus on baseline data and to inform project design. Officers are currently exploring a more digital approach to counter data, through automatic uploads and web-based data dashboards.

- 3.9 Examples of data collection and continued progress can be seen in **Appendix B** (2019/20 Annual Report), **Appendix C** (2020/21 Annual Report) and **Appendix D** (Levels of Use Report as part of our Active Travel Network Map Consultation submission).
- 3.10 Whilst the focus of our strategic bids has been on Abergavenny, Caldicot and Monmouth (due to limitations in the national bidding criteria) Active Travel progress has been made on a number of county wide initiatives, including but not limited to;
- The Chepstow Transport Study
 - Town Centre Cycling Infrastructure
 - Primary School Cycling Infrastructure
 - Primary School Active Travel Digital Monitoring
 - Gilwern Whole Settlement Transport Assessment
 - Seven Tunnel Junction Access / Burns Report Recommendations.
 - The Covid Response has seen an increase of infrastructure for 163 bikes in and around our town centres and installation of 13 public bike pumps.
- 3.11 Officers continue to work towards maximising Active Travel opportunities right across Monmouthshire. The current focus is on increasing connectivity within our 7 main settlement boundaries, as this is where there is greater opportunity for modal shift (an increase in walking and cycling) in line with our Active Travel strategic focus. There is a longer term ambition to connect communities based on the rurality of Monmouthshire, so long as it fits within the grant funding criteria.
- 3.12 Officers will continue to support a county wide approach to Active Travel through the promotion of schemes such as the Cycle to Work scheme and providing increased incentives for people to choose active modes of transport. Alignment with policy change and adapting to new opportunities for education, such as the curriculum reform, will play an important part in education to match improved infrastructure. An additional resource has been proposed within the Enterprise budget, through Safe Routes to Schools, to appoint a designated officer to support our educational settings with school travel plans. It is expected the designated post, as we have seen with Active Travel, will provide a targeted approach for continued process and to support future opportunities for growth. Work will continue to ensure a whole authority approach is adopted to these developments to provide an integrated Monmouthshire wide offer.
- 3.13 Officers will continue to work with key colleagues, such as planning, to maximise the potential of new developments to support the growth of our Active Travel Network. The data captured through our recent ATNM consultation will be important to this to provide detailed solutions and opportunities at pre planning stage.

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

- 4.1. A completed Integrated Impact Assessment accompanies this report (**Appendix A**).

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 5.1 Endorsement of the work undertaken will enable officers to continue to progress existing plans and workstreams. Failure to endorse could have an impact on existing projects, future identified schemes and subsequent grant funding to support implementation.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Progress continues to be monitored against the Active Travel Delivery Plan, MonLife Service Plan and Welsh Government / Transport for Wales Quarterly returns. Robust monitoring and evaluation arrangements are in place to track progress against grant objectives, overseen by the Active Travel Governance Board.

7. REASONS:

- 7.1 To ensure officers are aligned with the focus of the Cabinet in developing this important agenda towards our collective response to climate change.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 Existing bids have seen a level of match funding secured from the Council's own capital match funding budget to support grant funding applications, with a summary table shown below of the 22/23 ATF submission (*fig 1.0*). The match funding secured to date has been vital in demonstrating MCC's commitment to these schemes and in gearing up the amount of external funding provided.
- 8.2 As projects progress, officers will continue to liaise with finance colleagues to ensure continued match funding applications are maintained at a sustainable level and in line with MCC section 151 officer approvals. As outlined in 3.2 it is expected that the allocated amount from the total bids in March will be less than requested and this will have a consequential impact on the amounts of match funding required overall.

Fig 1.0 – Financial Summary of 22/23 ATF Submission

	Package 1 Abergavenny		Package 2 Monmouth		Package 3 Caldicot 1		Package 4 Caldicot 2		
	Castle Meadows	£2,364,000	WFL Phase 3	£420,000	Church Road Phase 2	£1,113,171	Caldicot Links	£ 2,038,033	
	Llanfoist Bridge	£1,396,999	WFL Links	£380,000	Newport Road	£ 222,000	Multi User Route	£ 83,256	
	Llanfoist Links	£ 247,500	Monnow St	£120,000	Education & Leisure	£ 210,000			
TOTAL		£4,008,499		£920,000		£1,545,171		£ 2,121,289	£ 8,594,959
Match Funding	MCC (1%)	£ 40,085	MCC (1%)	£ 9,200	MCC (23%)	£ 354,000	MCC (1%)	£ 21,212	£ 424,497 (5%)
					WG TT (16%)	£ 254,320			£ 254,320 (3%)
									£ 678,817 (8%)
TOTAL ATF ASK		£3,968,414		£910,800		£ 936,851		£ 2,100,077	£ 7,916,142

9. CONSULTEES:

Strategic Leadership Team
Cabinet

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix A – Integrated Impact Assessment
Appendix B – Active Travel Annual Report 2019/20
Appendix C – Active Travel Annual Report 2020/21
Appendix D – Active Travel Levels of Use ATNM Report
Appendix E – Active Travel Members Seminar Presentation

11. AUTHORS:

Ian Saunders. Chief Operating Officer, MonLife
Paul Sullivan. Youth, Sport and Active Travel Manager, MonLife

12. CONTACT DETAILS:

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<p>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Paul Sullivan</p> <p>Phone no: 07825 853882</p> <p>E-mail: paulsullivan@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>To update cabinet on the Active Travel progress and whole funding overview.</p>
<p>Name of Service area</p> <p>MonLife</p>	<p>Date</p> <p>09/02/2022</p>

1. **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.

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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	MonLife promotes diversity and inclusion and encourages everyone to live a healthier life. Increase in levels of walking and cycling will have a positive impact on physical and mental health for all users, whilst contributing towards the climate emergency.	None identified. All routes that are being developed are in line with the national Active Travel Design Guidance and takes into account accessibility for all, including those with protected characteristics.	Continued detailed consultation on proposals and route development ensures everyone has the opportunity to positively contribute to plans. We have seen a particular increase in engagement with Children and Young People for Active Travel work since the re purposing to MonLife.

Disability	Not only does the increase in 'existing' Active Travel Routes (those that meet the national standard) have a positive impact on walking and cycling it also supports our wheeling community, whether that be individuals accessing routes with a pushchair or with a wheelchair.	None identified. All routes that are being developed are in line with the national Active Travel Design Guidance and takes into account accessibility for all, including those with protected characteristics.	Continued detailed consultation on proposals and route development ensures everyone has the opportunity to positively contribute to plans. Accessibility is a key part of the design guidance and officer ensure, that through detailed design, access for all users is considered.
Gender reassignment	MonLife promotes diversity and inclusion and encourages everyone to live a healthier life. Increase in levels of walking and cycling will have a positive impact on physical and mental health for all users, whilst contributing towards the climate emergency.	None identified at this stage.	Continued detailed consultation on proposals and route development ensures everyone has the opportunity to positively contribute to plans.
Marriage or civil partnership	MonLife promotes diversity and inclusion and encourages everyone to live a healthier life. Increase in levels of walking and cycling will have a positive impact on physical and mental health for all users, whilst contributing towards the climate emergency.	None identified at this stage.	Continued detailed consultation on proposals and route development ensures everyone has the opportunity to positively contribute to plans.

<p>Pregnancy or maternity</p>	<p>MonLife promotes diversity and inclusion and encourages everyone to live a healthier life. Increase in levels of walking and cycling will have a positive impact on physical and mental health for all users, whilst contributing towards the climate emergency.</p> <p>A better connected and integrated network of Active Travel routes will provide opportunities to remain active during pregnancy and support time as a family thereafter.</p>	<p>None identified. All routes that are being developed are in line with the national Active Travel Design Guidance and takes into account accessibility for all, including those with protected characteristics.</p>	<p>More than ever there is a need for all people to exercise and exercise in the outdoors. MonLife will continue to offer support, interventions and look for new outdoor pathways to support opportunities for all.</p>
<p>Race</p>	<p>MonLife promotes diversity and inclusion and encourages everyone to live a healthier life. Increase in levels of walking and cycling will have a positive impact on physical and mental health for all users, whilst contributing towards the climate emergency.</p>	<p>None identified at this stage.</p>	<p>Continued detailed consultation on proposals and route development ensures everyone has the opportunity to positively contribute to plans.</p> <p>Through ongoing work with community groups and partnership work with MCC colleagues we aim to identify any barriers to modal shift and provide the environment to overcome these.</p>

<p>Religion or Belief</p>	<p>MonLife promotes diversity and inclusion and encourages everyone to live a healthier life. Increase in levels of walking and cycling will have a positive impact on physical and mental health for all users, whilst contributing towards the climate emergency.</p>	<p>None identified at this stage.</p>	<p>Continued detailed consultation on proposals and route development ensures everyone has the opportunity to positively contribute to plans.</p> <p>Through ongoing work with community groups, and partnership work with MCC colleagues, we aim to identify any barriers to modal shift and provide the environment to overcome these.</p>
<p>Sex</p>	<p>MonLife promotes diversity and inclusion and encourages everyone to live a healthier life. Increase in levels of walking and cycling will have a positive impact on physical and mental health for all users, whilst contributing towards the climate emergency.</p>	<p>Evidence as shown that women and girls participate less in sport and physical activity for a number of reasons.</p> <p>All routes that are being developed are in line with the national Active Travel Design Guidance and takes into account accessibility for all, including those with protected characteristics and safety of routes – a key factor in encouraging modal shift for all.</p>	<p>Continued detailed consultation on proposals and route development ensures everyone has the opportunity to positively contribute to plans.</p> <p>Through detailed design of routes and increase usage a natural safer environment is created to encourage walking and cycling. The more people are activity using the network the greater visibility and reduction of issues such as anti-social behavior.</p>

Sexual Orientation	MonLife promotes diversity and inclusion and encourages everyone to live a healthier life. Increase in levels of walking and cycling will have a positive impact on physical and mental health for all users, whilst contributing towards the climate emergency.	None identified at this stage.	Continued detailed consultation on proposals and route development ensures everyone has the opportunity to positively contribute to plans.
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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>The proposal suggests living in more favorable social and economic circumstances where access to services can be obtained in a no cost/low cost solution by walking and cycling.</p> <p>The proposal works to a more equal distribution of wealth and opportunities so everyone can achieve their full potential.</p> <p>Incentives to promote increased levels of Active Travel, for</p>	<p>None identified. The development of a more integrated and cohesive network, county wide, will provide increased opportunities for all.</p>	<p>MonLife has developed a number of local initiatives across leisure centre and in the community to identify barriers to participation and develop opportunities.</p> <p>The work around Active Travel will continue to build on this, using a targeted approach and mitigating any potential barriers where identified.</p>

	example in our education settings, are being explored.		
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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 favorably</p>	<p>All consultations and information are provided bilingually to ensure promotion of the Welsh Language is embedded into our work.</p>	<p>None identified at this stage.</p>	<p>MonLife will continue to promote the Welsh language and identify any areas to help develop this further, for example Welsh related artwork along identified routes where appropriate.</p>
<p>Operational</p> <p>Recruitment & Training of workforce</p>	<p>All posts within MonLife sport, leisure and youth specifies the Welsh language as desirable, and there are schemes in place to support and promote the use of the Welsh language and Welsh language skills.</p>	<p>None identified at this stage.</p>	<p>Training opportunities developed through Active Travel will ensure all documentation is provided bilingually to support the promotion of the Welsh Language.</p>
<p>Service Delivery</p>	<p>All consultations and information are provided bilingually to ensure promotion of the Welsh Language</p>	<p>None identified at this stage.</p>	<p>MonLife promotes the opportunities to communicate through the Welsh language and positively displays literature in</p>

Use of Welsh language in service delivery	is embedded throughout our work.		Welsh. All of our communication channels has equal priority and the opportunity to communicate in Welsh. And whilst face to face instant communication isn't always possible, the willingness and support is there to try and improve these areas. A number of MonLife channels has moved to digital, where it is much more straight forward to communicate in Welsh.
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!

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Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A prosperous Wales</p> <p>Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>The results of the Active Travel network development will provide a more affordable means for residents and visitors to travel within and around Monmouthshire</p> <p>Infrastructure proposals designed to improve the safety of walking and cycling will improve the attractiveness of Monmouthshire for visitors, businesses and developers.</p> <p>There are no negative impacts</p>	<p>No negative impacts. Continuing to involve transport planning for integrated public transport will enhance the proposal.</p> <p>Having a positive impact on the planning process for new residential and business developments will ensure greater impact on the network outside of MCC and Active Travel Fund grant investment.</p>

<p>A resilient Wales</p> <p>Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>As more people engage in active travel, it will alleviate traffic congestion around the local road network which will have a positive impact on public transport journey times and reliability.</p> <p>In the longer term, this could support the case for further public transport investment, providing more sustainable transport options to access popular employment areas and key destinations.</p> <p>There are no negative impacts</p>	<p>None Identified.</p>
<p>A healthier Wales</p> <p>People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>There are a number of known health benefits associated with increased levels of physical activity including improved cardiovascular health and reduced obesity levels, and these have associated cost savings to the NHS.</p> <p>Through an increased physical environment and education to support behavioral change it will have not only positive impacts on the physical and mental health of individuals engaged but also on our environment and response to climate change.</p> <p>There are no negative impacts</p>	<p>Links with colleagues internally, regionally and nationally to ensure all programme delivery is sector leading, ensuring any capital investment to improve infrastructure is maximised through behavior and educational change.</p>
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities</p> <p>Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>Proposals will create a well-connected active travel network that provides ease of movement within our settlements, as well as</p>	<p>In the Active Travel Network Maps, recently submitted to Welsh Government for approval, every effort has been made to include key</p>

	<p>connecting communities as a longer term ambition.</p> <p>There is potential to aid regional connectivity by directly supporting access to proposed public transport schemes such as the South Wales Metro, providing onward services to key hubs such as Newport and Cardiff. Having a well-connected regional area will increase access to skills, services and jobs, helping to promote the development and economic growth of Monmouthshire.</p> <p>Creating a more connected active travel network will not only improve physical access but will also enhance social connections. Areas with high levels of walking and cycling are often associated with vibrant local communities which exhibit greater levels of social inclusion and community safety.</p> <p>A potential negative impact is that funding for Active Travel primarily focuses on defined settlements and communities that lay outside those settlements are less likely to attract funding.</p>	<p>routes identified by the public to the smaller settlements.</p>
<p>A globally responsible Wales</p> <p>Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing</p>	<p>Walking and cycling are the two modes of transport with the smallest carbon footprints. If these are able to replace motorised journeys, up to 3 miles in line with our</p>	<p>Analysis of any ecological impact is carried out through all route design and development, ensuring where risks are identified they can be mitigated.</p>

	strategic focus for Active Travel, it will have a significant impact on our carbon footprint.	
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</p> <p>Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation</p>	<p>Promotional and engagement activities undertaken as part of the walking and cycling consultations will be designed to engage with different social groups and backgrounds, to develop a plan that meets the need of all communities</p> <p>There are no negative impacts.</p>	Through our networks we will continue to promote the benefits of our services and Monmouthshire.
<p>A more equal Wales</p> <p>People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances</p>	<p>Walking and cycling are comparatively low-cost modes which, with the correct infrastructure in place, will help more communities achieve better outcomes.</p> <p>Evidence from 'Transport Fit for Future Generations' supports this, stating that 15.2% of households in Monmouthshire lack access to a car, limiting access to employment opportunities and key services. Active travel improvements are essential to reduce transport poverty.</p>	Active Travel developments are planned to support county wide and across settlement boundaries to ensure the entire network is considered for future investment and improvements.

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>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p> <p>Long Term</p>	<p>The ambition is to have a network which is linked in a sustainable way to ensure sustainable planning for the longer term. By having a network that is truly accessible for all will provide the opportunity for a real choice between short car journeys and active modes of transport.</p>	<p>None identified.</p>
 <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p> <p>Collaboration</p>	<p>Active travel works in collaboration with all aspects of society to ensure that the benefits are shared with all members of the public.</p>	<p>Continue to embed a 'whole authority approach' to maximise opportunities in this essential agenda, as part of our collective climate emergency response.</p>
 <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p> <p>Involvement</p>	<p>Continued detailed consultation on proposals and route development ensures everyone has the opportunity to positively contribute to plans</p>	<p>Continue to evaluate, assess and monitor impact to ensure there are no gaps to involvement.</p>
 <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p> <p>Prevention</p>	<p>Some of the decisions and projects that are being implemented now will not only benefit our current residents but also our future generations.</p>	<p>Continue to look to the future and ensure and projects are future proofed, as far as possible, to maximise the impact of investment.</p>



Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies

The impacts include less car traffic on the road, which may call for more demand for short bus, train journeys and therefore public transport planners and businesses will be interested in the proposals.

Other businesses may develop for an increased market in walking and cycling, whilst providing more localized employment opportunities.

Continue to align Active Travel with local, regional and national agendas to ensure maximum impact is achieved.

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	Having safer road and path networks will promote the safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults.	None identified at this stage.	Ensure all future route development is designed in line with the Active Travel Design Guidance.
Corporate Parenting	Having safer road and path networks will promote the safety and wellbeing of all children and vulnerable adults.	None identified at this stage.	None identified at this stage.

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

Evidence generated, locally, regionally and nationally has been used to inform our decisions and develop the proposals. Standards within the Active Travel Guidance provides a framework on which to achieve. Collectively huge progress has been made in Active Travel over a short period of time since its repurposing to MonLife at the start of 2020. Our data led approach is informing decisions, bid writing and project plans to continue to maximise the impact.

Our recent Active Travel Network Map consultation provided invaluable data to support the short, medium and long term network planning of Active Travel in Monmouthshire. Through annual data collection this data will support our continued progression.

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 positive impacts will include; continued stakeholder engagement in the development of a comprehensive walking and cycling network, promotion of improved benefits of cycling and walking to the economy, individually, environment and communities. Our work will continue to align with the agreed strategic focus for Active Travel where the focus is 'to develop routes up to 3.0 miles where the key destinations focus on travel to schools; town centres, key employment sites, bus and train stations'

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509
581

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
Continue to provide updates to members of progress to ensure ongoing endorsement of work from officer	Ongoing	Paul Sullivan (Youth, Sport and Active Travel Manager)

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
1	Cabinet	2 March 2022	

To the Welsh Ministers,

Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 Reporting Duties

In accordance with the duties under sections 7 (3) and 10 (2) of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013, please find Monmouthshire County Council's annual report for the year 2019-20.

<p>The actions taken to promote active travel journeys</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- In Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) 19/20 was very much considered as a transition year. Until this year Active Travel (AT) had been incorporated into the duties of existing staff. However in recognition of the increasing importance of the AT agenda the function was transferred to a different department and staff recruited specifically to promote and manage the AT agenda in Monmouthshire. The outcome of this can be seen in the 20/21 annual report which reflects a major increase in grant award and volume of projects being promoted within Monmouthshire. In 2019/20 a schedule of potential AT schemes was drafted but in grant terms a base budget was received along with specific funding for the Llanfoist pedestrian bridge. The year also saw a gradual shift of emphasis from LTF to ATF and spend during the year reflected this change
<p>The actions taken to secure new active travel routes and related facilities and improvements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The year saw work undertaken by officers to ascertain what routes might be brought forward in the coming year.- Specifically:- MCC continue with the development of the proposals for an Active Travel bridge over the Usk at Llanfoist and the

	<p>Wye at Monmouth, and the development of the Severn Tunnel Junction station improvement proposals including AT improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Re Wye Bridge, MCC concluded the WelTAG stage 2 public consultation and report, which recommended that the preferred Option taken forward to WelTAG Stage 3 is Option 3 Single-Span Single Arch Curved Bridge. <p>-</p>
<p>Costs incurred for new active travel routes and facilities and improvements of existing active travel routes and related facilities carried out in the preceding full financial year</p>	<p>ATF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Llanfoist Usk bridge development – £14,319 • Monmouth Wye bridge development – £90,122 <p>LTF – via regional Metro Plus programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severn Tunnel Junction £309,575 (of which £22,702 was specifically on the Rogiet-Undy shared path) <p>LTF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abergavenny town centre – £691,679.00 • Chepstow study – £100,000 • Caldicot town centre – £332,270 • Monmouth town centre – £211,351

In addition to the above, the following information provides an overview of infrastructure that has been implemented during the previous year.:

<p>Indicative spending for new active travel routes and facilities and improvements of existing active travel routes and related facilities funded or part funded by third parties.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schemes were progressed in Abergavenny Town Centre, Monmouth Agincourt sq, Caldicot regeneration and the Chepstow Transport study. These projects incurred costs of £1,817,000 in 19/20. Although not funded directly by ATF (Much came from LTF) the
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	works included significant elements that were focused upon improving the pedestrian and cycling environment.
Length of new routes: - Walking - Cycling - Shared Use	- none
Length of improved routes: - Walking - Cycling - Shared Use	- included in town centre projects referred to above
New and improved active travel facilities	- Additional cycle facilities in town centres and improved pedestrian surfaces (Abergavenny, Monmouth, Caldicot schemes) -

Additional information (optional)

During 19-20 MCC restructured its Enterprise Directorate. In July it was agreed that active travel should be part of MonLife and that a new Active Travel Officer should be appointed. As such 19/20 was viewed as a transition year and activity in relation to AT has accelerated since.

I confirm that this report will be published online and made available in hard copy on request, in accordance with the statutory Active Travel Act Guidance (2021 edition).

Chief Executive Signature:



Chief Executive Name:

Paul Matthews

Date of submission to Welsh Ministers:

30th September 2021

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To the Welsh Ministers,

Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 Reporting Duties

In accordance with the duties under sections 7 (3) and 10 (2) of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013, please find Monmouthshire County Council's annual report for the year 2020-21.


<p>The actions taken to promote active travel journeys</p>	<p>20-21 saw a significant refocus on the Active Travel agenda and progress in Monmouthshire to match our future ambition. As well as securing and delivering Active Travel grant funding, during a challenging period (due to COVID), we placed a strong emphasis on data collection to inform future decisions.</p> <p>Views were gathered on the Active Travel network and draft strategic priorities which ran from August to October 2020.</p> <p>Various approaches were used which included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online questionnaires with digitised maps.• Face to face meetings and webinars.• Teams meetings.• Targeted approach for vulnerable groups.• Councillor seminars.• Writing out to an extensive network of stakeholders.• Encouraging schools to participate to give children and young people a voice.• A full media campaign.• All of the above saw a fantastic 2,713 electronic responses received in our phase 1 engagement;<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Adult – 825- Easy read – 29- Secondary – 602- Business – 20- Primary – 1,237 <p>Links were established with 'reopening town centre' COVID measurers promoting active travel right across our seven settlements. This saw an increase of bike infrastructure in and around our</p>
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	<p>town centres and further encouragement to 'Shop Local, Shop Monmouthshire'.</p> <p>The Monmouthshire Active Travel website was redesigned and used as a key vehicle for promotion and obtaining views through our ATNM consultation. The website continues to progress enabling a 'go to' place for members of the public and key stakeholders to obtain regular updates on Active Travel developments across the local authority. (Website link - Monmouthshire Active Travel - Monmouthshire).</p> <p>10 E-bikes were purchased through COVID town centre funding to promote Active Travel through targeted groups. This formed the basis for future developments of a hire facility to encourage modal shift. MCC also re launched its Cycle to Work Scheme encouraging employees to take up this opportunity.</p> <p>A full and comprehensive governance structure was introduced which brought together various services within the local authority to focus on delivery of agreed schemes. This includes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Highways- Planning- Rights of Way- Environment- Road Safety- Finance- Strategic Projects- Sport Development and Youth Service- Leisure Services <p>Within this structure, specific roles were assigned for each individual Active Travel project which included a designated project manager and project sponsor to provide regular updates through the governance board and achieve agreed outcomes and objectives in line with project plans.</p> <p>Links were established with officers responsible for the Climate Emergency Working Group, Learner Travel Measures, Pre-Planning Application process, MCC Strategic Transport Group, Education and Wellbeing Groups to ensure that these key areas of</p>
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	<p>work are aware of Active Travel and the positive impact it can have.</p> <p>Significant progress has been made throughout 2020-2021 to bring a whole authority approach to Active Travel and a more holistic approach to how each service area can collectively support.</p>
<p>The actions taken to secure new active travel routes and related facilities and improvements</p>	<p>A collection of package bids was submitted to Welsh Government for Monmouth, Caldicot and Usk – with funding received for the Monmouth and Caldicot schemes.</p> <p>A total award of £1,822,000 was allocated to deliver strategic projects in Monmouth and Caldicot, as well as our core ATF investment. Significant progress has been made across all aspects where funding was allocated, construction was implemented on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Phase 1 of Kingswood Gate Williamsfield Lane - Phase 1 of Church Road. - Contraflow Cycle Lane in Lion Street, Abergavenny. <p>All other projects saw progress in line with the project plans and WeITAG stages for future implementation. Match funding provided by MCC (£90,904) showed a commitment to this area of work and supported the grant funding allocated to ensure potential was maximised.</p> <p>Funding was also received for Active Travel related projects as part of the Covid 19 recovery fund. Part of this work saw a contraflow cycle lane introduced in to Lion Street in Abergavenny and increased cycling infrastructure right across our settlements. We have seen an increase of facilities for 163 bikes introduced to our four town centres, as well as 12 public bike pumps installed.</p> <p>Schemes developed as part of the pre-planning process included Wye Valley Active Travel Bridge, Kingswood Gate and the proposed velo park in Abergavenny. Further work was undertaken with planning to align the need for additional active travel routes with potential strategic growth in the Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033. This work is ongoing as the RLDP progresses.</p>

	<p>Throughout the year connections have been made with local community groups to establish a shared vision for Active Travel. This includes, but is not limited to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monmouth Town Council Active Travel Group - Monmouth Cycle Club - Abergavenny Road Cycle Club - Usk Town Active Travel Group - Usk Town Centre Strategic Group - Caldicot Town Centre Regeneration Group
<p>Costs incurred for new active travel routes and facilities and improvements of existing active travel routes and related facilities carried out in the preceding full financial year</p>	<p>Welsh Government Active Travel Fund - £1,448,704</p> <p>Re Opening Town Centre Covid Grant (Direct Active Travel Enhancement Projects) - £158,000</p> <p>Monmouthshire Match Funding for Active Travel Projects Linked to the ATF Award - £90,904</p>

In addition to the above, the following information provides an overview of infrastructure that has been implemented during the previous year:

<p>Indicative spending for new active travel routes and facilities and improvements of existing active travel routes and related facilities funded or part funded by third parties.</p>	<p>Re Opening Town Centre Covid Grant (Indirect Active Travel Enhancement Projects) - £489,500</p>
<p>Length of new routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walking - Cycling - Shared Use 	<p>New Cycling Route: Lion Street - 135 metres.</p> 

<p>Length of improved routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walking - Cycling - Shared Use 	<p>Shared use routes:</p> <p>Kingswood Gate Phase 1 = 130 metres</p> <p>Church Road Phase 1 = 300 metres</p>
<p>New and improved active travel facilities</p>	<p>Increased Cycling infrastructure for 163 bikes across all 7 settlements, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Car Bike Port Installed in Abergavenny.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 13 Public Bike Pumps - Located at a number of key areas right across Monmouthshire and Theta Cycle Hoops.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plant Lock Planters, located in Chepstow Town Centre and Planter Racks Installed in Monmouth. <p>Purchase of counters (£30k) has also enabled us to better monitor use of identified routes for future scheme delivery.</p>

Additional information (optional)

Whilst significant progress was made in 2020/21, it must be noted that there were considerable challenges during this year. The two significant challenges were progressing Active Travel during a worldwide pandemic and the delayed allocation of Active Travel Funding.

The Covid pandemic meant many of our resources were depleted due to staff furlough, materials not being available, limited movement of staff and adapting to new ways of working.


Monmouthshire County Council also took the decision not to progress Active Travel projects until we were officially informed by Welsh Government to whether our grant applications were successful. Knowledge of the grants was received on the 8th July 2020, which meant just over 3 months of delivery was lost and this problem was exacerbated because an opportunity for environmental surveys was missed.

Despite a challenging year, foundations have been embedded to continually progress this agenda and many positive outcomes have been achieved.

Priorities for the coming 2021/22 are to continue working with planning colleagues to ensure the new LDP development sites are, or will be, served by Active Travel connections, and to continue to work with the highways and regeneration teams to ensure Active Travel is incorporated into all highways and public realm schemes where possible. Work will continue to bring a whole authority approach to service areas right across Monmouthshire County Council and to continue to progress Active Travel project implementation, providing network improvements for our residents.

I confirm that this report will be published online and made available in hard copy on request, in accordance with the statutory Active Travel Act Guidance (2021 edition).

Chief Executive Signature:



Chief Executive Name:

Paul Matthews

Date of submission to Welsh Ministers:

30th September 2021

To the Welsh Ministers,

Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 Reporting Duties

In accordance with the duties under section 3 (7) of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013, please find below Monmouthshire's report on the level of use of active travel routes.

Number of existing Active Travel Routes	The table below demonstrates the levels of change to our Active Travel network between 2016 and 2021. In 2016 only 27 routes were deemed existing in line with the Active Travel design guidance, this has increased to 100 in 2021. A column has also been added for 'proposed' which indicates the routes put forward on our ATNM submission to demonstrate the areas of growth we are looking to develop;				
	Locality	Designation	2016 Existing	2021 Existing	Proposed
	Y Fenni/ Abergavenny	Walking Only	5	23	27
		Cycling Only	2	2	6
		Shared Use	1	7	79
	Cas-gwent/ Chepstow	Walking Only	1	7	16
		Cycling Only	0	0	11
		Shared	5	4	43
	Y Gilwern/ Gilwern	Walking Only	1	1	1
		Cycling Only	0	2	11
		Shared Use	1	0	8
	Caldicot	Walking Only	0	6	1
		Cycling Only	0	2	4
		Shared Use	5	21	52
	Monmouth	Walking Only	1	5	13
		Cycling Only	1	3	4
		Shared Use	2	8	50
	Usk	Walking Only	1	2	0
		Cycling Only	0	0	1
		Shared Use	1	1	16
	Magor & Undy	Walking Only	0	3	3
		Cycling Only	0	2	4
		Shared Use	0	1	18
Totals	Walking Only	9	47	61	
	Cycling Only	3	11	41	
	Shared Use	15	42	266	
	Total	27	100	368	

It can be seen from these figures that an increased impetus has been placed on active travel within Monmouthshire County Council over recent years, this is matched in the ambition of the funding bids, with the funding awarded going from £270k in 2019-20 to £1.6m in 2020-21 to an award of £2.6m in 2021-22.

The coming years will show further strong growth in our network as work is undertaken to bring other routes on our ATNM up to standard and become existing.

Length of routes:

Designation	2021 Existing Route Length	Proposed ATNM Route Length
Walking Only	21.44km	25.77km
Cycling Only	11.79km	140.60km
Shared Use	41.66km	170.21km

This data shows the length of routes currently displayed on our GIS. It must be noted that several existing walking routes will become shared use in the future and as such the length of route, although close to the proposed, still requires many routes to be upgraded. In addition, several long desire lines for inter-settlement connectivity vastly increases the proposed ATNM Cycling Only route lengths.

Baseline data at 2016

1) Footfall data. The table shows the footfall at the key locations in selected town centres:

Year	Aber-gavenny	Caldicot	Chepstow	Magor & Undy	Monmouth	Usk
2016	850	280	200	260	80	850

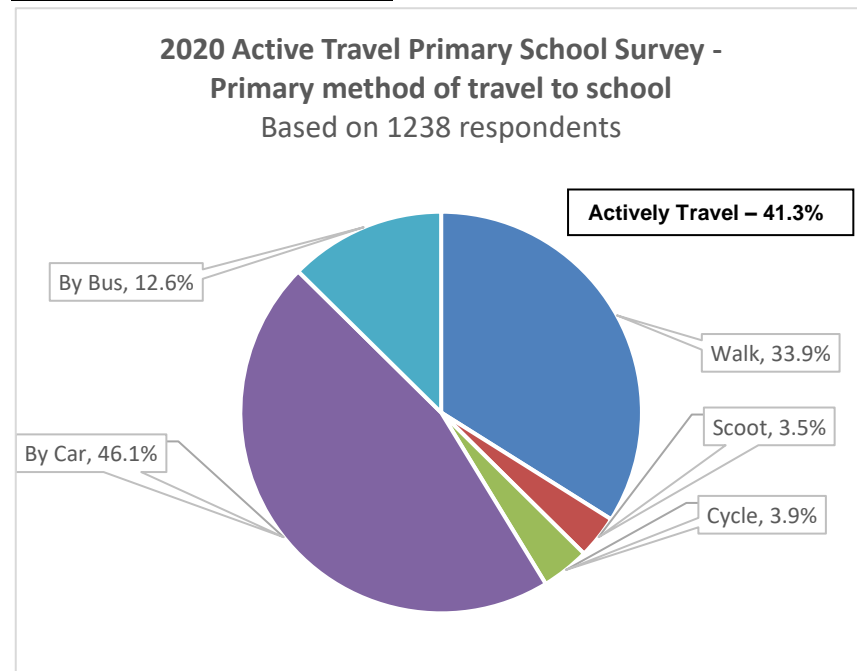
2) Path counters:

INM-MCC-M5 – Dixton (Monmouth)	
Month	2016
Jan	1646
Feb	1776
Mar	2654
Apr	2589
May	3400
June	*
July	*
Aug	*
Sep	*
Oct	2097
Nov	1405
Dec	532

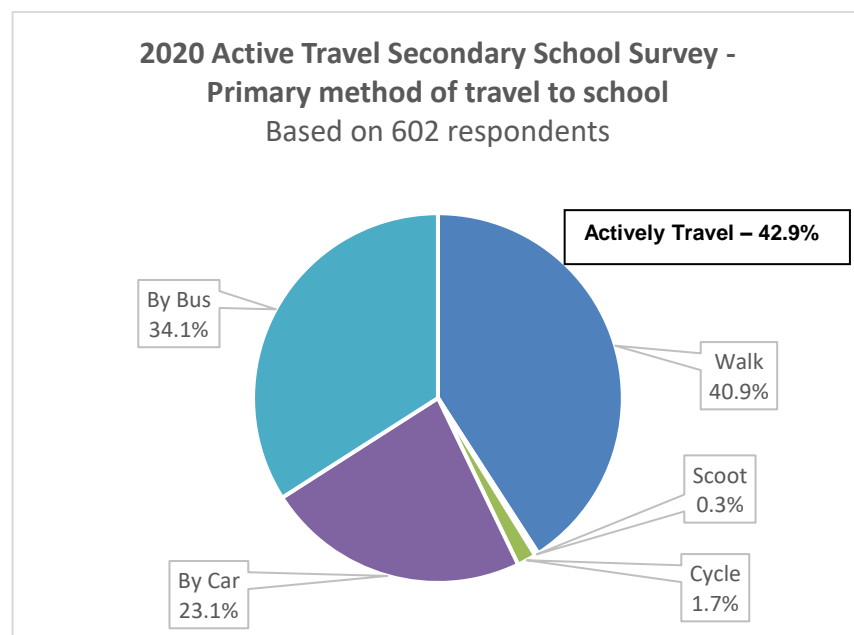
* Counter damaged.

	INM-MCC-A3 – Castle Meadows (Abergavenny)	
	Month	2016
	Jan	2490
	Feb	3107
	Mar	5109
	Apr	6116
	May	7830
	Jun	6594
	Jul	7138
	Aug	6937
	Sep	5326
	Oct	5367
	Nov	3999
	Dec	3902
	INM-MCC-A3 – Gavenny Bridge (Abergavenny)	
	Month	2016
	Jan	2792
	Feb	3107
	Mar	5109
	Apr	6116
	May	7830
	Jun	6594
	Jul	7138
	Aug	6937
	Sep	5326
	Oct	5367
	Nov	3999
	Dec	3902
What data was available in your local authority to record usage?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Manual counts – CS Footfall survey: (Average hourly footfall across multiple points in each town on a Saturday, peak and non-peak day) 2) Automated counts: MCC has several path counters that provide walking & cycling data combined. 	
New data at [2020]	The following data is from the 2020 ATNM consultation phase, surveying primary and secondary school students in Monmouthshire on their primary method of travel to school.	

Primary School Students

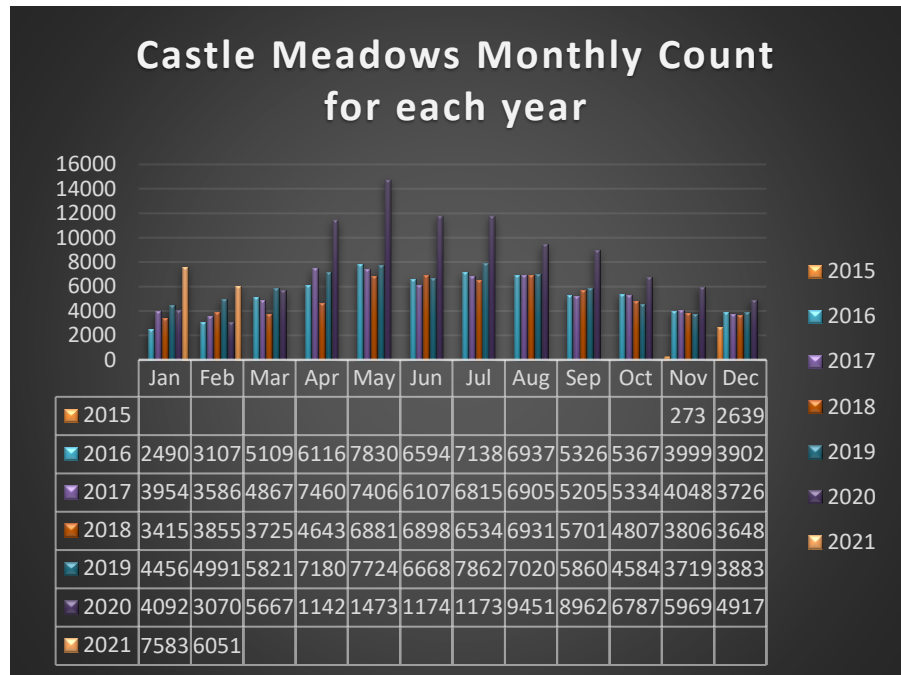


Secondary School Students:

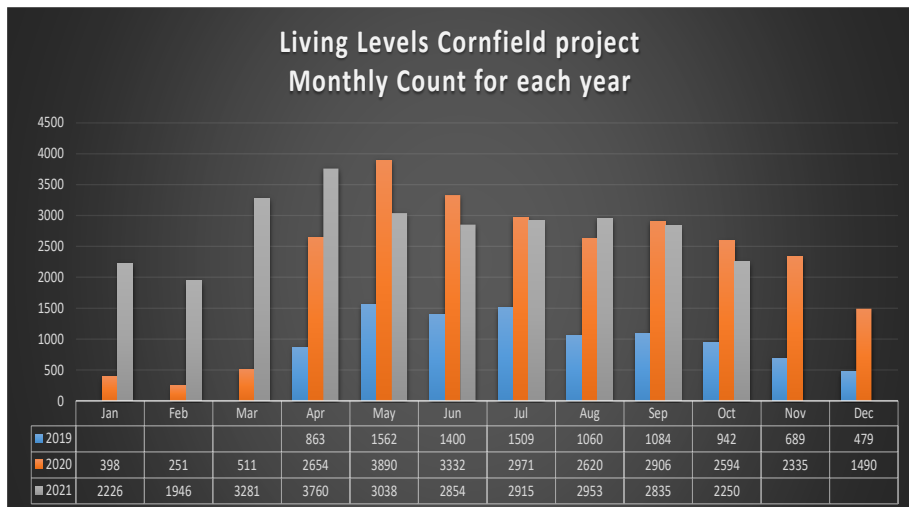


Path Counters:

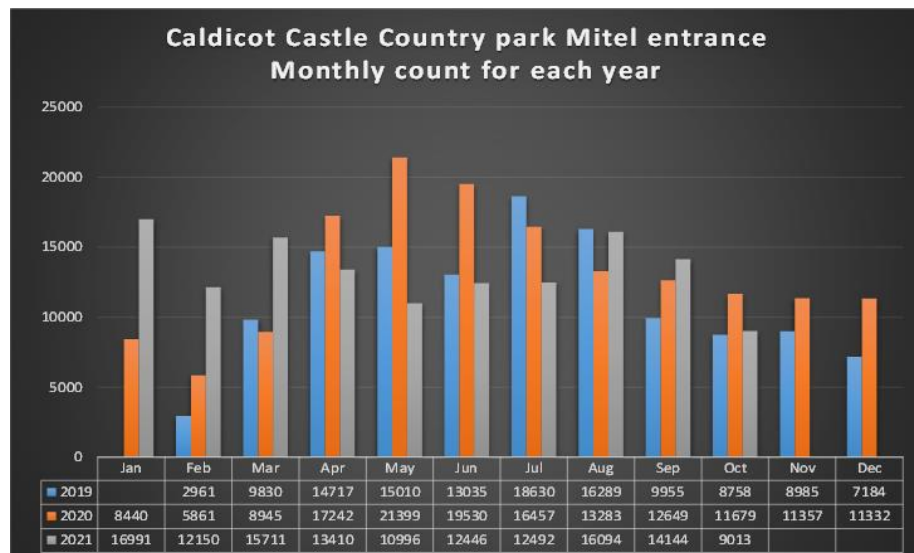
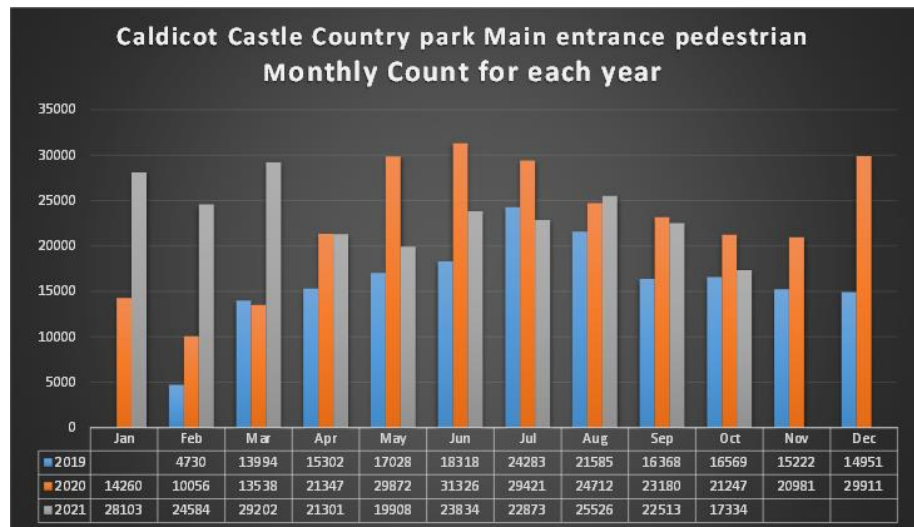
Castle Meadows – Abergavenny ATNM-MCC-A03



Caldicot MUR/Cornfield – ATNM-MCC-S28



Caldicot Castle Country Park – ATNM-MCC-S04



What data will be available to support the next iteration of this report?


The data from 2020 is more detailed than the data from 2016, following the increased importance placed on Active Travel within Monmouthshire County Council.

There is room for improvement, a data rectification plan is in place to install a permanent automatic counter in each of Monmouthshire’s seven designated localities. This will provide an ongoing baseline of data of Active Travel usage at key points in the network, as well as additional data provided by specific Active Travel project implementation. These counters will have automatic data upload to negate the risk of unchecked damage for months before being identified, as witnessed by the Dixon counter in 2016.

	<p>All counters will be linked into a wider Monmouthshire CC data dashboard allowing multi team access, all applicable counters in the county will be shared, allowing a more coherent approach to counter install and data management. It is envisaged these counters will be in place by the end of FY 21-22.</p> <p>In addition, all future strategic schemes will be installed with a dedicated counter to evaluate the performance of the project and give a 5-year count of the scheme's success.</p> <p>Ongoing school engagement shall annually check the proportion of learners using active travel methods to get to school. This data shall be collated and reported on a percentage figure to compare year on year.</p>
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I confirm that this report will be published online and made available in hard copy on request, in accordance with the statutory Active Travel Act Guidance (2021 edition).

Chief Executive Signature:



Chief Executive Name:

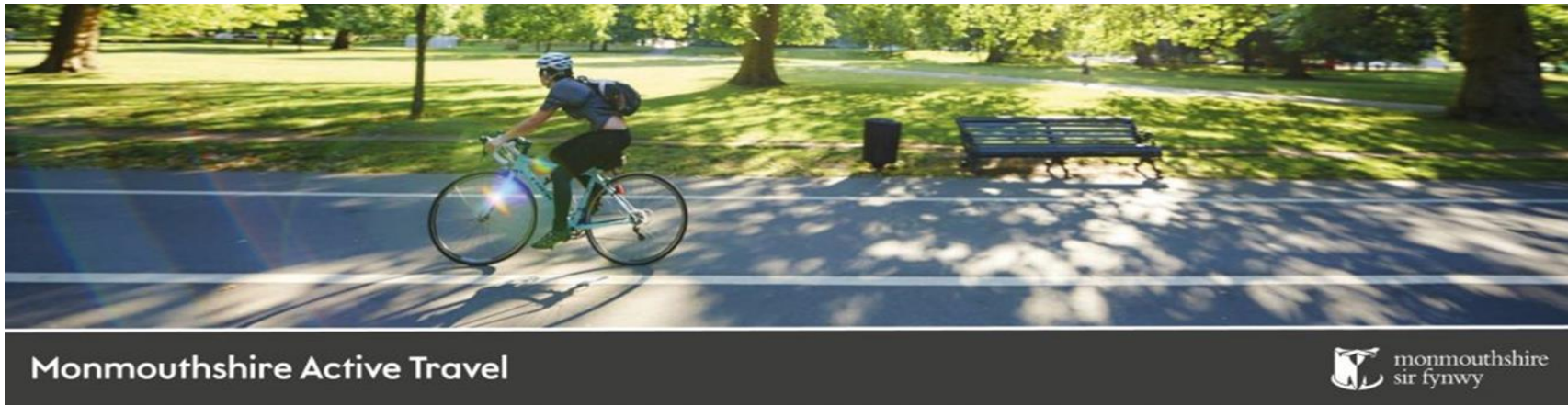
Paul Matthews

Date of submission to Welsh Ministers:

08/12/2021

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Active Travel Update – 14th February 2022



Ian Saunders – Chief Operating Officer, MonLife

Paul Sullivan - Youth, Sport and Active Travel Manager

Nick Tulp - Active Travel Officer

Duncan Thompson – Project Support Officer, Active Travel



monmouthshire
sir fynwy



Ar gyfer meddwl, corff ac enaid ein cymuned
For the mind, body and soul of our community

Active Travel (Wales) Act - 2013

- The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 came in to effect on the 4th November 2013.
- The Act requires local authorities to continuously improve facilities and routes for pedestrians & cyclists.
- Also, to prepare maps identifying current and potential future routes for their use (Active Travel Network Maps).
- Active Travel access should be considered for all new housing developments, schools and highways infrastructure - not only projects relating to Active Travel Funding.
- The Aim of the act is to make walking & cycling the natural choice for short journeys.

What is Active Travel?

- Walking, cycling and wheeling for everyday short journeys to replace car travel (modal shift) in order to get to a destination (such as; job, shops, train station or education).

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Active Travel does not cover walking and cycling done purely for pleasure, although it could significantly enhance leisure activities by helping link up networks.



Typically around
2 miles



Typically up to
5 miles

How Does AT Fit With Monmouthshire's Corporate Plan

Page 604

- It fits Our Purpose –
 - Ambitious, Fair, Sustainable, Proud to call home
- It is Our Values –
 - Teamwork, Openness, Flexibility, Fairness, Kindness
- It fits Our Principles –
 - Looking to the Long Term, Integrated Approach, Involving People, Working Collaboratively, Tackling the Root Cause
- Contributes towards our longer term challenges
 - Tackling the Climate Emergency - transition towards net zero
 - Improve Health Inequalities boosting access to local amenities
 - Supports our Health and Well Being agenda
 - Entwined with Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act
- Key projects listed in Our Actions.....

Looking Ahead, Delivering Now Our Strategy to Summer 2022

We have been asking ourselves some very big questions. Where now and where next for our county?

We need Monmouthshire to be a place where every community is full of opportunity. We want to be a kind county where we do well by doing good things. We are invested in our place, your family and your future. You have a right to receive good services from us and we won't let you down but the expectations we have of ourselves go further.

The contemporary policy challenges that we need to meet together are centred on Net Zero, taking on the determinants of health inequality, making sure our children do well and ensuring that nobody is left behind. We are turning our attention to these things between now and the summer of 2022 when a new Council Administration will be ready to introduce its own direction. We cannot lose time, we have to move forward. We do so with your best interests at heart. We do so blessed with incredible communities and people that care about their place and each other.

We have set out our purpose, our priorities, our values and we ask that you join with us in achieving them. Without you we are just a Council, together we are a force to be reckoned with. Everything starts with your health and well-being and that of your family and friends - without that, everything else is pretty meaningless.

Our Purpose

We want Monmouthshire to be:

- an ambitious place full of hope and enterprise
- a fair place where your family is safe
- a sustainable place where people care about each other
- a place you are proud to call home

Our Values

Our purpose is underpinned by a clear sense of who we are as an organisation. We expect people who work with us to share a strong value set and expect that these are evident in the ways in which we work and engage with our communities.

- **Teamwork** - 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 people and communities to thrive. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently.
- **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.

Our Principles

We are advocates of The Well-being of Future Generations Act and apply the principles that underpin it to our decision-making:

- Looking to the long term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;
- Taking an integrated approach so that we maximise the impact of all of our objectives;
- Involving people in the decisions that affect them;
- Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions;
- Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring.

Our Actions

An ambitious place full of hope and enterprise

- Begin to build a new, carbon neutral, school in Abergavenny and develop a detailed plan for the future of Chepstow School ahead of Band C of the 21st Century Schools Programme;
- Invest more than £2 million to upgrade and redevelop the leisure centres in Chepstow and Abergavenny;
- Work with technology companies to ensure more households and businesses can benefit from high speed broadband, using fibre to the premises and speeds of up to one gigabit per second;
- Make a substantial investment in maintaining and repairing the highways network;
- Improve connectivity and create more sustainable transport through projects such as the redevelopment of Severn Tunnel Junction station and push for the development of Magor Walkway station;
- Act on the findings of the recent Chepstow transport study report to improve traffic and travel movements in and around Chepstow and the surrounding area;
- Begin significant improvements to the active travel networks in Monmouth, Caldicot and Abergavenny to make it easier for people to walk and cycle in and around our towns.

A fair place where your family is safe

- Recruit and retain more in-house foster carers to ensure that children who are looked after can grow up in a stable and supportive home;
- Identify solutions to prevent homelessness and providing support for those who find themselves without a roof over their head;
- Progress the development of a new dementia friendly care home at Crick Road;
- Work with partners to manage the additional health and social care pressures that winter can bring including recruiting and retaining the vital key workers who deliver front-line care.

A sustainable place where people care about each other

- Work with community groups to deliver the Magor with Undy Community Hub project; creating a new space for social, culture, leisure, sporting and other community activities;
- Ensure that more of our money is spent locally and ethically;
- Enable people to get more involved in shaping what happens in their area by making it easier to participate in local decision-making.

A place you are proud to call home

- Refurbish the Borough Theatre in Abergavenny ahead of a re-opening;
- Promote and support local food growing, reducing food miles, promoting sustainable land management and agricultural practices and reducing food waste;

- Work with all partners to improve the health of our rivers while also taking action to minimise the impact of flooding on communities;

- Make community learning more accessible to improve skill levels and create opportunities for people to try new things and form new friendships in a supportive and welcoming environment;

As we deliver these we will ensure that we do not do anything that will conflict with our emerging thinking on the long-term challenges we face.

Our Longer Term Challenges

Covid-19 has brought into a sharp focus the complex challenges that communities and public service organisations face. We will develop our thinking and ideas as we plan for the longer term. We want to do this alongside Monmouthshire's myriad of community groups and our public service partners to understand what matters and ensure that we have bold and ambitious programmes. We are focusing on:

- **Transition towards Net Zero** - We need to increase the pace with which we are decarbonising our operations while developing guidance and support to help individuals and businesses reduce their emissions. We updated our decarbonisation action plan in November 2021 and will be working on a more ambitious programme which will be published in 2022.
- **Health Inequalities** - We need to narrow the differences in life expectancy in, and between communities. These gaps sometimes exist because of non-medical factors like early childhood development; the availability of local amenities and places where people can build connections; their diet and job security. These are sometimes called the social determinants of health.
- **Social Care Reform** - Services for children and adults are experiencing acute pressures from a combination of factors. We need to work closely with colleagues in Welsh Government and the NHS to ensure we have the right resources in the right places for the health and social care systems to work in equilibrium with vulnerable people supported in the most appropriate setting.
- **Well-being of Children and Young People** - We need to ensure that children whose learning has been disrupted by the pandemic are able to make up for lost time, are not at a disadvantage in the long-term and ensuring that support is available to support their well-being.
- **Mental Health** - With one in four adults and one in ten children experiencing mental health problems in any given year this is a significant challenge and public services must work together to ensure the availability of information and resources so that people can protect and manage their own mental health and well-being.

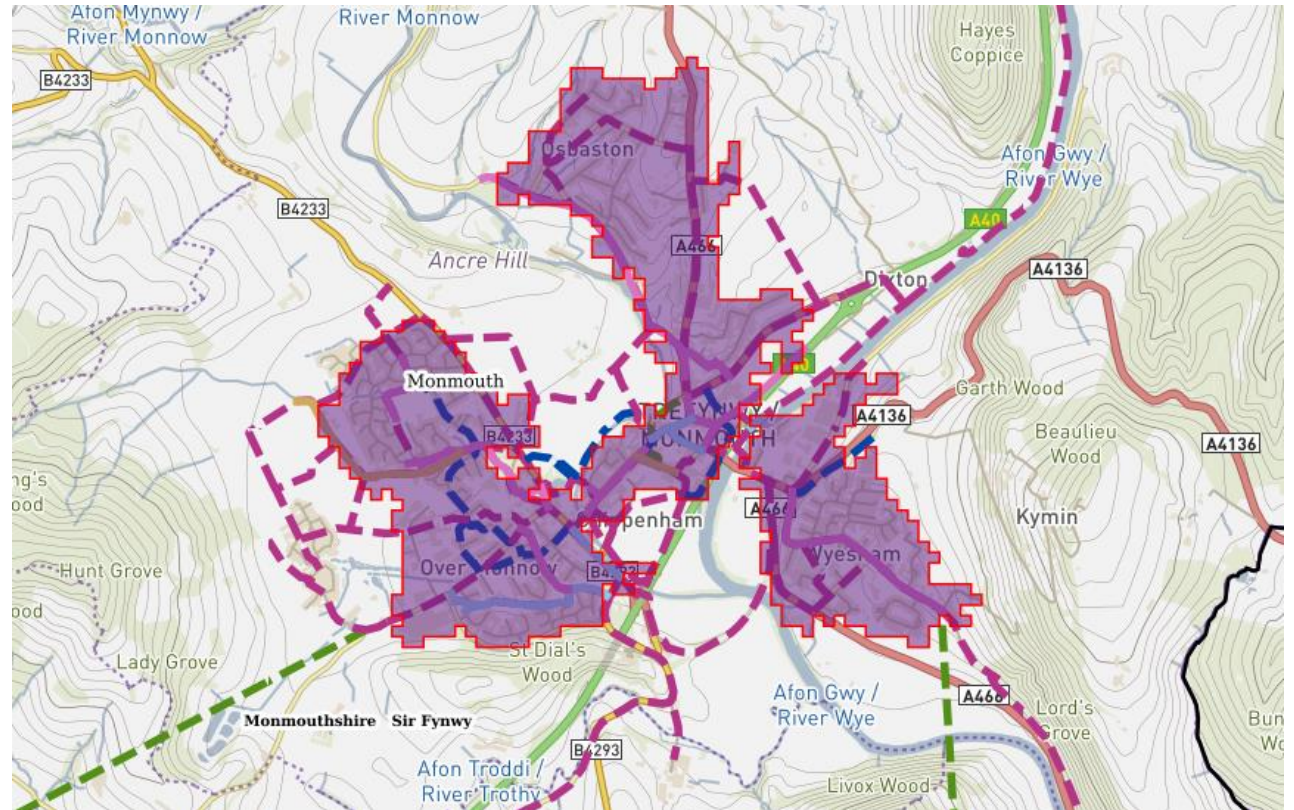
In the meantime, we will continue to focus on deliver in key areas, ensuring that we do not do anything that will conflict with our emerging thinking on the above challenges.

Monmouthshire Settlements

- Related to our most urban areas (2,000+ population) there are 7 settlements in Monmouthshire with each having a distinct boundary.

Page 606

- Abergavenny
- Caldicot
- Chepstow
- Gilwern
- Magor and Undy
- Monmouth
- Usk



2 Year Progress

- Active Travel was repurposed to MonLife at the start of 2020.
- Award of **£1.8m** for financial year 2020/21 and **£3.0m** for 2021/22.
- Town Infrastructure has increased for **163 bikes** and **13 public bike pumps**.
- **Active Travel Governance Group** formed.
- Active Travel set as a standing item on the **Education Wellbeing Group**.
- Aligned the Active Travel agenda with cross cutting policies such as climate change, decarbonisation, GI and future generations / wellbeing objectives.
- Developed a more holistic approach to Active Travel with service areas right across Monmouthshire engaged – with praise received on a national level.

Infrastructure works completed to date

- Abergavenny - Lion Street
- Caldicot - Church Road Phase 1
- Caldicot – Newport Rd Trial closure
- Monmouth - Kingswood Gate – WFL Phase 1

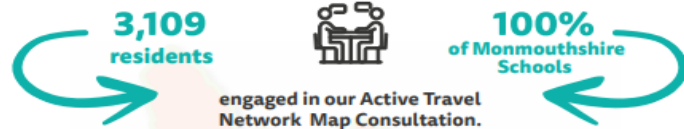
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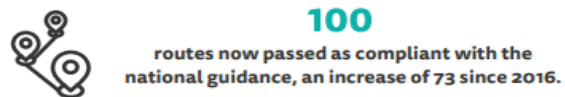
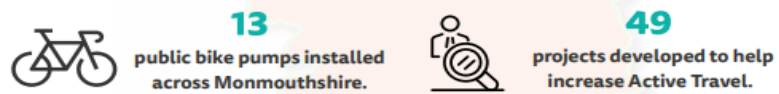
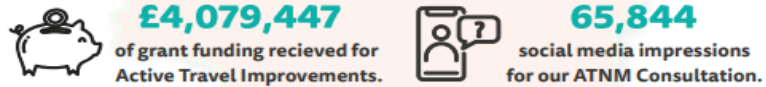
2 Year Progress Continued



Active Travel



Increased cycling infrastructure for **163** bikes in and around town centres.



Financial Year 2021/22

Works to be commenced by end of financial year:

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Monmouth - **Old Dixton Road** – Key route to comprehensive school and leisure centre, providing a 3m shared path.

- Monmouth - **Kingswood Gate – WFL Phase 2** – Educational link to Overmonnow Primary, with install of- new playground through ATF funding.
- Caldicot - **The Cross – Crossing** – crossing facility to be installed from community engagement.
- Statutory duty - ATNM Consultation – Successfully delivered on time.

ATNM Consultation

Final Statutory Consultation 2021

Throughout both the engagement phase and statutory consultation we have seen such a positive response from all ages, the data captured will help us inform future funding bids and enhancements to our network. Thank you to everyone involved in the process for taking the time to contribute and to help shape the future of Active Travel right across Monmouthshire.



Children and Young People Engagement 2020 & 2021

We wanted as many people involved as we could in order to better reflect the needs of the whole community. Therefore, we particularly wanted to encourage children and young people to share their own views so that their voices were heard, and so that they had a say in the development of their communities.



2,328

children and young people responded in total



97%

of children and young people wanted to Actively Travel More in 2021. An increase of 17% when compared to the previous year



100%

of Monmouthshire primary and secondary schools were involved in detailed network planning



63%

of Primary Schools



100%

of Secondary Schools

fall within our settlement boundaries



488

children took part in detailed Active Travel workshops, across 10 primary schools



PUPILS VOICE

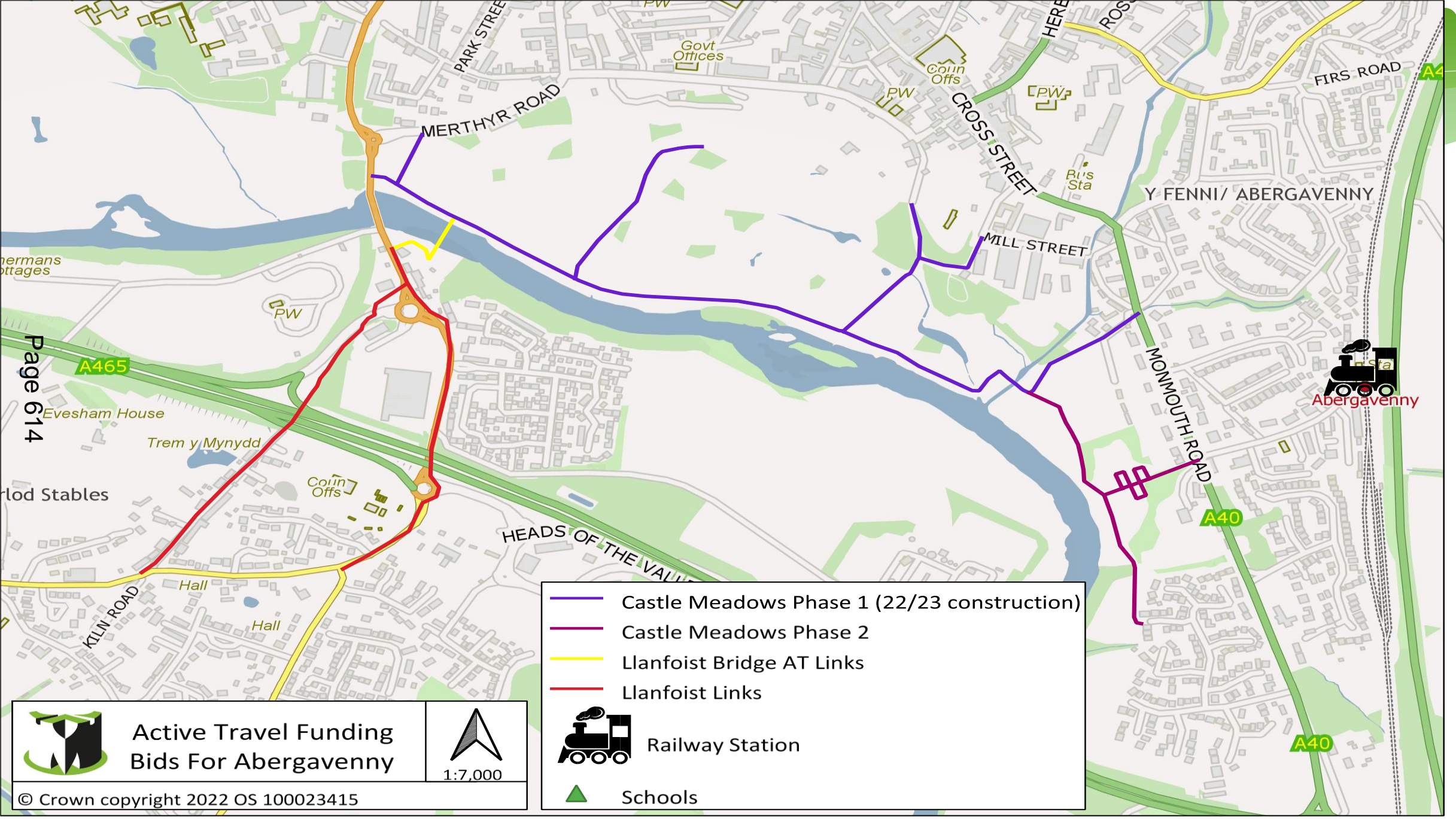
children requested for there to be safer roads and slower speed limits







Current Progress of Schemes


- In previous years 3 package bids have been submitted as per guidelines.
- This year the guidance changed to allow only construction schemes in strategic bids, but number increased to 4.
- MCC have continued their package bids from previous years to continue with schemes on the ground.
- These bids have been submitted to TfW at end of January for funding for 2022/23, with the outcome expected in March.
- MCC have committed to 7% match funding to support the bidding process.

22/23 Active Travel Schemes – Abergavenny


	SCHEME	OVERVIEW
1	Castle Meadows Links (Construction)	The scheme seeks to provide improved Active Travel compliant pedestrian and cycle links across Castle Meadows and Ysbytty Fields linking Llanfoist (via Llanfoist foot and cycle bridge) to Abergavenny Town Centre and Abergavenny Rail Station.
2	Llanfoist foot & cycle Bridge (Scheme Development)	The scheme is listed in the LTP programme as 4 th highest non-Metro priority. The scheme is MCC's highest Active Travel INM priority for Abergavenny based on our recent Engagement phase and previous data. The scheme seeks to deliver a new pedestrian/cycle bridge across the River Usk about 50 metres east of the existing Stone bridge which is a Scheduled Monument and Grade II* listed. The new bridge has been sympathetically designed by a renowned bridge Architect and it is proposed that it will become the main river crossing between Llanfoist and Abergavenny for non-motorised users
3	Bridge connections to Llanfoist (Scheme Development)	The scheme seeks to provide improved active travel compliant pedestrian and cycle links between Llanfoist and the new Llanfoist foot and cycle bridge – where pedestrians and cyclists can then continue their journey onwards via Castle Meadows and Ysbytty Fields to Abergavenny Town Centre and Abergavenny Rail Station.



-  Castle Meadows Phase 1 (22/23 construction)
-  Castle Meadows Phase 2
-  Llanfoist Bridge AT Links
-  Llanfoist Links
-  Railway Station
-  Schools



**Active Travel Funding
Bids For Abergavenny**









1:7,000

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22/23 Active Travel Schemes – Caldicot

	SCHEME	OVERVIEW
1	Church Rd (Phase 2)	Upgrade Church Rd, as a key route, to active travel design standards in order to change travel behaviour linked to current needs and future planned growth. Also connect the eastern side links for residents to employment, education and local services as well as onto public transport nodes. Upgrade links between employment sites at Mitel, Castlegate and Severnbridge Industrial Estate with the Castle and Country Park acting as a key off-road link between key neighbourhoods as well as providing a future link into the “Greenway route”.
2	Caldicot Links and Multi User Route	The 2.81km long railway line was acquired in late 2019 by Monmouthshire County. This work seek to create a new dedicated walking/cycling and in places horse riding, multi-user route. The route will be accessible for residents and visitors of the communities Portskewett, Caldicot and Caerwent to access key destinations of employment and services. The design of the project will be undertaken in this financial year.
3	Newport Road	This proposal is to enhance Newport Road, west of ongoing improvements at the ‘Cross’, through the town centre and on to the B4245 – the key arterial route serving Caldicot, its neighbourhoods and the surrounding villages of Severnside.
4	Education and Leisure Links	Take the recommendations of the WelTAG 1 study completed in Q4 2021/22 through the WelTAG process to the detailed design stage. This project plays an essential role in the Caldicot network, providing improved access to 2 educational settings, leisure facilities, health establishments and all other key localities within the town centre.

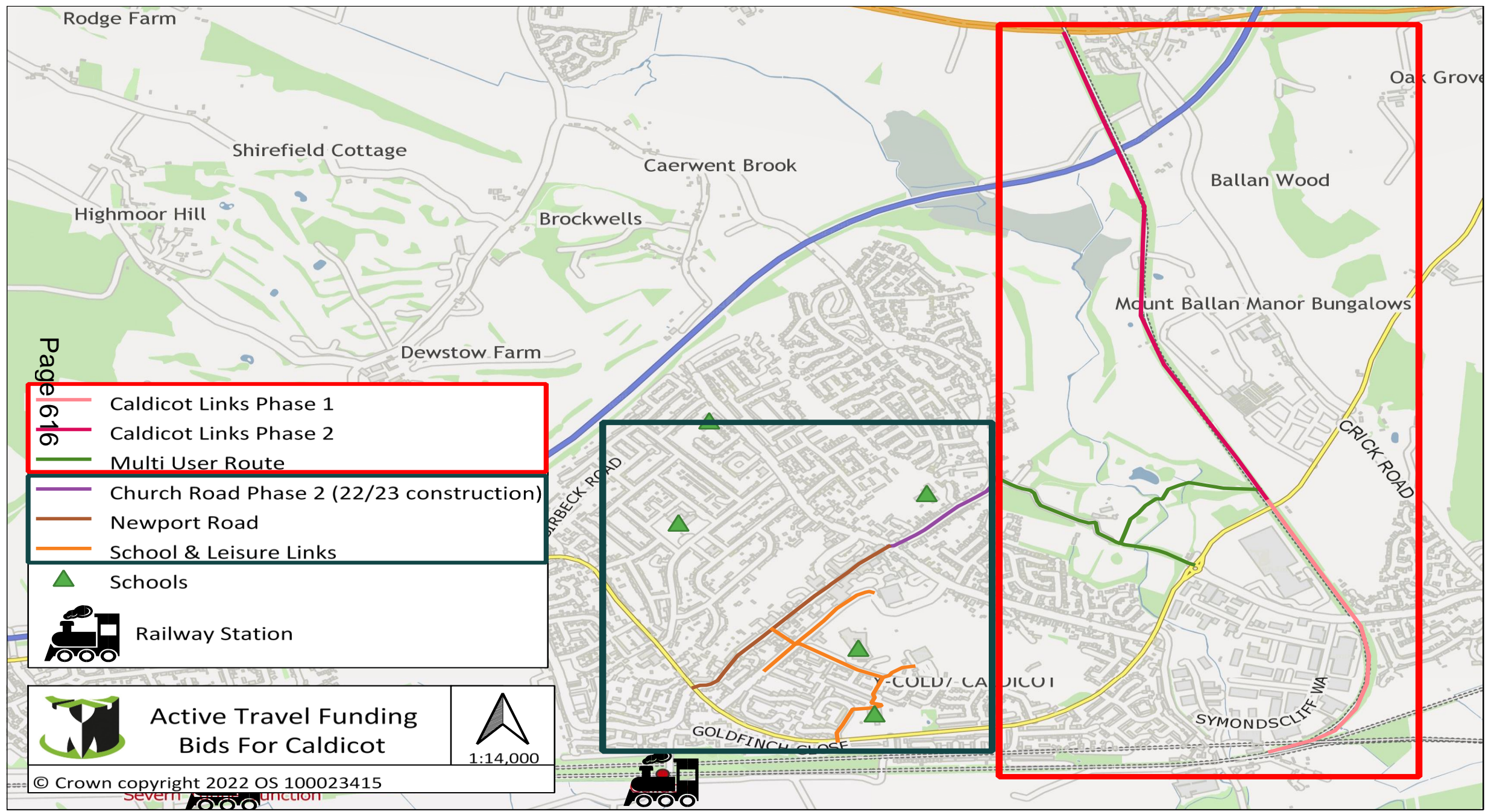
-  Caldicot Links Phase 1
-  Caldicot Links Phase 2
-  Multi User Route

-  Church Road Phase 2 (22/23 construction)
-  Newport Road
-  School & Leisure Links

-  Schools
-  Railway Station

 Active Travel Funding
Bids For Caldicot

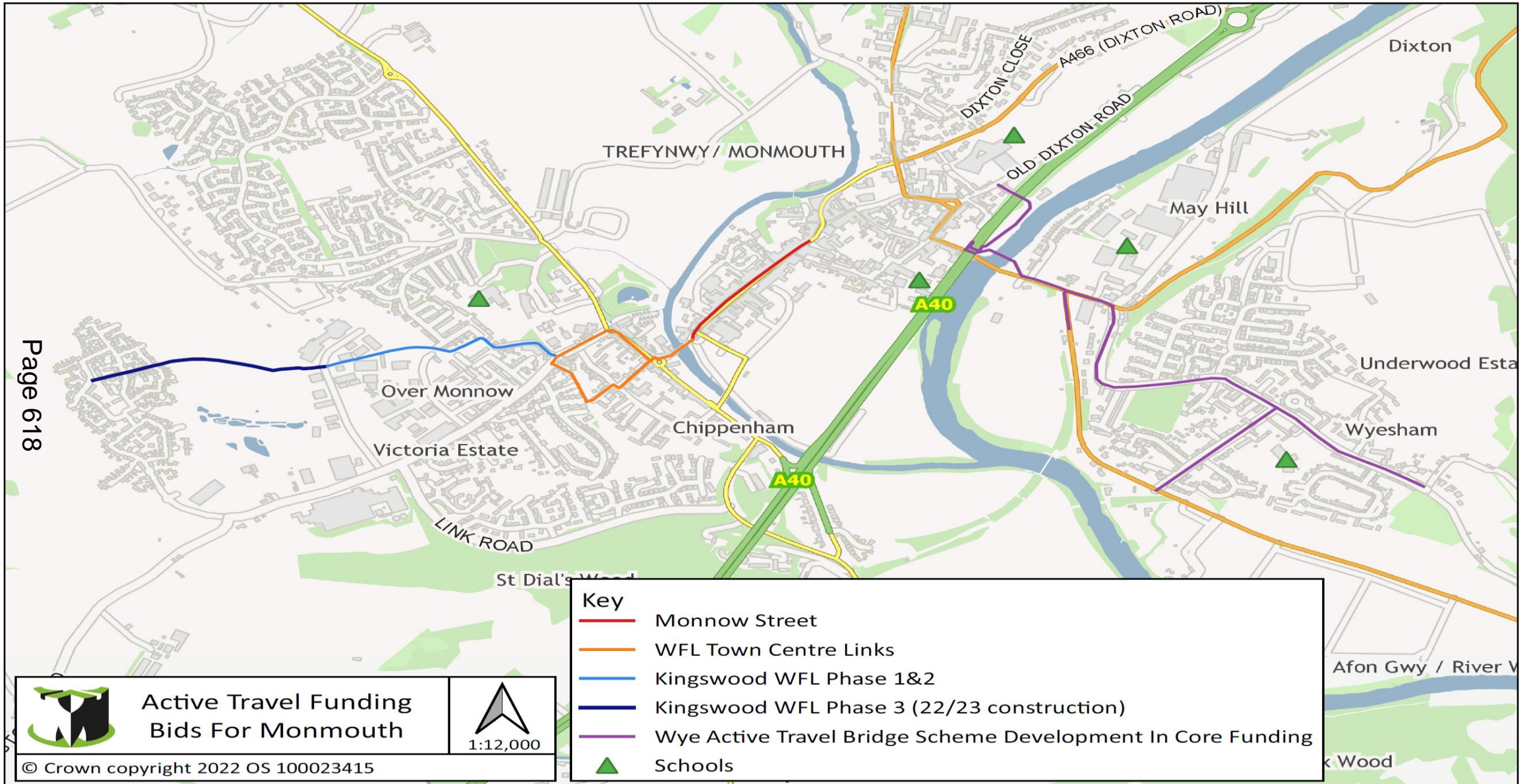
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22/23 Active Travel Schemes – Monmouth


Page 617

	SCHEME	OVERVIEW
1	Kingswood Gate – Williams Field Lane Link (phase 3)	Complete the third phase (of a three-phase scheme) of a critically important route. The public response to the Active Travel Consultation in 2020 identified this route as one that needed significant improvement. This scheme will upgrade an existing off road informal path to create a new route to Active Travel standards. Phase 2 will be completed by the end of Mar 2022.
2	Monnow Street feasibility	Continue with the WelTAG process in order to achieve a shortlist of options moving on to detailed design. This scheme connects Monnow St, Monnow Bridge, ending before the roundabout on Drybridge Street
3	Williams Field Lane – Town Centre Links	Assess the feasibility (WelTAG 2) of creating improved walking and cycling connections between the start of Williams Field Lane and the town centre. The feasibility study will include traffic counts, pedestrian counts. Pedestrian path analysis, vehicular speeds, usage studies, and safety assessments – building on base line data captured during 21/22. Post consultation (Q4 21/22), the chosen scheme will be developed through WelTAG3 and onto detail design and construction.
4	Wye AT Crossing & Wyesham Links	The current Wye Bridge has been identified as the key obstacle for active travel between Wyesham and Monmouth town centre. This years program will look to gain planning permission for the proposed bridge and complete the detailed design, with the aim to secure funding for construction in FY 23/24.



 **Active Travel Funding Bids For Monmouth**

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Core Funding – County Wide Impact

Page 619

Burns
Report
Feedback

Primary
School Cycling
Infrastructure

Severn Tunnel
Junction – Access
Improvements

Safe Routes
To Schools

Chepstow
Transport
Study
Support

Gilwern –
Whole Settlement
Transport
Assessment

Pre Planning
Active Travel
Feedback

Primary
School Active
Travel
Trackers

Access Barrier Removal –
Monmouthshire To
Become NCN Barrier Free

4X
Secondary
School
Modelling

Abergavenny – KHS
0-18y Through School
– Early Project
Engagement

User Friendly
Settlement
AT maps

Town Centre
Cycling
Infrastructure

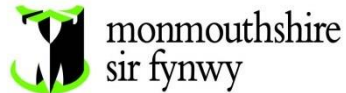
Cycle
Training

2X
Member
Seminars

Thank you for your time

Any Questions?





SUBJECT:	CASTLE DELL PLAY AREA, CHEPSTOW
MEETING:	CABINET
DATE TO BE CONSIDERED:	2nd MARCH 2022
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL CHEPSTOW WARDS

1. PURPOSE:

To seek Cabinet approval to commit to the upgrading of the Castle Dell Play Area, Chepstow and to submit an application to the People and Places Programme of the National Lottery Community Fund.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Cabinet agrees to submit an application to the National Lottery Community Fund for a grant to upgrade the children's play area at Castle Dell, Chepstow, working in collaboration with the Friends of Dell Park Chepstow.
- 2.2 That a reserve commitment of £25,000 is made from the Council's 2021/22 Capital Match Funding budget and that is held pending the necessary external funding sources being secured to enable the scheme to proceed.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The play area at Castle Dell Chepstow has been in situ for many years and whilst the equipment is maintained to the relevant standards by the Council it is dated, has limited play value and is not fully inclusive. The site is close to the town centre, next to the Bank Street car park, giving good access to the play area and the wider open space. The land at Castle Dell is in private ownership and is leased by the county council on a long term basis. The original lease dates back to 1946 and the latest lease (for a period of 25 years) was renewed in 2017.
- 3.2 The Friends of Dell Park Chepstow (FDPC) was set up a few years ago by a group of interested parents with a view to upgrading the play area and has been working for the last three years with a landscape architect to redesign the site. The redevelopment of the play area will require planning permission and Scheduled Ancient Monument consent due to its close proximity to the historic town wall. Pre-application advice has been received from the council's planning section and CADW officials have also been involved in the process. Discussions have also taken place with the town council, which is supportive of the proposals.. These include moving the location of the play area a short

distance away from the town wall and including some interpretation of the local history of the wall and its significance.

- 3.3 Discussions have taken place with the lottery and, as a result, it is intended to submit a bid for funding of £100,000 to help fund the first stage of the redevelopment proposals. The owners of Castle Dell have been given their permission to redevelop the play area, subject to sight of the final layout. The owners will also be formally consulted as part of the planning process.
- 3.4 When the Council undertook an independent assessment of its 110 play areas back in 2019, Castle Dell ranked as poor in terms of play value, with a PV rating of 18 out of a possible total score of 84. FDPC has undertaken a considerable amount of local consultation about the park and its proposed redevelopment and their thoughts and proposals are very much aligned to the Council's revised approach to fixed play provision, agreed by Cabinet in January 2020. This involves moving away from tubular steel equipment towards the use of more natural materials such as sustainable hardwoods, with a significant proportion of inclusive equipment for children with disabilities and other support needs. Attached as **APPENDIX A** are some visual impressions of the new play area.
- 3.5 It is also proposed to carry out a Community Nature Spaces (CNS) project in Chepstow in 2022/23 (similar to the one currently being undertaken in the Rockfield area of Monmouth) and this will involve assessing and improving a number of the green spaces in Chepstow, including Castle Dell as the main public open space in the centre of the town.
- 3.6 At **APPENDIX B** is a Memorandum of Understanding, which is an agreement formalising the collaborative approach between the Council and the Friends of Castle Dell Park to take this project forward.

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

- 4.1 The EQIA is attached to this report at **APPENDIX C**. This highlights the positive impacts of play and outdoor recreation on children/young people, families and communities.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Option	Benefits	Risks
Don't approve the report recommendation	None	Should this happen there will be no capital funding available to upgrade the outdated play area at Castle Dell.
Approve the report recommendation	This will enable a lottery bid to be made, to be supplemented by other capital contributions.	The main risk is that the lottery bid will be unsuccessful

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 6.1 Progress will be monitored in September 2022 to review the success (or otherwise) of the lottery application and other funding streams and to develop a programme of installation works if the planning and Scheduled Ancient Monument applications are approved.

7. REASON

- 7.1 This is a continuation of the Council's continued investment in recreation and play to achieve significant community benefits, but there needs to be an approved budget in place to cover the upgrade costs incurred.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 To enable this scheme to upgrade the play area to proceed, at a total cost of £125,000, external funding of £100,000 will need to be secured. Cabinet is asked to agree that an application to be submitted the National Lottery Community Fund. Furthermore, it is requested that a reserve sum of £25,000 is secured from the Council's 2021/22 Capital Match Funding budget and that this is held pending the necessary external funding sources being secured to enable the scheme to proceed.
- 8.2 There are no other resource implications arising from this report except the cost of the officer time involved and the costs to insure, inspect and maintain the play area, for which there is an existing revenue provision.

9. CONSULTEES

Cabinet	Senior Leadership Team
Chief Operating Officer MonLife	Local Chepstow Members
Chepstow Town Council	

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Memorandum of Understanding (copy attached)

11. AUTHOR & CONTACT DETAILS

Mike Moran, Community Infrastructure Coordinator
Email: mikemoran@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Tel: 07894 573834

APPENDIX A
VISUALISATIONS OF THE PROPOSED
UPGRADED PLAY AREA AT CASTLE DELL, CHEPSTOW



Images courtesy of Andy Spargo, The Landmark Practice – March 2022

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This agreement is made

Between: Monmouthshire County Council (MCC)

And: Friends of Dell Park Chepstow (FDPC)

Hereafter collectively “the Partners”

1. Definitions

1.1. Equipment means such play equipment to be placed on the Park as agreed upon by the Partners

1.2. Collaboration means Collaboration between the Partners to redevelop the Park in accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding

1.3. Park means the children’s play area at Castle Dell, Chepstow

1.4. Steering Group means the representatives of the Partners nominated to oversee the Collaboration. The Steering Group will consist of members (equal in numbers) from FDPC and MCC – and may also include representation from Chepstow Town Council.

2. Purpose and status of this document

2.1. The Purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to establish how the Collaboration will proceed and the responsibilities and commitments of each of the Partners

2.2. This Understanding does not intend to create a legally binding relationship between the two organisations

3. Aims of the Collaboration

3.1. MCC and FDPC have agreed to collaborate on the redevelopment of the Park

3.2. The Collaboration aims to provide an inclusive play area for children of all ages and abilities. The Park design will be sustainable and inclusive.

3.3. The Partners recognise the benefits that the Collaboration could bring to the families of Chepstow and are committed to proceeding in an equal and open manner

3.4. The Park is part of a much larger recreational area (3 hectares) which is owned privately by the Denny family and leased on a long term basis by MCC.

This provides assurance that the area will remain a community asset and cannot be sold or redeveloped without the consent of owner.

4. Timescale

4.1. This Understanding will remain in place from the start of the Collaboration and for the life of the Equipment (anticipated 20 year) unless agreed otherwise in accordance with clauses 11 below.

5. Communication

5.1. Both organisations will agree upon the use of the same consistent message in any communication issued by or about the Collaboration. This will be based around a mutual understanding and agreement by both parties about the direction and implementation of the project.

6. Roles and responsibilities

6.1. The Partners' roles and responsibilities will evolve as the Collaboration matures. At the commencement of this Understanding the Partners agree that:

6.1.1. Monmouthshire County Council will:

6.1.1.1. Act as the lead organisation and report back to the Steering Group as required.

6.1.1.2. Assist FDPC and its landscape architect with advice on Park planning

6.1.1.3. Be solely responsible for maintenance and operation of the Park and the Equipment from the date it is installed in the Park until each individual item of equipment is declared no longer safe to use or repairable (anticipated life time 20 years).

6.1.2. The Friends of Dell Park Chepstow will:

6.1.2.1. Fundraise to assist with the cost of procuring the new Equipment

6.1.2.2. For the life of the Collaboration act as a monitor to ensure that the Equipment is maintained and that use of the Park remains coherent with the spirit of this Understanding.

6.1.2.3. Report back to the Steering Group as required.

6.1.3. The Partners will perform and fulfil on time the tasks assigned to them as agreed by the Steering Group

7. Meetings

7.1. The Steering Group will meet as required but no less frequently than 4 times a year.

7.2. Meetings will be recorded by the FDPC in the form of decisions and actions

8. Decision Making

8.1. Decisions will be made by nominated representatives at Steering Group meetings

8.2. It is understood and agreed that MCC shall have the right to override any decisions made by the Steering Group which in their opinion will adversely affect

8.2.1. its ownership of the Park or the adjoining property

8.2.2. any policy decisions made by it in respect of its leisure facilities and open spaces.

8.2.3. its budgetary considerations – no decisions will be made by MCC without prior consultation with FDPC.

9. Resources

9.1. The Partners agree that:

9.1.1. FDPC will raise funds to assist with the initial capital expenditure of the Equipment

9.1.2. MCC will support the ongoing revenue costs of maintaining the Park and Equipment subject to paragraph 6.1.1.3 above

10. Confidentiality

10.1. The Partners will make every effort to ensure confidentiality is maintained

10.2. The Partners agree not to disclose any confidential or commercially sensitive information to any other party and not to use such information to the detriment of the Collaboration

11. Termination of the Collaboration

11.1. This Understanding may be terminated by either partner giving to the other at least 2 month's written notice of their intention to dissolve the Collaboration

12. Disputes

12.1. In the event of any dispute or disagreement arising between the Partners such dispute shall in the first instance be dealt with via the Steering Group

12.2. In the event a dispute cannot be resolved by the Steering Group MCC as owner of the Park will make the final decision in accordance with paragraph 8.2 above

13. Amendments to this Understanding

13.1. The terms of this agreement can be altered by agreement of the Steering Group and in writing between persons duly authorised by each of the Partners

14. Contact details

14.1. Monmouthshire County Council County Hall The Rhadyr Usk NP15 1GA

14.2. Friends of Dell Park Chepstow

Chepstow NP16

01291

friendsofthedellpc@gmail.com

Agreed on behalf of Monmouthshire County Council (MCC)

Signature:

Name:

Job title:

Date:

Agreed on behalf of Friends of Dell Park Chepstow (FDPC)

Signature:

Name:

Job title:

Date:



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

Integrated Impact Assessment document (incorporating Equalities, Future Generations, Welsh Language and Socio Economic Duty)

Name of the Officer: Mike Moran Phone no: 07894 573834 E-mail: mikemoran@monmouthshire.gov.uk	Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal: Commit to upgrading Castle Dell Play Area and submitting Lottery application
Name of Service Area: MonLife - Enterprise	Date: 4 th February 2022

1. **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	This proposal will have a positive impact on children aged 0-12 years of age and their families – but there are more positive impacts on the wider community in terms of access and community cohesion – families meet, converse and friendships are formed.		We will be aiming to provide a high quality environment with modern inclusive equipment manufactured, where possible, from sustainable hardwoods. The project should have wider benefits in terms of community place making.

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?
Disability	The play area plan includes new and improved access and inclusion opportunities for children with disabilities and other support needs and their families	Although there are no toilets in Castle Dell, there are disabled toilets available close by in the adjacent Bank Street car park.	The inclusion of a wheelchair accessible picnic bench will provide additional positive impacts for disabled children and their families. We will also look to include braille signage.
Gender reassignment	Neutral		
Marriage or civil partnership	Single sex couples with children should feel welcome in this space, as they share a common denominator – children playing, mixing and enjoying themselves - with other single sex couples as well as with heterosexual couples.		
Pregnancy or maternity	Good quality fixed play spaces provide opportunities for women (and men) to meet outdoors with friends, family and others during their maternity or paternity leave. This can assist in helping to maintain a sense of emotional health and well-being.		The site will be designed for ease of access with pushchairs and wheelchairs
Race	The site will be designed for equality of access for individuals and families irrespective of their race or background		

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?
Religion or Belief	The site will be designed for equality of access for individuals and families irrespective of their religion or belief		
Sex	The project will of equal benefit to both males and females		
Sexual Orientation	Neutral		

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?

<p>Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice</p>	<p>Castle Dell is situated in St Mary's LSOA (Lower Super Output Area), which is rated in the 10-20% of the most deprived for physical environment in Wales (WMID 2019) - so improvements to play provision and green spaces will help to address this inequality.</p> <p>It is also worth noting that access to fixed play provision is free of charge.</p> <p>There is strong evidence from research undertaken during the Covid pandemic that access to good quality open spaces is an important factor in improving the physical and emotional well-being of individuals and families</p>		<p>Continue to promote the benefits of using public open spaces like the Dell for outdoor exercise and recreation.</p>
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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 proposal will have a neutral effect on opportunities to use the Welsh language</p>	<p>.</p>	<p>Promote the availability of the site to Welsh language groups in the area</p>
<p>Operational</p> <p>Recruitment & Training of workforce</p>	<p>There are no new or existing posts involved in the proposal</p>		
<p>Service delivery</p> <p>Use of Welsh language in service delivery</p> <p>Promoting use of the language</p>	<p>All site signage and any promotional literature will be produced bilingually, with the Welsh language given precedence.</p>	<p>Users will be advised that if they have any concerns or wish to report an accident they can do so using the Welsh language if they choose to do so.</p>	<p>We will confirm with CADW that interpretive materials relating to the adjacent historic town wall will also be produced bilingually with precedence given to the Welsh language</p>


3. Policy making and the Welsh 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	Positive - the project will substantially be funded from external sources if the lottery application is successful.	
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	Positive – the proposal includes enhancing the ecology and biodiversity of the park and its immediate surrounds.	Proposals are also in hand to undertake a community nature spaces project in Chepstow, including the area of Castle Dell, in 2022/23.
A healthier Wales People’s physical and mental wellbeing is maximized, and health impacts are understood	Positive - the proposals in this report involve improving peoples’ physical and emotional wellbeing. The play area will create a focal point for children and families.	
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	The proposal will contribute to the safety and cohesiveness of the local community and the wider Chepstow area.	
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	The availability of good quality & accessible facilities in the local community means that local people do not have to travel to other areas by car or by public transport.	
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and	There are no specific proposals in this report to protect the Welsh language, but the improvements proposed will encourage	Encourage the use of the Welsh language in on-site signage – bilingual noticeboards and publicity materials will promote the

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?
protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	more participation in outdoor recreational activities.	Welsh language and help to encourage Welsh language speakers to use the site
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	The improvements will encourage improved access and participation by disabled children and people with other protected characteristics – also by all sections of the community regardless of their background.	

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>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p> <p>Long Term</p>	The sustainability of the site has been assessed and officers are confident that the investment proposed will be sustainable in the longer term.	There is an existing revenue budget in place for ongoing maintenance of the site.

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>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>The project involves working closely with other parties to deliver a much improved facility that has been identified as a council priority through an independent play value assessment carried out in 2019.</p>	
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>The views of elected members of the county council, the community council, CADW – Welsh Historic Monuments, potential users and the local community have been sought in the drafting of the report and the recommendations it contains.</p>	
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>The project involves the major upgrade of an existing town centre play area. If the site is not improved then problems would occur with the deteriorating condition of the existing play equipment and its eventual removal from the site.</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 data-bbox="237 587 376 619">Integration</p> <p data-bbox="203 647 539 746">Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p data-bbox="589 344 1312 491">The project will have a positive impact on the health & wellbeing of people living in the local community and people visiting the site from the wider Chepstow area.</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	The proposed new play area includes the provision of more accessible equipment for children with disabilities and other types of support need.		The landscaping around the new play area will be improved to create a more welcoming and pleasant environment for children to play and will include elements of sensory planting
Corporate Parenting	The proposal does not deliver positive impacts specifically for looked after children, but it does provide positive opportunities for these children to mix with their peers and to form friendships more easily with other children in the local community.		

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

- Outcome of play value assessment of the site carried out by an independent inspector in 2019
- Feedback from 2019 Playmaker Conference with Year 5 children regarding fixed play provision and use of outdoor green spaces
- Census data for school-aged children in Chepstow
- Consultation with the Friends of Dell Park Chepstow over the last four years
- Feedback from potential users at public engagement sessions held at the site

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?

This section should summarise the key issues arising from the evaluation. This summary must be included in the Committee report template

The main positive impacts of this proposal are the significant improvements in play value that the new play area will deliver, a more accessible site for people with protected characteristics and a better environment for individuals and families to enjoy.

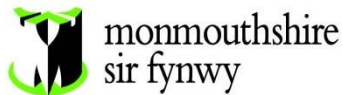
It's not a negative impact of this particular proposal as such, but there is a realisation that there are many more fixed play areas in the county that require capital funding for improvements.

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
Submit planning and Scheduled Ancient Monuments applications	Following Cabinet meeting	MonLife/FDPC
Submit lottery application	Following Cabinet meeting	MonLife/FDPC
Work with the Friends of Dell Park to implement the proposal	Following lottery approval	MonLife/FDPC

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
1	Public consultation	October 2019	
2	Landowner Consent	January 2020	
3	Stakeholder Meetings	Dec20- Sept 2021	
4	Cabinet Meeting	2 nd March 2022	Decision sought commitment and on lottery funding



SUBJECT:	ABERGAVENNY VELO PARK
MEETING:	CABINET
DATE TO BE CONSIDERED:	2nd MARCH 2022
WARDS AFFECTED:	ABERGAVENNY AND LLANFOIST WARDS

1. PURPOSE

To receive an update on the Abergavenny Velo Park project and to commit S106 capital resources to the project in 2022/23.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That a capital budget of £492,000 be created in the 2021/22 financial year to fund the construction of the first phase of the Abergavenny velo park and that this is funded by:

a) Contributions from balances held by the council from the S106 Agreements relating to the Westgate (£168,160 – Finance Code N560) and Gavenny Gate (£231,840 – Finance Code N581) developments in Llanfoist.

b) A further S106 contribution of £92,000 be added to the above budget, when received, from the residential development site at Grove Farm, Llanfoist.

2.2 That the Council continues to work with other partner agencies to support a community group to form and subsequently source and apply for further capital funding from external sources that contribute to the development costs of the second and third phases of the Abergavenny Velo Park project.

2.3 That commitment of any expenditure from the above sums is subject to the submission and approval of a satisfactory management agreement with a supporting business plan for the proposed new velo park; such approval being delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the council's S151 Officer.

3. KEY ISSUES

3.1 In 2020 the council was awarded a grant from the Welsh Government, via Sport Wales, to develop a project for the construction of a velo park (to include a purpose-built closed road circuit (CRC) and some recreational trails)

on part of the council's landholding at Racecourse Farm, Llanfoist. A copy of the site masterplan is attached at APPENDIX A.

- 3.2 The project has been developed in consultation with a number of stakeholders including Sport Wales, British Cycling, the national governing body and two local cycling clubs. The provision of a velo park in this location is a key component of the council's emerging cycling strategy and is intended to form part of a network of regional facilities promoted by Welsh Cycling, the governing body of the sport in Wales.
- 3.3 This has been a complex project to develop, mainly because of the site's topography, biodiversity and ecology, with a number of protected species identified on or immediately adjacent to the site. The land is also currently occupied under a farm business tenancy. The tenancy is holding over, pending a decision on whether or not to proceed with the velo park project.
- 3.4 A formal planning application was made in early 2021, with 34 documents submitted in support, including a Site User and draft Management Plan with an outline programme of use. These documents and the site masterplan have been updated as part of the planning proposals in the light of comments received from consultees, in particular the detailed comments submitted by Natural Resources Wales (NRW).
- 3.5 The velo park planning application is included on the agenda for the Planning Committee meeting on 1st March, with a recommendation for approval.
- 3.6 Officers are working closely with senior managers at Welsh Cycling and with local cycling clubs to develop proposals for ongoing management of the velo park, which will be similar to those at other similar facilities elsewhere in Wales and the UK. There is no proposal to appoint a permanent on-site manager or to increase staffing resources to manage the facility. The site will host a range of cycling related activities and events organised by the council, local cycling clubs and by Welsh Cycling. It will also be available for use by schools and will have a booking facility for cycling clubs to hire, so as to produce income to offset annual running costs. At this stage it is envisaged that a limited number of regional or national events (probably no more than six) may be held on the site each year. Temporary/overflow parking provision has been made in the management plan on nearby land in council ownership. Use of the site will not be restricted to just cycling and will include opportunities for all wheeled sports (including wheelchair users, roller blades, etc.), walking and running.
- 3.7 Members may be aware that there is a separate but adjoining proposal by the owner of Grove Farm and the Gwent Wildlife Trust, with support from Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, to develop a wetland reserve on the water meadows situated between the River Usk and the proposed velo park. This was the

subject of a local newspaper article on 26th January this year. The wetland proposal is located on land in council ownership and if that scheme gains traction then it will be the subject of a separate report to members at a later date. That could provide the opportunity for future partnership on managing the new habitats proposed as part of the velo track but that, and other matters, would need to be negotiated as part of any future arrangements.

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

The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation can be found at **Appendix B** to this report.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

The options are to:

- Take no action and return the money to the developers with no additional or improved community recreation provision;
- Allocate the funding to the projects proposed in this report – the recommended option;
- Allocate the funding on a different basis.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 6.1 Subject to a management agreement and supporting business plan, the funding being secured for the development costs of the project and the successful construction and delivery of the scheme there will be an annual evaluation of usage based on year to year comparisons and feedback from users of the facility.

7. REASONS

- 7.1 To ensure the funding is available in the Council's capital budget in the 2021/22 financial year to enable a management agreement and supporting business plan to be developed and approved and such as to allow phase one of the scheme to progress.
- 7.2 To ensure the Section 106 funding received from the developers is used effectively to enhance community recreation provision in the local area.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 It is estimated that the development of the velo park will cost between £1.4 and £1.6 million and the scheme is capable of being developed in three different phases of work.

- 8.2 The first phase of work would include the overall site set-up, access and car parking and construction of the first section of the circuit – the overall circuit consists of three separate but inter-linked sections of track. The first phase will provide a safe alternative facility to that currently used by local cycling clubs at the Abergavenny School/Leisure Centre site for younger age groups. This use will be displaced when work commences on the development of the replacement school on the KHVIII site.
- 8.3 The capital funding recommended in para 2.1(a) is available from the S106 payments received from the developers of the residential developments at Westgate and Gavenny Gate, so in that respect these proposals do not impact any of the other projects in the Council's capital budget.
- 8.4 The capital funding referred to para 2.1(b) will be received by the council from the residential development at Grove Farm, Llanfoist before the first occupation of the 20th dwelling on the site.
- 8.5 The funding of £492,000 set out in the recommendations will be sufficient to cover the cost of the first phase of works.
- 8.6 Potential additional sources of funding for the second and third phases of the project include British/Welsh Cycling, the Welsh Government and Sport Wales. Officers are currently working with Welsh Cycling and the council's lead consultant for the velo park on developing a funding strategy to complete the project.

9 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 Much of Abergavenny's success in recent years as a cycling town has been built upon the strong foundation of the sport's grass roots. There are several local clubs (Abergavenny RC, CC Abergavenny, Gateway Cycling and Monmouthshire Wheelers) and organisations such as the Abergavenny Cycling Group which encourage participation, coaching children and adults, organising local training and rides as well as successful cycling events of regional and national scale. These clubs have been involved in discussions in support of the cycling strategy and investment in new cycling facilities for the town over several years.
- 9.2 The pre-planning application public consultation for the velo park took place in November and December 2020 and included statutory consultees and neighbouring property owners/occupiers, including nearby residents and businesses. Some seventy comments were received, with the majority in support of the velo park proposal. Over sixty comments received from the wider public were in support, largely focusing on the potential for the project to provide a safe and high quality facility for cycling and other outdoor activities – and helping to promote leisure and tourism as well as the site's potential for

outdoor activities. Statutory consultees did not object although matters requiring further details and justification were raised, including the environmental impacts and management of the site.

- 9.3 A number of local residents and a nearby business raised concerns or objected and these focused mainly on traffic and parking management, lighting and noise pollution and the development's potential visual impact. All of the concerns raised were reviewed and addressed as part of the formal planning application process, but the broad-based summary response to these areas of concern are addressed below:

a) Traffic and Parking Management

The 80 parking bays provided on site will be sufficient for typical demand associated with the regular weekly use of the velo park, with users travelling to the site by a range of modes including car, walking and cycling. Infrequent regional or national events (likely to be no more than six per annum) may create the need for additional off-site temporary parking and a number of overflow options have been identified, including a nearby field owned by the council that was used successfully as an overflow car park when the Eisteddfod was held in Abergavenny in 2016

b) Lighting

In contrast with other outdoor sports such as football and rugby, the velo park does not require floodlighting with only the equivalent of street lighting necessary to enable the use of the facility for coaching and training into the evening throughout the winter months. To minimise any potential impacts the lights will be fitted with full cut-off louvres, directing lighting down onto the narrow area of the track and with no significant light spill or glow, as is often experienced with sports pitch floodlighting.

c) Noise

The management and use of the facility will not require or use a tannoy speaker/announcement system affecting residents. Traffic will be restricted to the northern car parking area located furthest away from the residential area and closest to the main roads and the waste recycling centre. The main coaching area will be located to the east of the circuit furthest away from residential areas. Research relating to similar closed road circuits located across the UK has identified no known cycling related noise issues or complaints. Also, as a further precautionary measure, use of the velo park will not take place after 9.30pm at any time of the year.

d) Environmental Impacts

The velo park site is a high-quality natural environment with habitats sustaining protected species, including great crested newts (GRC), bats, reptiles and otters. A wide range of environmental mitigating measures and improvements to the natural habitats are included in the detailed velo park design including amphibian and otter tunnels, rock gardens and access to the pond environment.

Opportunities for environmental education and the involvement of the community in the management of the site is an important benefit of the scheme and directly linked to the use of the adjoining One Planet Environmental Education Centre.

A series of ecological surveys have been undertaken since June 2019 that identified GCN and bats have been recorded and evidence of otters moving through the site. The GCN mitigation strategy and green infrastructure plan have been developed to ensure maximum protection and habitat connectivity/creation is afforded to these species. An impact assessment has also been undertaken.

The lighting design has taken all necessary steps to achieve the performance criteria required by British Cycling design guidance, whilst also limiting the environmental impact outside of the circuit area, following environmental guidance produced by the Bat Conservation Trust and the Institute of Lighting Professionals.

10 CONSULTEES

Cabinet
Strategic Leadership Team
Local Member for Llanfoist Fawr
Local Members for Abergavenny
Section 106 Working Group

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Welsh Cycling Facilities Strategy 2017
Cycling Circuits – British Cycling Guidance July 2018
Abergavenny Velo Park – Site Options Appraisal December 2018

12 AUTHOR

Mike Moran, Community Infrastructure Coordinator

13 CONTACT DETAILS

Tel: 07894 573834

Email: mikemoran@monmouthshire.gov.uk



Report to Cabinet on 2nd March 2022 – Abergavenny Velo Park

monmouthshire
sir fynwy

Integrated Impact Assessment document

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

Name of the Officer Mike Moran Phone no: 07894 573834 E-mail: mikemoran@monmouthshire.gov.uk	Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal: To commit to the velo park project and to create a capital budget for the scheme
Name of Service area MonLife-Enterprise	Date 31 st January 2022

1. **Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics?** Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	The recommendations will have positive benefits to residents of all ages living in and many beyond the local area		There will be early years engagement through to older people being trained in the safe use of bikes, including electric bikes, as a means of transport for local journeys
Disability	The velo park has been designed to be accessible to people with disabilities and other support needs		A number of accessible bikes will be based at the site to facilitate use by different disabled groups

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?
Gender reassignment	Neutral		
Marriage or civil partnership	Neutral		
Pregnancy or maternity	The site has been designed for ease of access with pushchairs and wheelchairs		
Race	Neutral		
Religion or Belief	Neutral		
Sex	The project is of equal benefit to both males and females		
Sexual Orientation	Neutral		

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>Llanfoist Fawr is rated in the 10-20% of the most deprived in terms of access to service in Wales and in the 20-30% of the most deprived in terms of physical environment (WMID 2019) - so improvements to recreation provision and access to green spaces will help to address these inequalities.</p> <p>There is strong evidence from research undertaken during the Covid pandemic that access to good quality green spaces is an important factor in improving the physical and emotional well-being of individuals and families</p>	<p>It is not a negative impact of the velo park proposal, but there is a need to improve access for cyclists between Abergavenny and Llanfoist and to the site of the velo park.</p>	<p>As part of its Active Travel priorities, the council is working hard to improve walking and cycling links between Abergavenny and Llanfoist, including the provision of a new Active Travel crossing of the River Usk specifically for pedestrians and cyclists. When the project is realised it will create better access to the velo park site for a much wider catchment area, including many more people suffering from socio economic disadvantage.</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 proposal will have a neutral effect on opportunities to use the Welsh language</p> <p>All site signage will be bilingual, with precedence given the Welsh language</p>		<p>Promote the availability of the site to Welsh language groups in the area</p> <p>Any promotional material produced by the council and/or other will be bilingual, with precedence given to the Welsh language</p>
<p>Operational</p> <p>Recruitment & Training of workforce</p>	<p>There are no new or existing posts involved in the proposal</p>		
<p>Service delivery</p> <p>Use of Welsh language in service delivery</p> <p>Promoting use of the language</p>	<p>All site signage and any promotional literature will be produced bilingually, with the Welsh language given precedence.</p>	<p>Users will be advised that if they have any concerns or wish to report an accident they can do so using the Welsh language if they choose to do so.</p>	

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?
<p>A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>Positive - the first phase of the project will be funded substantially from S106 balances provided by developers of residential housing in the Abergavenny area.</p>	<p>We are working closely with Welsh Cycling and consultants to identify further sources of funding for the second and third phases of the project.</p>
<p>A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>Positive – the Racecourse Farm site is important for both ecology and biodiversity and the velo park project includes important and effective mitigation proposals that have been designed to maintain the ecosystem of the local area</p>	<p>Discussions are taking place regarding the future management of the wildlife pond immediately adjacent to the velo park site which, if successful, will further enhance the ecology and biodiversity of the area.</p>
<p>A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>Positive - the proposals in this report involve improving peoples' physical and emotional wellbeing. In addition to its value as an important recreational facility, the velo park will be used for educational purposes and for events that will create a focal point for family orientated activities.</p>	
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>The proposal will contribute to the safety and cohesiveness of the local community in Llanfoist, Abergavenny and the surrounding area.</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 globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing</p>	<p>The availability of good quality & accessible facilities in the local community means that local people do not have to travel to other areas by car or by public transport.</p>	
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation</p>	<p>There are no specific proposals in this report to protect the Welsh language, but the improvements proposed will encourage more participation in outdoor recreational activities.</p>	<p>Encourage the use of the Welsh language in on-site signage – bilingual noticeboards and publicity materials will promote the Welsh language and help to encourage Welsh language speakers to use the site</p>
<p>A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances</p>	<p>The improvements will encourage improved access for and participation by disabled people and people with other protected characteristics, also by all sections of the community regardless of their background or ability.</p>	<p>It is proposed to use balance bikes for younger users and to purchase a range of adaptive bikes for disabled people and those with reduced mobility and movement. Also, to use electric bikes for off-road training to increase the competence and confidence of adults and encourage them to use bikes more often for local journeys.</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>The sustainability of the site has been assessed and officers are confident that the investment proposed will be sustainable in the longer term.</p>	<p>Funding is proposed from existing and future S106 balances to contribute towards the cost of the works proposed.</p>
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>The project involves working closely with other parties to deliver a new facility that is a council priority and a governing body priority and to ensure quality access for children, adults and families.</p>	
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>The views of elected members of the county council, potential users and the local community have been sought during the planning stages of the proposal and in the drafting of the report and the recommendations it contains.</p>	

<p>Sustainable Development Principle</p>	<p>Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.</p>	<p>Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?</p>
<div data-bbox="197 368 400 571"> </div> <p data-bbox="232 580 367 608">Prevention</p> <p data-bbox="421 341 562 624">Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p data-bbox="591 341 1301 612">The project involves the creation of a major new recreational facility, in line with the intention of the S106 Agreements from which the funding has arisen. Problem prevention is not the basis upon which the funding has been given but investing in new and improved facilities will help to prevent problems occurring.</p>	
<div data-bbox="203 683 405 885"> </div> <p data-bbox="237 900 376 927">Integration</p> <p data-bbox="203 963 539 1059">Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p data-bbox="591 655 1285 804">The project will have a positive impact on the health & wellbeing of people living in and beyond the area of benefit stipulated in the Section 106 Agreements.</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	The velo park proposals provide a new recreational amenity that will be accessible to children with disabilities and other types of support need.		The landscaping of the velo park will create a welcoming and pleasant environment for children and adults and will include elements of sensory planting
Corporate Parenting	The proposal does not deliver positive impacts solely for looked after children, but it does provide new and positive opportunities for these children to mix with their peers and to form friendships more easily with other children in the local community.		

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

- Guidance from British Cycling and feedback from its Chief Assessor.
- Data from the Welsh Cycling Strategy and from emerging Monmouthshire Cycling Strategy
- Baseline data from the Abergavenny Velo Park Site Options Appraisal (November 2018)
- Feedback from local cycling clubs and from potential users of the facility

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 main positive impact of this proposal is the creation of an off road centre for cycling, other wheeled sports and other recreational and educational activities that will contribute to the health and well-being of the Monmouthshire community and will help to reaffirm the reputation of Abergavenny as one of the main regional cycling hubs in Wales.

It's not a negative impact of this proposal, but there is a realisation that the Active Travel improvements for pedestrians and cyclists proposed between Abergavenny and Llanfoist will improve accessibility to the velo park site to a much wider catchment area.

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
Discharge the conditions on the planning consent if approved	Over the next 3-6 months	MonLife
Develop a d management plan for t	Over the next 3-6 months	MonLife/Welsh Cycling
Work in partnership with Welsh Cycling, local cycling clubs and users to implement the proposal	Following the decision of Cabinet and over the next 12-18 months	MonLife/Welsh Cycling

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	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made
1	Velo Park Site Options Report	December 2018	
2	S106 funding received	18 th Jan & 9 th Sept 2017	
3	Cabinet Briefing	10 th December 2018	To advise on possible availability of WG funding
4	Welsh Govt/Sport Wales funding confirmed	11 th March 2019	
5	Cabinet Briefing	2 nd April 2019	To confirm availability of WG funding
6	Planning application verified	12 th May 2021	
7	Planning application determined (proposed)	1 st March 2022	
8	MCC Cabinet Meeting	2 nd March 2022	

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SUBJECT: 2022/23 EDUCATION AND WELSH CHURCH TRUST FUNDS INVESTMENT AND FUND STRATEGIES

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 02nd March 2022

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All Authority

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to Cabinet for approval the 2022/23 Investment and Fund strategy for Trust Funds for which the Authority acts as sole or custodian trustee for adoption and to approve the 2022/23 grant allocation to Local Authority beneficiaries of the Welsh Church Fund.

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

- That the proposed Investment and Fund Strategy for 2022/23 for the Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund as set by the Trust be endorsed.
- 2.2 That the proposed Investment and Fund Strategy for 2022/23 for the Welsh Church Fund be approved.
- 2.3 To delegate responsibility for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the Deputy CEO and Chief Officer for Resources (S151 officer) who will act in accordance with the Investment and Funds Strategy (appendix 2).
- 2.4 To approve the 2022/23 grant allocation to Local Authority beneficiaries to the Monmouthshire Welsh Church Act Fund of £190,000 to be distributed in accordance with population data in the draft Local Government Settlement 2022/23.
- 2.5 To note that the Monmouthshire Farm School Trust Board determined the 2022/23 grant allocation for the year in July 2021. However, this is reviewed at every meeting to ensure that the grants offered do not exceed previous years' investment return at the end of March 2021, and any under spends carried forward from the 2021/22 grant allocation, thus to avoid eroding the overall fund.

- 2.6 To endorse the Welsh Church Fund Principles, Policy Considerations and Grant Allocation Criteria for 2022/23 (Appendix 6) as considered and approved by the Welsh Church Fund Committee on the 27th January 2022.
- 2.7 To endorse the policy that Monmouthshire County Council (The Trustee) ensures that the constituent councils that benefit from grant distributions, ensure that grants allocated are in line with charitable objects of the fund and that this fact is advertised on their Authority's website.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The Authority acts as the sole trustee for the Welsh Church Fund and the custodian with responsibility for financial arrangements for the Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund and is required annually to approve Investment and Fund Strategies for them. In addition, for the Welsh Church Fund the Authority is required to determine the grant allocation for the forthcoming year.
- 3.2 The contract for the position of Treasury Advisor to Monmouthshire County Council, the Welsh Church Act Fund and the Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust was awarded to Arlingclose Ltd in March 2016 for 4 years with the option to extend for a further two years, this option was subsequently taken up. All three bodies will therefore continue to receive ongoing advice and support on investments until at least the 31st March 2022 from the Arlingclose contract and beyond from the newly appointed Treasury Advisors.

Investment and Fund Strategy

In acting in its capacity as either sole trustee or custodian, the Authority is required to have Investment policies in place for the Monmouthshire Farms Endowment Trust Fund and the Welsh Church Fund in order to comply with the [Trustee Act 2000](#). The policies ensure that monies are invested in the best interests of the Trusts.

The Annual Investment and Fund strategies for the Monmouthshire Welsh Church Act Fund and Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund set priorities are, in the order shown, to;

- a) Maintain security of the invested capital;
- b) Maintain sufficient liquidity to allow grants to be distributed;
- c) Maintain an optimum yield which is commensurate with security and liquidity.

Welsh Church Fund

- 3.4 The Trust holds real assets within pooled funds (Collective Investment Funds) such as to maximise the average annual income stream to the Trust over a 3 to 5 year' business cycle without a sustained loss of capital funds. This policy was adopted as the Investment

Strategy for the WCF in 2013/14. Arlingclose as treasury advisors to the Welsh Church Fund have supported the Welsh Church fund in making these types of investments, and these investments were taken out between May 2013 and January 2014. The latest fund review was undertaken by Arlingclose in 2021 and these investments remain a risk balanced investment portfolio in line with the investment priorities.

- 3.5 The current view from investment market projections continues to be that UK base rates will rise, perhaps by another 0.25% in early Spring and another 0.25% in late Spring / early Summer 2022. Household spending faces pressures from a combination of higher energy and commodity prices as well as known tax rises. Though, the basis for the change in investment strategy in point 3.4 was still relevant for 2021/22 and will be monitored with the help of the Authority's treasury advisor on an ongoing basis to ensure returns are optimised in 2022/23.
- 3.6 Pooled investment funds are suited to bodies such as the Welsh Church Fund and the Mon Farm School Trust Fund which are looking for a steady and/or higher average income streams and are able to leave the principal in place for a business cycle as they do not need to access the principal over the medium term. This enables the Trust to benefit from above average good years despite lower returns in infrequent poorer years.
- 3.7 There is a risk relating to the use of these funds in that the principal amount can go down as well as up in value. Again, this is suited to the Welsh Church Fund as the Trust can tolerate these movements over a longer business cycle. The movements are expected to be at least neutral over a business cycle and the earning power of these investments is not largely affected by the market value.
- For the financial year 2020/21, the WCF has received income of £181,378 from its external investment funds and through rental income. Therefore, it is recommended that we distribute £190,000 to ensure that the funds raised for charitable purposes in 2020/21 during the period of the Covid-19 pandemic are distributed fully and thereby assist grant recipients in need of financial support without a further depletion in capital assets. We will aim to raise the distribution back to pre-pandemic levels as soon as practically possible, as income projections for 2021/22 are slightly better than those received in 2020/21.
- 3.9 In the financial year 2020/21, the income received from the pooled funds was augmented by a paper net capital gain of £422,752 (£385,106 loss in 2019/20) as a result of a bounce back in the markets after the initial losses due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As indicated in point 3.6, a movement in capital value is expected with these types of investments in normal years as well as exceptional year's such as at the height of a pandemic and these movements are not expected to impact the fund in the longer term. For this reason, Arlingclose strongly recommend continuing to spread the investments over several asset classes, equity, property, and bonds to reduce any substantial risk of losses.
- 3.10 A revised Investment and Fund strategy for the Welsh Church Act Fund is contained in Appendix 2.

The strategies state that the balance of cash not invested directly by the Trust Funds can be managed on a pooled basis by Monmouthshire County Council to maximise investment returns and to minimise exposure to investment losses. This cash balance is

required primarily to ensure sufficient cash is available to distribute grants during the financial year and reimburse other authorities within Greater Gwent at the financial year-end.

Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund

- 3.11 Following recommendations from Treasury Advisors Arlingclose, The Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust adopted a similar risk and investment strategy to that of the Welsh Church Fund. This Risk and Investment strategy was presented to and approved by the Board of The Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust in July 2021.
- 3.12 In the financial year 2020/21, which is the most recent completed year end accounts, the Mon Farms Trust received income of £26,510 from its direct investments in funds and £0 from the Roger Edwards Educational Trust Fund. These total investment returns were more than the grants and fees allocated from the Trust and so this could have potentially increased the funds available for distribution in 2022/23. The trustees have agreed however to maintain the grants available at £30,000 in 2022/23.
- 3.13 In the 2020/21 financial year, the income received from the pooled funds invested in by the Trustees directly was augmented by a paper net capital gain of £15,912. As indicated in point 3.6, a movement in capital value is expected with these types of investments and not expected to impact the fund in the long term. For this reason, Arlingclose strongly recommend continuing to spread the investments over several asset classes, including equity, property, and bonds to reduce the risk of losses. It should be noted however that as the Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust receives income from the Roger Edwards Trust and that this income is achieved by investing in Equity and Property based products, in order to diversify, the additional products selected for direct investment were weighted towards bond based products. The bond-based products have made a loss over the last 12 months. This situation is being actively discussed with Arlingclose to optimize performance over the medium term although diversification is still seen as the best policy.
- 3.14 Appendix 1 outlines the Annual Investment and Fund Strategy 2022/23.

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Grant Allocation of the Welsh Church Fund

- 3.15 The Monmouthshire Welsh Church Fund was established on 1st April 1996 from the former Gwent Fund and part of the former Mid Glamorgan Fund. The Fund covers the administrative areas of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Newport, Torfaen, and Monmouthshire, with Monmouthshire being designated as the lead Authority.
- 3.16 Since 1996 trustees have sought to obtain a satisfactory rate of return from the fund's investments thereby enabling grants to beneficiaries after meeting expenses, whilst maintaining the capital value of the fund in real terms.
- 3.17 The fund balance held by the trust was £5,312,322 as at the 31st March 2021 (£4,966,139 at 31st March 2020). It is recommended that the grant allocation should be £190,000 in 2022/23 (£210,000 in 2021/22), as we wait for the financial markets to recover to previous income levels, as due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Investment Funds have reduced their distributions to maintain their own capital

balances. The forecast for 2021/22 income is estimated to be around £190,000, which is slightly more than the £181,378 received in 2020/21 as the economy bounces back to pre-pandemic levels and hopefully this will result in grant distributions increasing again in 2023/24.

3.18 This will result in the following distribution being recommended:

AUTHORITY	POPULATION (000) **	PERCENTAGE SPLIT	BUDGET*
Blaenau Gwent CBC	56.4	12.0	22,800
Caerphilly CBC	144.1	30.4	57,760
Monmouthshire CC	77.8	16.4	31,160
Newport CBC	120.9	25.4	48,260
Torfaen CBC	75.4	15.8	30,020
TOTAL	474.6	100.0	£190,000

*The above figures do not include any brought forward unspent grant allocations

**Source: 2022/23 Draft Local Government Settlement (Population over 18).

Risk Assessment of the Welsh Church Fund

The financial assistance provided by the Welsh Church Fund supports a very wide range of community activities, including voluntary and sporting organisations. Annually, monies are distributed by charitable grants and the key risk faced by the Welsh Church Fund is loss or reduction in the amount of monies available.

3.20 The risk assessment is undertaken to ensure that risks faced by the Trust are identified and mitigated through appropriate and robust controls put in place by the Authority in its position as sole and corporate Trustee. The existing risk assessment policy has been reviewed and is deemed to be adequate and sufficiently robust to continue during the 2022/23 financial year. The risk assessment is attached for information at appendix 5.

Risk Assessment of the Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust

3.21 The financial assistance provided by the Monmouthshire Farm Endowment Trust supports a very wide range of students, studying at agricultural orientated colleges in the UK. Applicants must live in the former Gwent area (excluding Newport) and preference is given to those under 25 years old. Annually, monies are distributed by way of educational grants and the key risk faced by the Monmouthshire Farm Endowment Trust is loss or reduction in the amount of monies available for distribution.

- 3.22 A risk assessment is undertaken to ensure that risks faced by the Trust are identified and mitigated through appropriate and robust controls put in place by the Authority, in its position as the Trustee with responsibility for financial arrangements. The risk assessment policy is attached for information at Appendix 4.

4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Options available are restricted by the nature of the governing documents of the Welsh Church Act Fund and Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 5.1 There are no long-term sustainability implications arising directly from this report although it should be noted that the Covid-19 pandemic has had a slight impact in regard to investment returns achieved over the last two years.
- 5.2 The approval of the Investment and Fund Strategies do not require any specific decisions to be made which could have an adverse impact on any group or individual within the Council. The approval of the Welsh Church Fund budget for 2022/23 is seen to have a neutral impact on the sustainability of the fund going forward.

REASONS:

- 6.1 To produce an annual Investment and Fund Strategy in order that the Authority fulfils its responsibilities as corporate and sole trustee in compliance with the Trustee Act 2000.
- 6.2 To approve the 2022/23 grant allocation for the Welsh Church Fund, enabling constituent Local Authorities to make qualifying grant allocations under the Welsh Church Fund Trust Scheme.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 7.1 The grant allocation to beneficiaries of the Welsh Church Fund is set in the context of the fund balance being maintained over the long term. It is funded through net income generated through investment returns.
- 7.2 The appointment of a dedicated treasury advisor to the Welsh Church Fund will be an ongoing annual charge against the Fund. The fee negotiated is competitive and further efficiencies are generated from the Authority dealing with one advisor for its treasury advice.

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

A Future Generations assessment, examining the implications in regard to equality, safeguarding, corporate parenting or sustainable developments, is contained in the attached appendix 5

9. CONSULTEES:

Strategic Leadership Team
Cabinet Members
Head of Legal Services

Results of Consultation

No adverse comments received

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix 1 – Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust – Annual Investment and Fund Strategy 2022/23
Appendix 2 – Monmouthshire Welsh Church Fund – Investment and Fund Strategy 2022/23
Appendix 3 – Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust – Risk Assessment Policy 2022/23
Appendix 4 – Monmouthshire Welsh Church Fund – Risk Assessment Policy 2022/23
Appendix 5 – Future Generations Evaluation Form
Appendix 6 -- Welsh Church Fund Principles, Policy Considerations and Grant Allocation Criteria for 2022/23

11. AUTHORS:

Dave Jarrett – Senior Accountant Business Support
Nicola Wellington – Children & Young People Finance Manager

12. CONTACT DETAILS:

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Telephone: 01633 644567

The Investment & Fund Strategy for the Monmouthshire Farm Endowment Trust 2022/23

1. Background

- 1.1. The Trustees shall each year consider for approval an annual Investment Strategy. The Trustees may also request submission of a longer-term investment strategy for approval. Any proposed in-year modification to the Investment Strategy must be approved by the Trustees.
- 1.2. This investment strategy has been prepared with the assistance of Arlingclose, the current treasury advisor to both the Monmouthshire Farm Endowment Trust and Monmouthshire County Council.
- 1.3. The Trustees have agreed to a continued relationship with a Treasury advisor to provide expert advice on the continued suitability of a variety of investment vehicles for inclusion in its portfolio. This will carry a small charge.

2. Interest Rate Forecast

- 2.1. After the UK Bank Rate rise to 0.50% in early February 2022 Arlingclose's forecast is for the UK Bank Rate to rise by 0.25% sometime in late Q4 of 2021/22 and again in Q1 of the 2022/23 financial year. Risk is slightly weighted to the upside.
- 2.2. With short term interest rates remaining relatively low, an investment strategy historically would have typically resulted in a lengthening of investment periods, where cash flow permits, to lock in higher rates of acceptable risk adjusted returns. The problem in the current environment is finding an investment counterparty providing acceptable levels of counterparty risk for investments of that duration and an acceptable rate of return.
- 2.3. The Monmouthshire Farm Endowment Trust, by means of this Investment strategy is permitted to utilise suitable Collective Investment Schemes/Pooled Funds, which enable the Authority to diversify the assets and thereby reduce the underlying risk in the investment portfolio and at the same time providing the potential for enhanced returns.

3. Annual Investment and Fund Strategy

- 3.1. The Trustees shall invest Monmouthshire Farm Endowment Trust monies in accordance with Section 15 of the Scheme made by the County Council of Monmouthshire.

- 3.2. Day to day activities required to implement this shall be delegated to the S151 Officer and the Treasury team of Monmouthshire County Council. This can include a change to investment vehicle providing it still lies within the scope of this Investment strategy and is approved by the current Treasury Management advisors.
- 3.3. In accordance with best practice, the Monmouthshire Farm Endowment Trust must consider the three objectives of security, liquidity, and yield in relation to the investment of its funds when making any investment. Maintaining a high level of security of investment ensures the long-term income generating capacity of the fund. The liquidity or accessibility of a portion of the investments ensures in the short-term expenses of the fund can be met.
- 3.4. The Overall Fund Strategy of the Monmouthshire Farm Endowment Trust Fund is to generate investment returns which after meeting the expenses of managing the Fund, can be distributed to selected beneficiaries. The investment strategy is therefore to maximise returns commensurate with appropriate levels of security and liquidity. Investments in Collective Investment Funds are likely to result in fluctuations in principal. It is acceptable to allow this, if having taken appropriate advice; they are expected to be temporary in nature, to improve total returns over a 3 to 5 year' business cycle.
- 3.5. At 31st March 2021, the Monmouthshire Farm Endowment Trust had £630,881 of pooled investments and £23,761 of cash.
- 3.6. Financial investments can be taken by the Fund without specific reference to the Treasury Advisors at the time providing they are sterling denominated investments with a maximum maturity of one year and meet the "high credit quality" criteria determined by the Trustees and set out in paragraph 3.9 and are not deemed capital expenditure investments under Statute.
- 3.7. Investments which do not meet the strict definition (detailed below) of high credit quality and which have a longer-term Investment horizon, can be taken, but only after consulting with the Monmouthshire Farm Endowment Trust Fund treasury advisors and the Section 151 Officer at Monmouthshire County Council. These persons represent the Trustee's, to ensure the level of risk is in line with the Monmouthshire Farm Endowment Trust Fund, other current investment options.
- 3.8. The types of investment vehicles that can be utilised by the Monmouthshire Farm Endowment Trust are as follows:

Table 2: Investments

Investment	
Term deposits or Cash Deposits with banks and building societies	✓

Gilts, Treasury-bills, or the UK Debt Management Office	✓
Collective Investment Schemes	✓
Pooled funds with Monmouthshire County Council	✓

3.9. The Trustees and its advisors select countries and financial institutions after analysis and ongoing monitoring of:

- Published credit ratings for financial institutions (counterparties):
 - Investments are classed as having high credit quality if the lowest credit rating they have with Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poors' is A-, A3 and A- or higher.
 - And a country rating of AA+ or equivalent for non-UK sovereigns
- Credit Default Swaps (where quoted)
- Sovereign Support mechanisms
- Economic fundamentals (for example Net Debt as a percentage of GDP) and Economic trends
- Sovereign support mechanisms
- Share Prices
- Corporate developments, news, articles, markets sentiment and momentum
- Historical performance and expected future trends of Collective Investment Funds
- Subjective overlay – or, put more simply, common sense.

Any institution can be suspended or removed should any of the factors identified above give rise to concern. The Monmouthshire Farm Endowment Trust fund will not enter into any investment if it is outside the advice given by its Treasury advisors, which is updated monthly, weekly and daily according to the movements in the worldwide backdrop. This includes guidance on the maximum maturity of investments with approved counterparties.

3.10. New Investments made directly by the Monmouthshire Farm Endowment Trust Fund will be restricted in the following ways to ensure diversification and hence reduction of both credit risk and interest rate risk.

- A minimum of £40,000 (at the time of investment) needs to be held in investments which are sufficiently liquid such as cash or other investments less than one year so that grants can still be made if investment returns are low or to allow for the lead time for realising

certain investments. The full remaining balance can be invested in Collective Investment funds to maximise returns if this is in line with the requirements of this strategy.

- The maximum monetary amount, which can be invested directly by the Monmouthshire Farms Endowment Trust Fund [MFETF] in any one Collective Investment Fund (at the time of the Investment), is 45% of the total MFETF investment balance.

The amounts invested are spread across different investment asset classes such as Property, Bonds and Equity to diversify and reduce overall risk. This spread should be viewed collectively with the funds invested by the Roger Edwards Educational Trust [REET] and from which the MFETF benefits (£650,000 purchase price). As the REET Investments are weighted towards Equity, it is not possible to achieve an equal split across asset classes but a level of between 20% and 45% for at least three of the asset classes should be aimed for. Appendix A includes the model portfolio, which was used as a basis for the investments that have been undertaken.

- Up to 100% of the total investment balance can be held with Monmouthshire County Council or Instruments issued by the UK Government, if required
- Up to 100% of the total investment balance can be invested as term deposits, CDs or call accounts with banks and building societies. The maximum amount that can be invested with any one financial institution is £100,000, if of high credit quality (approx. 15% of the total MFETF investment balance) or £50,000 if approved by the Treasury advisors although not considered high credit quality.
- The maximum duration of term deposits and CDs with banks and building societies shall be in line with the ongoing advice given by the Trust's treasury advisors, which varies with world economic factors.

3.11. At the end of each financial year, the Trustees shall consider the actual return on investments & the extent to which the investment objectives have been achieved.

3.12. The Trustees shall observe the following constraints in pursuing the investment objectives:

- The restrictions on investments contained within Section 15 of the scheme made by Monmouthshire County Council.
- A proportion of the funds held may be pooled with Monmouthshire County Council's overall investment portfolio, which is invested in line with the Authority's Treasury Management Strategy. Interest earned by the Authority and any investment losses incurred by the

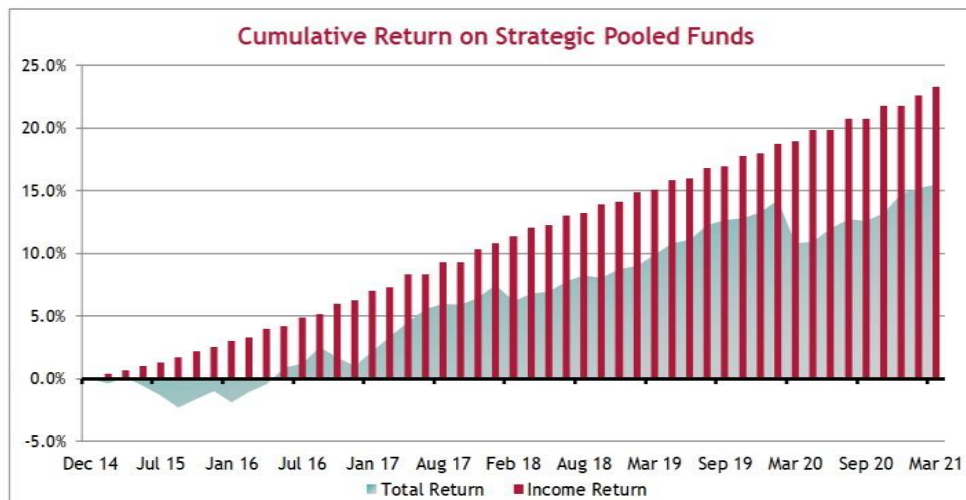
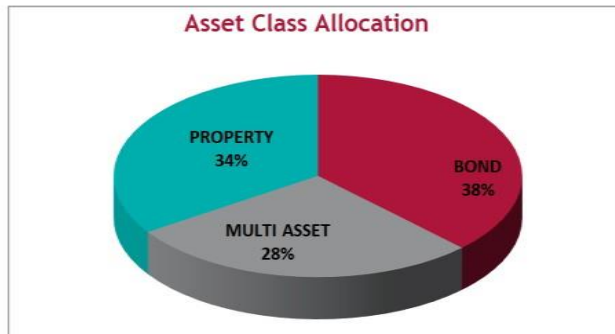
Authority will be apportioned proportionally between the Local Authority and Monmouthshire Farm Endowment Trust in line with the total investments held by each party.

NB: Any investments that move outside of the above criteria with time will be reinvested within the above criteria on maturity.

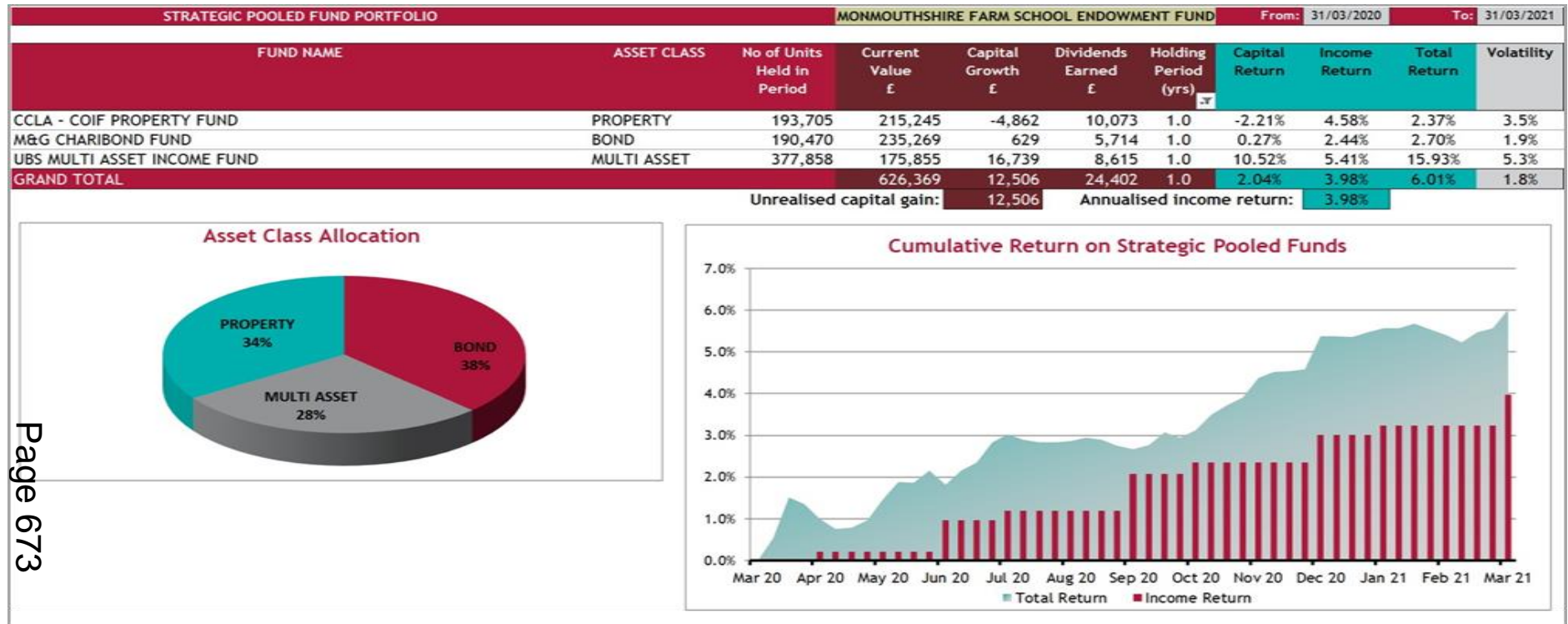
- 3.13. There are currently no ethical constraints on investment of funds and this matter will be reviewed if there are any changes in charity law or other requirements.
- 3.14. There is now more than 48 months' history to Monmouthshire Farms Trust's pooled fund holding. In capital terms, it should be remembered that the emphasis of the investment in the selected funds is based on a long-term strategy of a five-year rolling basis.
- 3.15. The values and performance of the investments reported in the latest available Arlingclose report are as follows;

STRATEGIC POOLED FUND PORTFOLIO			MONMOUTHSHIRE FARM SCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUND				From: 31/12/2014	To: 31/03/2021				
FUND NAME	ASSET CLASS	No of Units Held in Period	Current Value £	Capital Growth £	Dividends Earned £	Holding Period (yrs)	Capital Return	Income Return	Total Return	Volatility	Capital Return annualised	Income Return annualised
CCLA - COIF PROPERTY FUND	PROPERTY	193,705	215,245	-13,755	65,464	5.3	-6.01%	28.59%	22.58%	3.1%	-1.17%	4.89%
M&G CHARIBOND FUND	BOND	190,470	235,269	-14,731	43,471	5.7	-5.89%	17.39%	11.50%	2.9%	-1.06%	2.85%
UBS MULTI ASSET INCOME FUND	MULTI ASSET	377,858	175,855	-24,145	49,008	6.2	-12.07%	24.50%	12.43%	5.9%	-2.06%	3.61%
GRAND TOTAL			626,369	-52,631	157,943	5.7	-7.75%	23.26%	15.51%	2.3%	-1.41%	3.73%

Unrealised capital loss: **-52,631** Annualised income return: **3.73%**



Please note the data above reflects the performance of the funds since inception as the funds were purchased on 29th January 2015. The below charts the performance of the funds during the 2020/21 financial year.



4. Training

4.1. The Section 151 Officer will ensure all staff are suitable trained to assist with this process and will organise awareness training to Trustees, Cabinet and Audit Committee where appropriate.

5. Investment Consultants/ Treasury Advisors

5.1. The Monmouthshire Farm Endowment Trustees use Arlingclose as their Treasury Management Consultants to provide information, advice and training relating to investments. Information relating to the investments is provided from publicly available data and is summarised to assist with decision making within the Authority. The information and advice encompass the level of risk of investments and the variety of options available.

The Investment & Fund Strategy for the Welsh Church Act Fund 2022/23

1. Background

- 1.1. The Cabinet shall each year consider for approval an annual Investment Strategy. The Cabinet may also request submission of a longer-term investment strategy for approval. The Cabinet before implementation must approve any proposed in-year modification to the Investment Strategy.
- 1.2. The Welsh Church Fund Funds strategy shall be considered in conjunction with any review of the Investment Strategy.
- 1.3. Local Authorities are required by the Welsh Government's Investment Guidance to produce an Annual Investment Strategy. The Trustees of the Welsh Church Fund have elected to use this Guidance where practicable and relevant. The guidance emphasises an appropriate approach to risk management, particularly in relation to the security and liquidity of invested funds.
- This investment strategy has been prepared with the assistance of Arlingclose, the current treasury advisor to both the Welsh Church Fund and Monmouthshire County Council (the sole Trustee of the Welsh Church Fund).

2. Interest Rate Forecast

- 2.1. After the UK Bank Rate rise to 0.50% in early February 2022. Arlingclose's forecast is for the UK Bank Rate to rise by 0.25% sometime in late Q4 of 2021/22 and again in Q1 of the 2022/23 financial year. Risks is slightly weighted to the upside.
- 2.2. The economic and interest rate forecast is provided by Monmouthshire County Council's current treasury management advisor. The Authority, in its position as trustee, will reappraise its strategies from time to time in response to evolving economic, political, and financial events.
- 2.3. With short-term interest rates still relatively low, an investment strategy historically would have typically resulted in a lengthening of investment periods, where cash flow permits, in order to lock in higher rates of acceptable risk adjusted returns. The problem in the current environment is finding an investment counterparty providing acceptable levels of counterparty risk for investments of that duration.

2.4. The Welsh Church Fund is permitted to utilise suitable Collective Investment Schemes/Pooled Funds, which enable the Authority to diversify the assets and underlying risk in the investment portfolio and at the same time providing the potential for enhanced returns.

3. Annual Investment and Fund Strategy

3.1. The Cabinet shall invest Welsh Church Fund monies in accordance with Section 15 of the Scheme made by the County Council of Monmouthshire under Section 19 of the Welsh Church Act 1914.

3.2. In accordance with best practice, the Welsh Church fund must consider the three objectives of security, liquidity, and yield in relation to the investment of its funds when making any investment. Maintaining a high level of security of investment ensures the long-term income generating capacity of the fund. The liquidity or accessibility of a portion of the investments ensures in the short-term expenses of the fund can be met in full.

3.3. The Overall Fund Strategy of the Welsh Church Trust Fund is to generate investment returns which after meeting the expenses of managing the Fund, can be distributed to selected beneficiaries. The investment strategy is therefore to maximise returns commensurate with appropriate levels of security and liquidity. Investments in Collective Investment Funds are likely to result in fluctuations in principal. It is acceptable to allow this, if having taken appropriate advice; they are expected to be temporary in nature, in order to improve total returns over a 3 to 5 year' business cycle.

At 31st March 2021, the Welsh Church Fund had £4.87m of Fixed Asset and Pooled Fund investments (market value) and £196,773 of cash.

3.5. Financial Investments which do not meet the strict definition below of high credit quality and which have a longer-term Investment horizon. Can be made but only after consulting with the Fund's treasury advisors and the Deputy CEO / Chief Officer for Resources (S151 Officer) at Monmouthshire County Council, who represents the Trustees, to ensure the level of risk is in line with the Welsh Church Fund's other current investment options.

3.6. The types of investments vehicles that are permitted to be utilised by the WCF are as follows:

Table 2: Investments

Investment	Specified
Call accounts, term deposits or Cash Deposits with banks and building societies	✓
Gilts, Treasury-bills, or the UK Debt Management Office	✓

Collective Investment Schemes	✓
Pooled funds with Monmouthshire County Council	✓

3.7. Investments can be taken out by the Fund without specific reference to the Treasury Advisors at the time providing they are sterling denominated investments with a maximum maturity of one year and that they meet the “high credit quality” criteria determined by the Trustee and set out in paragraph 3.8 and are not deemed capital expenditure investments under Statute.

3.8. The Trustees and its advisors select countries and financial institutions after analysis and ongoing monitoring of;

- Published credit ratings for financial institutions (counterparties):
 - Investments are classed as having high credit quality if the lowest credit rating they have with Fitch, Moody’s and Standard & Poors’ is A-, A3 and A- or higher.
 - And a country rating of AA+ or equivalent for non-UK sovereigns
- Credit Default Swaps (where quoted)
- Sovereign Support mechanisms
- Economic fundamentals (for example Net Debt as a percentage of GDP) and economic trends
- Sovereign support mechanisms
- Share Prices
- Corporate developments, news, articles, markets sentiment and momentum
- Historical performance and expected future trends of Collective Investment Funds
- Subjective overlay – or, put more simply, common sense.

Any institution can be suspended or removed should any of the factors identified above give rise to concern. The Welsh Church fund will not enter into any investment if it is outside the advice given by its Treasury Advisors, which is updated monthly, weekly, and daily according to the movements in the worldwide backdrop. This includes guidance on the maximum maturity of investments with approved counterparties.

3.9. New Investments made directly by the Welsh Church Fund will be restricted in the following ways to ensure diversification and hence reduction of both credit risk and interest rate risk.

- A minimum of £300,000 needs to be held in investments which are of sufficient liquidity, these include cash or other investments with less than one year before maturity so that grants can still be made if investment returns are low or to allow for the lead time for

realising certain investments. The full monetary balance can be invested in Collective Investment funds to maximise returns if this is in line with the requirements of this strategy.

- The maximum investment amount, which can be invested in any one Collective Investment Fund (at the time of investment) is 20% of the total investment balance. The amount invested should be spread across different asset classes such as Property, Bonds and Equity.
- Up to 100% of the total investment balance can be held with Monmouthshire County Council.
- Up to 100% of the total investment balance can be invested as term deposits or call accounts with banks and building societies. The maximum amount that can be invested with any one financial institution counterparty is 10% of the total investment balance.
- The maximum duration of term deposits with banks and building societies shall be in line with the advice given by the Trust's Treasury Advisors, which varies with world economic factors.

3.10. At the end of each financial year, Audit Committee consider the actual return on investments & the extent to which the investment objectives have been achieved.

3.11. The Cabinet shall observe the following constraints in pursuing the investment objectives:

- The restrictions on investments contained within Section 15 of the scheme made by Monmouthshire County Council under section 19 of the Welsh Church Act 1914.
- A proportion of the funds held may be pooled with Monmouthshire County Council's overall investment portfolio, which is invested in line with the Authority's Treasury Management Strategy. Interest earned by the Authority and any investment losses incurred by the Authority will be apportioned proportionally between the Local Authority and Monmouthshire Welsh Church Act Fund in line with the total investments held by each party.

NB: Any investments that move outside of the above criteria with time will be reinvested with the above criteria on maturity.

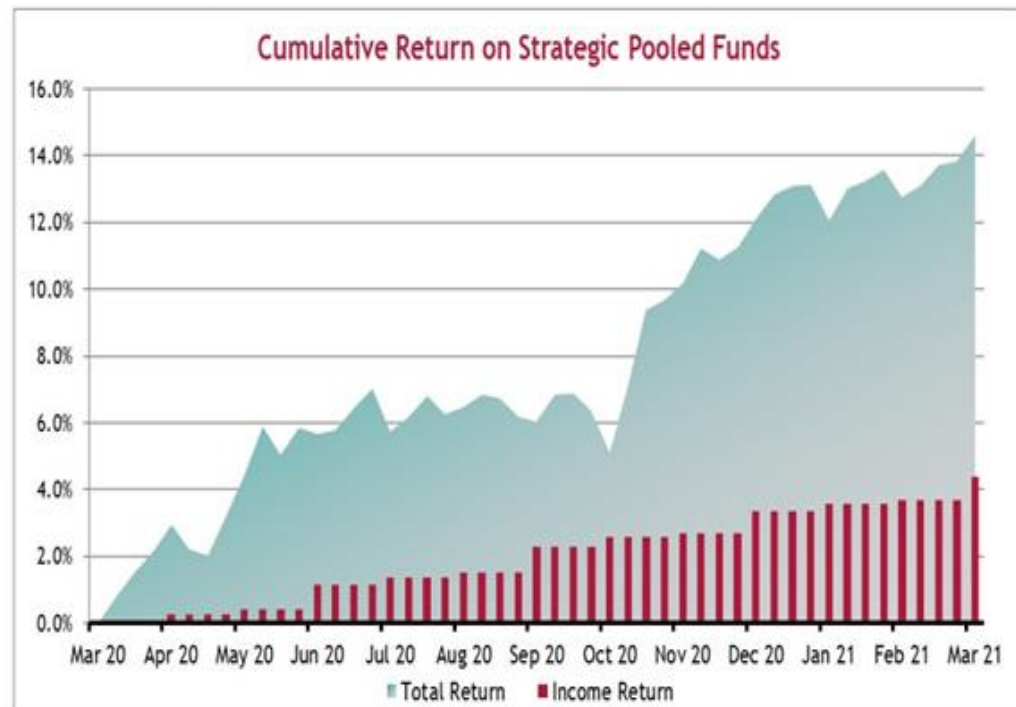
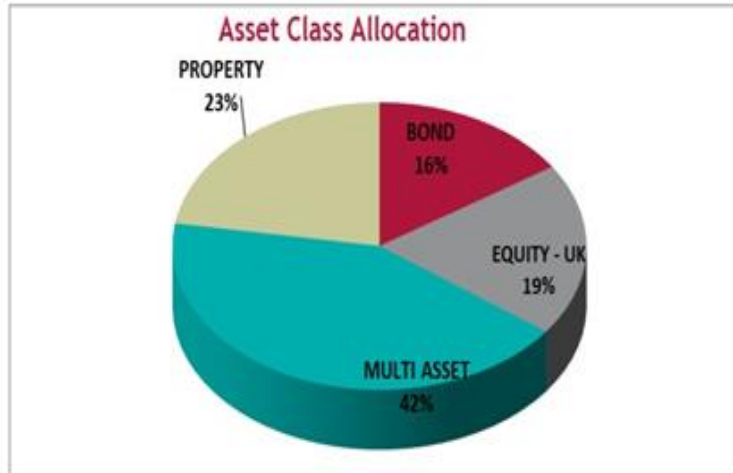
3.12. There are currently no ethical constraints on investment funds, this policy could be amended if there were changes to charity law or other requirements.

3.13. Performances of the externally managed pooled funds of the Welsh Church Fund for the 12 months to March 2021 are set out below. These investment funds are to be reviewed in 2022/23 in ensure that they are fulfilling the criteria of income generation and capital sustainability.

3.14. The dividend income earned from this portfolio, shown by the maroon bars, was £175,134 for the 12 months until March 2021.

STRATEGIC POOLED FUND PORTFOLIO			MONMOUTHSHIRE WELSH CHURCH FUND				From:	31/03/2020	To:	31/03/2021
FUND NAME	ASSET CLASS	No of Units Held in Period	Current Value £	Capital Growth £	Dividends Earned £	Holding Period (yrs)	Capital Return	Income Return	Total Return	Volatility
CCLA - COIF INVESTMENT FUND	MULTI ASSET	67,524	1,208,110	207,198	35,356	1.0	20.70%	3.53%	24.23%	8.9%
CCLA - COIF PROPERTY FUND	PROPERTY	889,400	988,302	-22,324	46,249	1.0	-2.21%	4.58%	2.37%	3.5%
M&G CHARIBOND FUND	BOND	558,982	690,455	1,845	16,769	1.0	0.27%	2.44%	2.70%	1.9%
M&G CHARIFUND	EQUITY - UK	34,796	512,339	96,364	22,443	1.0	23.17%	5.40%	28.56%	16.2%
SCHRODER INCOME MAXIMISER FUND	EQUITY - UK	816,916	342,860	62,671	22,085	1.0	22.37%	7.88%	30.25%	16.7%
UBS MULTI ASSET INCOME FUND	MULTI ASSET	1,407,494	655,048	62,352	32,232	1.0	10.52%	5.44%	15.96%	5.3%
GRAND TOTAL			4,397,113	408,106	175,134	1.0	10.23%	4.39%	14.62%	4.9%

Unrealised capital gain: **408,106** Annualised income return: **4.39%**



4. Welsh Church Fund's Bank Account

4.1. The Welsh Church Fund holds cash with Barclays Bank. At the current time, it meets the minimum credit criteria.

5. Training

5.1. The Authority, acting as Trustee to the Welsh Church Fund, will ensure that suitable awareness training is provided to members of the Audit Committee and Cabinet to enable them to discharge their scrutiny function together with such wider training as may be required from time to time.

6. Investment Consultants/ Treasury Advisors

6.1. The Welsh Church Fund use Arlingclose as their Treasury Management Consultants to provide information, advice and training relating to investments. Information relating to investments is provided from publicly available data and is summarised in order to assist with decision making within the Authority. The information and advice encapsulate the level of risk of investment and the variety of options available.

Monmouthshire Farm Endowment Trust – Risk Assessment Policy 2022/23

The financial assistance provided by the Monmouthshire Farm Endowment Trust is to support the advancement of education in agriculture and related subjects at college. Annually, monies are distributed to students and the key risk faced by the Monmouthshire Farm Endowment Trust is loss or reduction in the amount of monies available.

An assessment of the risks faced by the Monmouthshire Farm Endowment Trust has been undertaken and steps taken to:

- avoid risks through alternative strategies
- limit and reduce risks by improving controls
- insure against specified risks

On an annual basis, the risk assessment will be reviewed and updated to include any new risks identified.

The risks identified have been encompassed within four categories:

- governance & management
- operational risks
- financial risks
- compliance risk

Monmouthshire County Council as custodian and administrator of the Monmouthshire Farm Endowment Trust manage the fund on the Trustees behalf through the Cabinet and make all risk and investment decisions in a unified risk policy as advised by the Authority's investment and risk advisors.

The following paragraphs list the risks identified & the steps taken to mitigate or eliminate the risk.

1. Governance & Management

(a) The fund lacks direction?

The activities of the Fund are governed by the guidance in Section 4 of the Charity Act 2000.

The Cabinet has a clear purpose to maximise the return on its investments and this is contained within the investment policy.

(b) There are conflicts of interest?

Cabinet members are elected in accordance with the electoral cycle and are required to conduct themselves in-line with the Authority's Code of Conduct.

Members are required to declare any interests related to the activities of the Trust and may not vote on these decisions. These matters are recorded in the official minutes.

Members allowance and expense payments are not charged to the Monmouthshire Farm Endowment Fund.

(c) Funds are used in-appropriately?

The purpose for which funds can be used is contained within the objectives of the trust.

(d) Key staff, leave the Council's employment?

The actions of Officers of the Council are determined by Delegated Powers.

A number of senior Council staff support and advise the Trustees on legal & financial matters.

(e) Inadequate information is provided to the Trustees?

Annually, the Trustees consider the level of reserves and anticipated investment income before determining the level of grants to be made available.

Variances between the anticipated & actual investment income will be reflected in the following year's grants.

2. Operational Risks

(a) Unsuitable staff support and advise Cabinet?

Monmouthshire County Council has a comprehensive recruitment process that is supported by a wide range of personnel policies.

The training & development needs of officers are identified through the Employee Review process.

A number of senior Council staff support and advise Cabinet on financial and legal matters.

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(b) Systems & procedures are not secure?

Systems & procedures are documented & document retention policies are in place. IT systems have data back-up arrangements & disaster recovery plans. Periodic audits identify internal control improvement requirements. Insurance provides a means to recover from specified losses.

(c) Stakeholders are not satisfied with the operation of the Fund?

The Scheme made by the Trustees provides for the advancement of education in agriculture and related subjects at college.

The Trustees consider annual reports on the financial performance of the Trust.

The Trustees consider annually the level of funding available for grants.

(d) The assets of the Fund are at risk?

In accordance with the investment policy, a number of constraints are placed upon the way in which monies are used.

A risk minimization strategy has been adopted which limits the investment of funds to individual institutions meeting specified criteria.

(e) Unsatisfactory returns on investment are achieved?

The reserves policy requires monies be invested in financial instruments which produce interest payments and there is no appreciation in the capital value of the investment.

The overall aim is to obtain a satisfactory rate of return enabling Trustees to distribute an amount based on the forecast return on investments during the current year, after meeting the expenses incurred in managing the fund.

Annually, the Trustees consider the actual return on investments and the extent to which the investment objectives have been achieved.

3. Financial Risks

(a) Budgetary control is inadequate?

Annually, the Trustees consider the level of reserves and anticipated investment income before determining the level of grants to be made.

Variance between the anticipated and actual investment income will be reflected in the following year's grants.

(b) Financial administration is unsatisfactory?

Monmouthshire County Council personnel policies and procedures ensure Officers are appropriately qualified for the roles undertaken.

Internal control arrangements ensure there is division of duties amongst Officers. Periodic audits review the internal control arrangements.

(c) Financial losses arise due to speculative investment?

The investment policy prescribes a risk minimisation approach that can limit the investment of funds to institutions meeting specified criteria.

(d) Financial losses arise from fraud or error?

The internal control arrangements are based upon segregation of duties. Periodic audits review the internal control arrangements. Insurance provides a means to recover from specified losses.

4. Compliance Risk

(a) Failure to comply with legislation / regulations?

The activities of the Fund are specified within objects of the Trust. The nature and format of financial reporting is specified by the Charity Commission and an external audit of the accounts is mandatory. Senior Council staff support and advise Cabinet on legal and financial matters.

Welsh Church Fund – Risk Assessment Policy 2022/23

The financial assistance provided by the Welsh Church Fund supports a very wide range of community activities, including voluntary and sporting organisations. Annually, monies are distributed, and the key risk faced by the Welsh Church Fund is a loss or reduction in the amount of monies available.

An assessment of the risks faced by the Welsh Church Fund has been undertaken and steps taken to:

- avoid risks through alternative strategies
- transfer risks to others
- limit and reduce risks by improving controls
- insure against specified risks

On an annual basis, the risk assessment will be reviewed and updated to include any new risks identified.

The risks identified have been encompassed within four categories:

- governance & management
- operational risks
- financial risks
- compliance risk

The following paragraphs list the risks identified & the steps taken to mitigate or eliminate the risk.

1. Governance & Management

(a) The fund lacks direction?

The activities of the Fund are specified by the Scheme made by the County Council of Monmouthshire under section 19 of the Welsh Church Act 1914.

The Cabinet has a clear purpose to maximise the return on its investments and this is contained within the investment policy.

The Cabinet is accountable to the Councils within the Greater Gwent area.

(b) There are conflicts of interest?

Members of the Cabinet are elected every 4 years and are required to conduct themselves in-line with the Code of Conduct.

Members are required to declare any interests related to the activities of the Cabinet and may not vote. These matters are recorded.

Members allowance and expense payments are not charged to the Welsh Church Fund.

(c) Funds are used inappropriately.

The Charitable purposes for which funds can be used is contained within the Scheme made by Monmouthshire County Council, which is also implemented by the other constituent authorities within the Monmouthshire Welsh Church Fund Scheme. The Trust has set criteria to assist constituent authorities in making grant distributions and to ensure that there is transparency in decision-making and due process. The Trust will ensure that grant distributions have been made in accordance with the scheme in place and within the set criteria developed.

The investment and fund strategy prescribes a risk minimisation approach, with funds only placed with institutions meeting specified criteria.

(d) Key staff leaving the Council's employment?

The actions of Officers of the Council are determined by Delegated Powers.

A number of senior Council staff support and advise the Cabinet on legal & financial matters.

(e) Inadequate information is provided to the Cabinet?

Annually, the Cabinet considers the level of reserves and anticipated investment income before determining the level of grants to be made available to the constituent Councils.

Variances between the anticipated & actual investment income are taken into consideration in the following year's grant awards to the constituent Councils.

2. Operational Risks

(a) Unsuitable staff support and advise the Cabinet?

Monmouthshire County Council has a comprehensive recruitment process that is supported by a wide range of personnel policies.

The training & development needs of officers are identified through the Employee Review process.

A number of senior Council staff support and advise the Cabinet on financial and legal matters.

(b) Systems & procedures are not secure?

Systems & procedures are documented & document retention policies are in place. IT systems have data back-up arrangements & disaster recovery plans. Periodic audits identify internal control improvement requirements. Insurance provides a means to recover from specified losses.

(c) Stakeholders are not satisfied with the operation of the Fund?

The Scheme made by the County Council of Monmouthshire provides for financial assistance to be made available for a wide range of community activities.

The Authority's Audit Committee considers annual reports on the financial performance of the Fund.

The Constituent Councils also consider annually the level of funding available for community activities.

(e) The assets of the Fund are at risk?

In accordance with the investment policy, a number of constraints are placed upon the way in which monies are used. A risk minimisation strategy has been adopted which limits the investment of funds to individual institutions meeting specified criteria.

The proposed Investment and Fund Strategy for 2022/23 for the Welsh Church Fund includes scope for investment in pooled investment funds (Collective investment funds).

(e) Unsatisfactory returns on investment are achieved?

The fund strategy requires monies be invested in financial instruments which produce interest payments and where there is no long-term depreciation in the capital value of the investment.

The proposed Investment and Fund Strategy for 2022/23 allows for the continued use of pooled investment funds. This does increase the risk that the principal amounts held can go down as well as up in value. This is suited to the Welsh Church Fund as the Trust can tolerate these movements over a business cycle. The movements are expected to be neutral over a business cycle and the earning power of these investments is not largely affected by the market value.

The overall aim is to obtain a satisfactory rate of return enabling the Cabinet to distribute an amount based on the actual return on investments achieved during the preceding twelve-month period plus any accumulated capital receipts, after meeting the expenses incurred in managing the fund.

Annually, the Cabinet considers the actual return on investments and the extent to which the investment objectives have been achieved. Benchmark information is available from the Authority's Treasury Management Advisors for jointly invested funds with the Council.

3. Financial Risks

(a) Budgetary control is inadequate?

Annually, the Cabinet considers the level of reserves and anticipated investment income before determining the level of grants to be made available to the constituent Councils.

Variance between the anticipated and actual investment income will be reflected in the following year's grants to the constituent Councils.

(b) Financial administration is unsatisfactory?

Monmouthshire County Council personnel policies and procedures ensure officers are appropriately qualified for the roles undertaken.

Internal control arrangements ensure there is division of duties amongst officers.

Periodic audits review the internal control arrangements.

(c) Financial losses arise due to speculative investment?

The investment policy prescribes a risk minimisation approach that can limit the investment of funds to institutions meeting specified criteria.

(d) Financial losses arise from fraud or error?

The internal control arrangements are based upon segregation of duties.

Periodic audits review the internal control arrangements.

Insurance provides a means to recover from specified losses

4. Compliance Risk

(a) Failure to comply with legislation / regulations?

The activities of the Fund are specified within the Scheme made by the County Council of Monmouthshire.

The nature and format of financial reporting is specified by the Charity Commission and an external audit of the accounts is mandatory.

A number of senior Council staff support and advise the Cabinet on legal and financial matters.

Ensure that the Welsh Church Fund is administered in line with section 3(8) of the Charities Act 1993.



Integrated Impact Assessment document

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

Name of the Officer D Jarrett Phone no: 4657 E-mail: davejarrett@monmouthshire.gov.uk	Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal To assess the 2022/23 Budget, Investment & Risk Management Strategies of the Welsh Church Fund and Mon Farm Education Trust
Name of Service Finance	Date Future Generations Evaluation 02 nd March 2022

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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	Positive impact as most community groups who apply support the elderly. Also, educational grants awarded to young people applying to the Trusts	None identified	
Disability	Positive impact as grants awarded to groups and individuals that either support the disabled or have a disability	None identified	

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?
Gender reassignment		No restrictions on applicants	
Marriage or civil partnership	No impact	No restrictions on applicants	
Pregnancy or maternity	No impact	No restrictions on applicants	
Race	No impact	No restrictions on applicants	
Religion or Belief	Encouraging religion through education at the point of delivery through the provision of enhanced facilities	No restrictions on applicants	
Sex	No impact	No restrictions on applicants	
Sexual Orientation	No Impact	No restrictions on applicants	

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	N/A	No Negative impact	

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
Policy Making Effects on the use of the Welsh language, Promoting Welsh language Treating the Welsh language no less favourably	N/A	No Negative impact	
Operational Recruitment & Training of Workforce	N/A	No Negative impact	
Service delivery Use of Welsh language in service delivery Promoting use of the language	N/A	No Negative impact	




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	Grants are awarded to help with infrastructure	No negative impacts as grants given to assist in

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?
Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	projects on cultural and community assets that help sustain jobs in the community for skilled tradesmen and stimulate educational well being	providing positive impacts on actions / schemes / training in regard to applicants needs
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	Environmental schemes can benefit from funding awards to assist in drainage, water course management and flood alleviation works	No negative impacts as grants given to assist in providing positive impacts on actions / schemes / training in regard to applicants needs
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	Grants assist in providing facilities for groups / individuals that help residents participate in sporting / recreational clubs that have a positive mental impact both physically and in the environment that the clubs operate within.	No negative impacts as grants given to assist in providing positive impacts on actions / schemes / training in regard to applicants needs
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	Community groups and individuals can apply for funding for projects that enhance their local community facilities and environment	No negative impacts as grants given to assist in providing positive impacts on actions / schemes / training in regard to applicants needs
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	Restrictions are imposed in regard to the nature and purpose that grants can be made to ensure that funding enhances or doesn't have any negative impact upon activities carried out in Monmouthshire that affect the global environment	No negative impacts as grants given to assist in providing positive impacts on actions / schemes / training in regard to applicants needs
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	Assists applicant organisations / individuals to promote recreational participation and organization of sports clubs and associations. Applicants can use the funds provided to enhance the heritage and culture of Monmouthshire through community projects and groups	No negative impacts as grants given to assist in providing positive impacts on actions / schemes / training in regard to applicants needs
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	Grants are generally only given to organisations / individuals can prove a basis of need due to their own personal circumstances or collective need for improvement to cultural or environmental infrastructure or help further community	No negative impacts as grants given to assist in providing positive impacts on actions / schemes / training in regard to applicants needs

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?
	participation	

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>	Schemes of a capital nature tend to draw more substantial awards which will ensure longevity of assets and project outcomes. The application process also ensures that those applicants that demonstrate a need for short term financing also have due consideration when funding is allocated	The trusts award allocation principles are reviewed and if required amended annually to ensure funding is matched to those that require support.
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	The Trusts assist applicants in achieving their objectives by providing part or full funding for implementation of their project goals.	Not Applicable to the Trusts
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	The Committee seek to ensure that those directly involved with the applicants and decision makers are informed of all the necessary information to make informed beneficial decisions	The Trust report is distributed to interested parties for consultation and amendment before final confirmation at Cabinet

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 data-bbox="118 435 257 464">Prevention</p> <p data-bbox="315 196 488 480">Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p data-bbox="517 196 1317 336">Funding is provided for preventative as well as remedial schemes in regard to infrastructure and community assets and supporting community groups with social and cultural activities</p>	<p data-bbox="1346 196 2112 300">The trusts have developed investment strategy policies in order to facilitate greater income returns in order to distribute to qualifying applicants</p>
 <p data-bbox="96 734 264 762">Integration</p> <p data-bbox="96 786 454 890">Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p data-bbox="517 494 1294 667">Positive impacts are made on all successful applicants to the Trusts as funding is provided for economic, cultural, environmental, and educational needs as demonstrated by the applicants on their application forms</p>	<p data-bbox="1346 494 2112 598">The trusts award allocation principles are reviewed and if required amended annually to ensure funding is matched to those that require support.</p>

2023

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	Grants are awarded to organisations that assist children in need either through their health or social deprivation. Awards are also made to Community Children's Group's that assist in their integration in social patterns	No negative impact	
Corporate Parenting	Not applicable to the Trust		

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

The Arlingclose Ltd Monmouthshire County Council Investment Strategy Review 2020.
 The Arlingclose Ltd Monmouthshire Mon Farm Education Investment Strategy Review 2020.
 The Draft Provisional Settlement from Welsh Government 2022/23.
 The Welsh Church Act Fund Audited Accounts 2019-20 and
 The Monmouthshire Farms School Endowment Trust Fund Accounts 2019-20.

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 proposals that support the distribution of charitable grants from the trusts are positive in that they support individuals, community and environmental groups in their pursuit of enhancing the culture, environment and personal wellbeing of people covered by their demographic remits. The application of the Investment and Risk Strategies are designed to provide the maximum amount of investment returns to provide funds to support those applicants to the fund without substantially diminishing the Capital value of the Trust Funds.

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
Distribute Grants	Throughout the financial Year 2022-23	Welsh Church Fund Committee

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

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1	Cabinet	02 nd March 2022	

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WELSH CHURCH FUND PRINCIPLES, POLICY CONSIDERATIONS AND GRANT ALLOCATION CRITERIA – 2022-23 FUNDING YEAR

Basic Principles of the Welsh Church Fund Trust

The basic principle is that the charity needs to be independent of the local authority. This means that decisions about the administration of the charity need to be taken solely in the interests of the charity to further its charitable purposes, and for no other purpose.

There are also a number of duties the trustee must consider when making this type of decision. If these duties are met, then the trustee can be confident that the decision about how to apply the charity's income is reasonable and defensible. Therefore, again, the trustee must act only in the charity's best interest and meet the duties to:

1. Act within the powers conferred upon them and the established rules and procedures for dealing with issues of the kind under consideration.
2. Adequately inform themselves in order to make the decision in question, where necessary making further enquiries and where appropriate considering legal or other professional advice.
3. Consider any factors which they should take into account.
4. Not take into consideration any factors which are not relevant.
5. Act in good faith (and this includes managing conflicts of interest).
6. Make a decision within the range of decisions which a reasonable body of trustees could have made.

The decision and the reasoning must also be clearly recorded in the charity's minutes.

Policy Considerations for Charity Trustee

1. Make sure the trustee is clear about the objects of the charity as set out in its governing document as these dictate how any such asset may be used, in accordance with charity law.
2. Make sure that the Welsh Church Fund's assets, for which the council is the trustee, are managed independently in accordance with their charitable purpose and any restrictions in the governing document.
3. Recognise that the charity trustees have a duty to be prudent and to act solely in the best interests of the charity.
4. Ensure that there are in place clear procedural guidelines for the Officers and Councillors about their roles, responsibilities and decision making in the administration of the charitable fund.
5. Ensure we have a clear process for identifying and managing any conflicts of interest that arise where the local authority is the trustee of a charity.

Allocation Criteria for the Welsh Church Fund Working Group

Groups and individuals that benefit from grant allocations

Churches and Religious Groups tend to be given higher awards as it is the Welsh Church Fund.

Church Parish's

Community Groups and Charities

Sports and Recreation Clubs

Environmental Groups

Individuals that have an identified and proven need of financial assistance

Other deemed charitable causes by the Working Group Committee

Allocation Policy and Principles

Awards are only given on the existence of a proven financial need as identified by a sponsoring Councillor in the first instance and the Welsh Church Fund Working Group Committee in the main instance.

Existing policy of no allocations to Community or Town Councils

Existing policy of no allocations to Private Business's

Existing policy of no allocations to other Public Bodies

Existing policy of not supporting the day to day running expenses except in exceptional circumstances as clubs / organisations should be self supporting and not rely on WCF money for their continued existence.

Existing policy of only Churches being allowed to re-apply every year to be maintained, though, those applications will only be considered where the application is for a different and distinct purpose.

Existing policy of restricted or no allocations for day trips or trips that will not benefit the County by an individual's subsequent personal actions

The trust currently has a policy of dropping an application if deferred for further information at the first meeting, if then subsequently that information is not received by the next meeting date. This policy will continue. Emphasis on sponsoring Councillor to ensure sufficient evidence is presented along with application.

Any assistance to schools or educational establishments that come under the general umbrella of MCC will ONLY be assessed in light of the merit and purpose of the

application and in consideration and conjunction with any future Children and Young People's policy in relation to School Welfare and Support groups.

Confirm a Policy that no undergraduates will be supported as they all have access to funding from Student Finance Wales.

Confirm the Policy that the trust will continue to only pay grant awards by BACS payments in line with current MCC payment guidelines and to save the Trust from excessive and unnecessary administrative charges.

Confirm the Policy that applications will only be accepted on the current application form as currently posted on the MCC Website (The Welsh Church Fund: Monmouthshire County Council) as this will contain all the currently required information.

Confirm the Policy that the Councillor signing the application ensures that the application qualifies for funding under the Charitable Purposes of the Trust as posted on the MCC website.

Confirm the Policy that when a Councillor signs an application to the Welsh Church Fund that they are fully aware of the purpose to the application and ensure that they have seen any supporting evidence or documentation required to support the application (i.e. Accounts, Bank Statements, letters of representation etc.) and ensure that it is submitted with the application in order that the Working Group Committee can make an informed and timely decision at the first meeting.

Confirm the principle of restricted awards or no grant allocations to organisations that receive direct financial support from MCC or any other Local Authority for Administrative expenses.

Support the principle that applicants should show effort and willing in raising funds themselves as well as expecting grant aid from the Welsh Church Fund.

Principle that there is a defined financial pot that has to be shared equally between deserving applicants and throughout the financial year. Any remaining funds at the financial year end will be carried forward to the next financial year.

Continuation of the policy that the budget for the next financial year is recommended by the Section 151 Officer of Monmouthshire County Council as they are in the best possible position to assess future financial performance and financial assets available for distribution in light of the Charity's policy to maintain the level of investments at a level that provides sufficient annual income to fund the Charity's charitable expenditure.

For the financial year 2022/23 that there is no maximum grant award imposed on all non individual applications and that a maximum award of £500 is imposed upon applicants by individual applicants. This limit will be reviewed annually once a decision has been made on the grant distribution for the next financial year by the Trustee.

The Working Group Committee has the right to set a Policy / Principle that is binding at any Committee meeting in the future if it is regarded to be in the best interest of the Trust even if a precedent may have been set by a past decision.

The Working Group Committee will set out the Principles and Policies for each financial year at the last meeting of the previous financial year.

NO appeal procedure will be allowed against grant application decisions made by the Working Group Committee. If a sponsoring Councillor would like to resubmit an application for review on a decision that has been made by the Working Group Committee, then new material evidence that was not available at the previous meeting must be presented.

A conflicts of interest procedure has been ratified. Councilor's that are associated with any application are asked too:

- a) declare their interest,**
- b) may remain in the room and remain silent**
- c) be allowed to present the case or relevant points if requested by the chair for clarification purposes only**
- d) be part of any application re-consideration process only at the request of the chair for clarification purposes**

The Working Group Committee has the overall right to dismiss any application they feel is inappropriate for funding even though it may qualify under the Charitable Purposes to which the fund maybe applied, as they feel it would not be in the best interests of the Charity.

SUBJECT:	WELSH CHURCH FUND WORKING GROUP
MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	02nd March 2022
DIVISIONS/WARD AFFECTED:	All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications for the Welsh Church Fund Working Group Meeting 8 held on the 27th January 2022.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

- 2.1 We resolved that the following grants be awarded as per the schedule of applications.

SCHEDULE OF APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED 2021/22 – MEETING 8.

1. **St Oudoceus Church, Llandogo**, requested £7,500 to assist in the refurbishment of the kitchen area of the church to enable the church to be used for community activities.

Recommendation: £2,500 awarded to assist in providing for the costs of upgrading the catering facilities for the benefit of the wider community.

3. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Options available to the Committee are driven by the information supplied by the applicants.

4. EVALUATION CRITERIA

No evaluation criteria are applicable to the grant awarded by the trust.

5. REASONS

A Meeting took place on Thursday 27th January 2022 of the Welsh Church Fund Committee Working Group to recommend the payment of grants as detailed in the attached schedule (Appendix 1).

County Councillors in attendance at meeting 8:

County Councillor A. Webb (Chair)
County Councillor D. Evans (Vice Chair)
County Councillor B. Strong
County Councillor S. Woodhouse

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE at meeting 8:

D Jarrett Central Finance
R Williams Committee Administration

5.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

5.2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE at meeting 8

None

5.3 CONFIRMATION OF REPORT OF PREVIOUS MEETINGs

The minutes of the meetings held on the 22nd December 2021

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

A total of £2,500 has been allocated to applicants at Meeting 8 of the Welsh Church Fund Committee. The remaining balance of £4,920 is available for distribution within the 2021-22 financial year at the March meeting.

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

There are no Future Generations, equality, safeguarding, corporate parenting or sustainable development implications directly arising from this report. The assessment is contained in the attached appendix.

8. CONSULTEES:

Senior Leadership Team
All Cabinet Members
Head of Legal Services
Assistant Head of Finance
Central Finance Management Accountant

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Welsh Church Fund Schedule of Applications 2021/22– Meeting 8 (Appendix 1)

10. AUTHOR:

David Jarrett – Senior Accountant – Central Finance Business Support

11. CONTACT DETAILS

Tel. 01633 644657
e-mail: davejarrett@monmouthshire.gov.uk

WELSH CHURCH FUND - APPLICATIONS 2021/22

APPENDIX 1

MEETING 8: 27th January 2022

<u>ORGANISATION</u>	<u>ELECTORAL DIVISION</u>	<u>Signed by Councillor</u>	<u>REQUEST</u>	<u>DECISION</u>	<u>NATURE OF PROJECT REQUEST</u>	<u>PROJECT TOTAL COST</u>	<u>DATE Application Received</u>	<u>D of I*</u>	<u>Additional Information</u>
NEW APPLICATIONS AWAITING DECISION			£	£		£			
St Oudoceus Church, Llandogo	Trellech United	D. Blakeborough	£7,500	£2,500	Refurbishment of the kitchen / servery area of the church	£14,174	09/01/22	No	The project is part of a need to make the church space more flexible. Pews have been removed from both side aisles and will be replaced with chairs. It is then anticipated that the church will be able to accommodate community activities within the church that are currently not possible.
<i>Deferred Applications</i>									
SUB TOTAL Meeting 8			£7,500	£2,500	OTHER INFORMATION :				
MEETING	DATE	CABINET		AWARD					
1	April 15th 2021	May 5th 2021		4,400					
2	May 13th 2021	June 09th 2021		3,000					
3	June 24th 2021	July 07th 2021		4,250					
4	July 22nd 2021	Sept 01st 2021		2,470					
5	Sept 23rd 2021	Oct 06th 2021		5,500					
6	Nov 04th 2021	Dec 01st 2021		2,000					
7	Dec 22nd 2021	Jan 19th 2022		5,400					
8	Jan 27th 2022	Mar 02nd 2022		2,500					
9	Mar 3rd 2022	April 06th 2022		0					
TOTAL AWARDED FOR 2021/22 TO DATE				29,520					
BUDGET 2021/22				34,440					
BALANCE B/F TO 2021/22				£0					
Monmouthshire's Allocation for 2021/22				£34,440					
REMAINING BALANCE c/fwd			£4,920						

*D of I = Declaration of Interest

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Integrated Impact Assessment document

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

<p>Name of the Officer D Jarrett Phone no: 4657 E-mail: davejarrett@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal To assess the Grant Allocation Processes of the Welsh Church Fund for the meeting of the Welsh Church Fund Working Group on the 27th January 2022</p>
<p>Name of Service Finance</p>	<p>Date Future Generations Evaluation 27th January 2022</p>

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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	Encouraging the socializing of differing age groups through social provision	No negative impact	
Disability	Proposal to assist in the provision of disabled facilities.	No negative impact	
Gender reassignment	No impact	No negative impact	

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	No impact	No negative impact	
Pregnancy or maternity	No impact	No negative impact	
Race	.No impact	No negative impact	
Religion or Belief	.Encouraging religion through education at the point of delivery through the provision of enhanced facilities	No negative impact	
Sex	No impact	No negative impact	
Sexual Orientation	.No Impact	No Negative impact	

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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	N/A	No Negative impact	





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>	N/A	No Negative impact	
<p>Operational</p> <p>Recruitment & Training of workforce</p>	N/A	No Negative impact	
<p>Service delivery</p> <p>Use of Welsh language in service delivery</p> <p>Promoting use of the language</p>	N/A	No Negative impact	

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	N/A	
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	N/A	
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	N/A	
U A Wales of cohesive communities o Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	N/A	
N A globally responsible Wales o Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	N/A	
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	N/A	
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	N/A	

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>	N/A	
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	N/A	
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	N/A	
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	N/A	

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 data-bbox="349 256 521 520">Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	.N/A	

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	Not applicable	.	
Corporate Parenting	Not applicable		

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

The evidence and data used for the assessment of each applicant to the Welsh Church Fund is supplied by the applicant upon submission of their application. The data and information supplied or subsequently requested is used to form the basis of the Committees' decision on whether to award a qualifying grant.

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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 grant aid supports and highlights the positive effect that decisions the Welsh Church Fund Working Group have on the applicants funding requests from Voluntary Organisations, Local Community Groups, Individuals and Religious Establishments. All awards are made in the belief that the funding is utilised for sustainable projects and cultural activities that benefit individuals, organisations, communities and their associated assets. All grants are awarded within the Charitable Guidelines of the Trust

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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
Award grants	March 2022	Welsh Church Fund

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.

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Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1	Cabinet	02 nd March2022	

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