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County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Wednesday, 7 September 2022

Notice of meeting:

Place Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 15th September, 2022 at 12.30 pm
Council Chamber, County Hall, Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA
and Remote Attendance

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

AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for Absence.	
2.	Declarations of Interest.	
3.	Public Open Forum. Select Committee Public Open Forum ~ Guidance Our Select Committee meetings are live streamed and a link to the live stream will be available on the meeting page of the Monmouthshire County Council website If you would like to share your thoughts on any proposals being discussed by Select Committees, you can submit your representation in advance via this form Please share your views by uploading a video or audio file (maximum of 4 minutes) or; Please submit a written representation (via Microsoft Word, maximum of 500 words) You will need to register for a My Monmouthshire account in order to submit the representation or use your log in, if you have registered previously.	

The deadline for submitting representations to the Council is 5pm three clear working days in advance of the meeting.

If representations received exceed 30 minutes, a selection of these based on theme will be shared at the Select Committee meeting. All representations received will be made available to councillors prior to the meeting.

If you would like to attend one of our meetings to speak under the Public Open Forum at the meeting, you will need to give three working days' notice by contacting Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk.

The amount of time afforded to each member of the public to speak is at the chair's discretion, but to enable us to accommodate multiple speakers, we ask that contributions be no longer than 3 minutes.

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

4.	Motion for the Rivers and Ocean - To conduct pre-decision scrutiny on the report.	1 - 24
5.	Progressing Monmouthshire's Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) - To scrutinise an options paper for the revision of the Local Development Plan.	25 - 78
6.	Rural Broadband - To provide a position update.	79 - 90
7.	Petitions received - to recommend actions to Cabinet.	91 - 100
8.	Place Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme.	101 - 104
9.	Cabinet and Council Work Plan.	105 - 112
10.	Next Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special Meeting – Monday 26th September 2022 at 10.00am.• Ordinary Meeting – Thursday 10th November 2022 at 10.00pm.	

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Louise Brown, Shirenewton; Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Emma Bryn, Wyesham; Independent Group
County Councillor Ben Callard, Llanfoist & Govilon; Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Ian Chandler, Llantilio Crossenny; Green Party
County Councillor Tomos Dafydd Davies, Llanfoist & Govilon; Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Lisa Dymock, Portskewett; Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Jane Lucas, Osbaston; Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Su McConnel, Croesonen; Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Maria Stevens, Severn; Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jackie Strong, Caldicot Cross; Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru

Public Information

Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

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

Welsh Language

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English. We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.

Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Our purpose

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Objectives we are working towards

- Giving people the best possible start in life
- A thriving and connected county
- Maximise the Potential of the natural and built environment
- Lifelong well-being
- A future focused council

Our Values

Openness. We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

Fairness. We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.

Flexibility. We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

Teamwork. We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

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.

Monmouthshire Scrutiny Question Guide

Role of the Pre-meeting	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why is the Committee scrutinising this? (background, key issues) 2. What is the Committee’s role and what outcome do Members want to achieve? 3. Is there sufficient information to achieve this? If not, who could provide this? <p>- Agree the order of questioning and which Members will lead - Agree questions for officers and questions for the Cabinet Member</p>	
Questions for the Meeting	
<p><u>Scrutinising Performance</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does performance compare with previous years? Is it better/worse? Why? 2. How does performance compare with other councils/other service providers? Is it better/worse? Why? 3. How does performance compare with set targets? Is it better/worse? Why? 4. How were performance targets set? Are they challenging enough/realistic? 5. How do service users/the public/partners view the performance of the service? 6. Have there been any recent audit and inspections? What were the findings? 7. How does the service contribute to the achievement of corporate objectives? 8. Is improvement/decline in performance linked to an increase/reduction in resource? What capacity is there to improve? 	<p><u>Scrutinising Policy</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who does the policy affect ~ directly and indirectly? Who will benefit most/least? 2. What is the view of service users/stakeholders? What consultation has been undertaken? Did the consultation process comply with the Gunning Principles? Do stakeholders believe it will achieve the desired outcome? 3. What is the view of the community as a whole - the ‘taxpayer’ perspective? 4. What methods were used to consult with stakeholders? Did the process enable all those with a stake to have their say? 5. What practice and options have been considered in developing/reviewing this policy? What evidence is there to inform what works? Does the policy relate to an area where there is a lack of published research or other evidence? 6. Does the policy relate to an area where there are known inequalities? 7. Does this policy align to our corporate objectives, as defined in our corporate plan? Does it adhere to our Welsh Language Standards?

8. Have all relevant sustainable development, equalities and safeguarding implications
9. been taken into consideration? For example, what are the procedures that need to be in place to protect children?
- 10.
11. How much will this cost to implement and what funding source has been identified?
- 12.
13. How will performance of the policy be measured and the impact evaluated

General Questions:

Empowering Communities

- How are we involving local communities and empowering them to design and deliver services to suit local need?
- Do we have regular discussions with communities about service priorities and what level of service the council can afford to provide in the future?
- Is the service working with citizens to explain the role of different partners in delivering the service, and managing expectations?
- Is there a framework and proportionate process in place for collective performance assessment, including from a citizen's perspective, and do you have accountability arrangements to support this?
- Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out? If so, can the Leader and Cabinet/Senior Officers provide members with copies and a detailed explanation of the EQIA conducted in respect of these proposals?
- Can the Leader and Cabinet/Senior Officers assure members that these proposals comply with Equality and Human Rights legislation? Do the proposals comply with the Local Authority's Strategic Equality Plan?

Service Demands

- How will policy and legislative change affect how the council operates?
- Have we considered the demographics of our council and how this will impact on service delivery and funding in the future?
- Have you identified and considered the long-term trends that might affect your service area, what impact these trends could have on your service/your service could have on these trends, and what is being done in response?

Financial Planning

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

Making savings and generating income

- Do we have the right structures in place to ensure that our efficiency, improvement and

transformational approaches are working together to maximise savings?

- How are we maximising income?
- Have we compared other council's policies to maximise income and fully considered the implications on service users?
- Do we have a workforce plan that takes into account capacity, costs, and skills of the actual versus desired workforce?

Questions to ask within a year of the decision:

- Were the intended outcomes of the proposal achieved or were there other results?
- Were the impacts confined to the group you initially thought would be affected i.e. older people, or were others affected e.g. people with disabilities, parents with young children?
- Is the decision still the right decision or do adjustments need to be made?

Questions for the Committee to conclude...

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

- (i) Investigate the issue in more detail?
- (ii) Obtain further information from other witnesses – Executive Member, independent expert, members of the local community, service users, regulatory bodies...

Agree further actions to be undertaken within a timescale/future monitoring report...



SUBJECT:	MOTION FOR THE RIVERS AND OCEAN
MEETING:	PLACE SCRUTINY
DATE:	15TH SEPTEMBER 2022
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To outline the challenges facing our marine and river environments and set out how Monmouthshire County Council can play its part in realising clean, healthy and productive rivers and oceans, in order to see all the biodiversity, economic and health and wellbeing benefits that this will bring.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To agree to the actions outlined in the Motion for the Rivers and Oceans Action Plan (see Appendix 1).

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 In Monmouthshire, rivers and the ocean are at the heart of our heritage and economy. From the rich maritime and ship building heritage of Chepstow to the thousands of visitors who come on holiday to enjoy the Wye Valley and follow in the footsteps of the historic Wye Tour, many come to experience the sight, sound and feel of our rivers and coast. They are popular routes for walking and cycling and have high ecological value as well as being the foci of historical settlements. However, pressure from development, increases in recreational use, changes in agricultural practice and climate change continue to affect these attractive landscapes.
- 3.2 The health of our ocean is inextricably linked with our climate and with human health, wellbeing and prosperity. A healthy ocean is fundamental in regulating the global climate system and is an essential ally in our fight against climate change. The ocean absorbs more than 90% of the excess heat in the climate system as well as absorbing around 20% of annual carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions generated by human activity.

- 3.3 However, decades of irresponsible marine exploitation and pollution have led to significant levels of degradation, and this together with the detrimental impacts of our changing climate on marine ecosystems has led to national and global recognition that the world ocean is in crisis. An unhealthy ocean does not absorb or store carbon as effectively as a healthy one, further worsening the impacts of the climate crisis. The impact of the climate crisis on the ocean is profound, from rising water temperatures and changes in ocean chemistry, to sea level rise and increased storminess. This is increasing the risk to infrastructure and properties, and increasing the risk of flooding and storm damage both along the coast and in our riverside communities.
- 3.4 Likewise, Monmouthshire's rivers are in crisis, with water quality deteriorating as a result of pollution from sewage, agricultural practices and pressure from development. Phosphates and nitrates entering the river cause a process called eutrophication to occur, where toxic algal blooms feed on the excess nutrients and multiply and reduce light and oxygen levels, killing fish and other species. This effect has been exacerbated this year with extremely dry weather and high temperatures, which mean that the water levels in our rivers are very low.
- 3.5 Monmouthshire is a coastal community but its estuary location means that it is often not viewed as such. We recognise that our ocean, rivers and climate are in a state of emergency and we need to play our part in working towards nature recovery for our oceans and rivers.
- 3.6 First-hand experience of our rivers and ocean are essential if people are to be motivated to play their part in protecting it, whether that is through disposing of their litter responsibly, recycling what they can or volunteering in conservation or volunteer monitoring and data collection projects with local organisations. Helping individuals to develop their ocean literacy is an essential part of this motion, as is individual and collective river and marine citizenship.
- 3.7 There are many organisations and agencies who have an impact on how our oceans and rivers are managed. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Dwr Cymru Welsh Water have the most significant role. However, local government has an important role to play as well, in terms of participating in partnerships to look after rivers and coast. Local authorities cannot solve the ocean and river crises alone, but we can – and must – play our part.
- 3.8 Following discussion at Council in March 2022, a Motion for Rivers and Ocean was declared, and a commitment was made to bring an action plan

back to council within six months, outlining the steps the council will take to protect our rivers and ocean. There is much work going on within the council to address the nature emergency and protect water quality. However, there needs to be more of a co-ordinated focus on how we have an impact on our rivers and coasts. This action plan aims to pull together the work that is going on across many different council services in a co-ordinated way and to address areas where the council could be doing more to protect our rivers and coast.

4. INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT EVALUATION:

- 4.1 The actions outlined in the action plan will have significant positive impacts on a Prosperous Wales (valuing the role rivers and coasts play in tourism and enabling development to happen in a way that does not have a negative impact on the environment), a Resilient Wales (helping with nature and ocean recovery), a Healthier Wales (by improving water quality, as well as encouraging more people to enjoy rivers and coasts for recreation). There are no negative impacts on the Wellbeing Goals.
- 4.2 The action plan will benefit everyone and will not negatively impact on people with any particular protected characteristic.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 5.1 Doing nothing is not an option. Water quality is a key priority of the Cabinet and it is important that steps are taken by the Council to play their role in helping to tackle these challenges.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 6.1 It is anticipated that progress towards actions in the action plan will be monitored every six months and reported back to Council.

7. REASONS:

- 7.1 As described above, our oceans and rivers are in crisis. The Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and our Climate Emergency Action Plan recognises the importance of managing green spaces to reduce energy use, absorb carbon and be resilient, but didn't include anything specific about oceans or rivers. When the plan was updated in 2021, the emphasis on nature recovery was strengthened, in recognition of the nature emergency, and an action on addressing water quality was added.

7.2 However, there needs to be more of a co-ordinated focus on how we have an impact on our rivers and coasts. The Motion for the Rivers and Ocean agreed by the Council in March 2022 was followed by further debate in Council in June 2022. Implementing the measures outlined in the action plan will ensure that we are playing our role in improving the health of our oceans and waterways and could yield new jobs and opportunities, more resilient coastal and riverside economies, and happier, healthier people; as well as a cleaner, healthier and more productive natural environment.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

It is anticipated that at present there will be no additional cost to implementing this decision as actions in the plan come within existing financial and officer resources.

9. CONSULTEES:

Officers who are responsible for actions within the plan have attended 2 workshops to shape the action plan

Cllr Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate and Environment

Senior Leadership Team

Cabinet members

Alys Morris, Severn Estuary Partnership

Dr Emma McKinley, Cardiff University (Diverse Values project)

Natural Resources Wales

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix 1 – Motion for the Rivers and Ocean Draft Action Plan

For more background on the Motion for the Ocean see

<https://lgacoastalsig.com/motion-for-the-ocean/>

11. AUTHOR: Hazel Clatworthy, Sustainability Policy Officer

12. CONTACT DETAILS:

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E-mail: hazelclatworthy@monmouthshire.gov.uk



Integrated Impact Assessment document

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

<p>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Niamh Falconer / Hazel Clatworthy</p> <p>Phone no: : 0776 889 8587 E-mail: niamhfalconer@monmouthshire.gov.uk hazelclatworthy@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>To note the Motion for the Rivers and Oceans Action Plan and agree to the actions outlined in the plan (see Appendix 1).</p>
<p>Name of Service area</p> <p>Policy and Performance</p>	<p>Date</p> <p>23/8/22</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	Delivering the actions outlined in the Motion for the Rivers and Ocean action plan will benefit everyone, by making our environment cleaner and healthier for all. There are no specific impacts on any particular group.	There are no negative impacts from the proposal on any particular group.	Not applicable
Disability	As above	There are no negative impacts from the proposal on any particular group.	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?
Gender reassignment	As above	There are no negative impacts from the proposal on any particular group.	Not applicable
Marriage or civil partnership	As above	There are no negative impacts from the proposal on any particular group.	Not applicable
Pregnancy or maternity	As above	There are no negative impacts from the proposal on any particular group.	Not applicable
Race	As above	There are no negative impacts from the proposal on any particular group.	Not applicable
Religion or Belief	As above	There are no negative impacts from the proposal on any particular group.	Not applicable
Sex	As above	There are no negative impacts from the proposal on any particular group.	Not applicable
Sexual Orientation	As above	There are no negative impacts from the proposal on any particular group.	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	Monmouthshire has attractive river and coastal walks that are free to use, so improvements to the river and ocean environments along these routes will benefit everyone who can access them. The proposal highlights the importance of ocean literacy for all. Thus the proposal will ensure people from all backgrounds are engaged with the oceans and recognise the importance of oceans and rivers.	No negative impacts.	Not applicable

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>Any publicity, signage, leaflets or resources developed as part of the Motion for the Rivers and Ocean action plan will be bilingual in line with the Welsh Language Measure</p>	<p>This may be harder with cross border working with England with partners along the River Wye and across the Severn Estuary.</p>	<p>Ensure that any shared resources that are produced in partnership with English partners are bilingual or have a Welsh version available.</p>
<p>Operational</p> <p>Recruitment & Training of workforce</p>	<p>Any new roles that may be advertised (e.g. a Nutrient Management Officer in Planning) will have Welsh Language as desirable.</p>	<p>No negative impacts</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Service delivery</p> <p>Use of Welsh language in service delivery</p> <p>Promoting use of the language</p>	<p>Services involved in delivering the actions in the Motion for the Rivers and Ocean action plan will comply with the Welsh Language measure.</p>	<p>No negative impacts</p>	<p>Not applicable</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 impacts: The ocean crisis not only affects our climate but also the fishing industry, aquaculture industry, tourism industry and the health, well being and prosperity of our communities. The proposal seeks to negate this. The proposal will be integral to ensure we protect our waterways for the benefit of tourism.</p> <p>Negative impacts: None</p>	<p>Maintain collaboration with existing partnerships to ensure resources are maximized and efforts are not duplicated.</p> <p>Ensure there is a significant opportunity for education and awareness about the importance of our rivers and coasts.</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 impacts: The ocean absorbs more than 90% of the excess heat in the climate system as well as absorbing around 20% of annual carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions generated by human activity. The proposal will help ocean health and increase the ocean's ability to reduce the effects of climate change. The actions work towards nature, river and ocean recovery and encourage partnership working to maintain and enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>Negative impacts: None</p>	<p>Continue to work in partnership and regionally to ensure statutory biodiversity responsibilities are met and biodiversity and ecosystems are enhanced.</p>
<p>A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>Positive impacts: The proposal will seek to increase access to our rivers and coasts. Increased access to the Wales Coastal Path and riverside walks will improve wellbeing and improved active travel routes will maximise physical health. Water quality has deteriorated in the Rivers Wye and Usk and this can have negative impacts on health for people swimming and coming into contact with the water.</p>	<p>Working in partnership with others to improve water quality should have a positive impact on health.</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?
	Negative impacts: None	
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	Positive impacts: The proposal provides an opportunity to engage with the waterways but also climate change issues more broadly. The proposal will allow people to have a more positive experience of the ocean and their local area. Negative impacts: None	Monmouthshire County Council will continue to support a range community groups working to look after the environment through the Community Climate Champions network.
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	Positive impacts: The proposal recognises the importance of rivers and oceans in negating the effects of climate change. Ocean health is a global issue and the action plan sets out measures to improve ocean health which will have positive impacts beyond Wales. Negative impacts: None	Monmouthshire County Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019, and when the Climate Emergency Action Plan was refreshed in 2021 it was decided that there needed to be an increased focus on addressing water quality and the nature emergency Motion for the Rivers and Ocean was declared in March 2022, and is the next step in addressing these issues.
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	Positive impacts: One of the actions, the Diverse Values project, focuses on the important role that rivers and coasts have played in local history, culture and heritage, and uses creative methods to involve communities. Negative impacts: None	None
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	Positive impacts: As described previously, the actions will benefit everyone living in, working in or visiting Monmouthshire. Our rivers and coasts provide free opportunities to enjoy our local environment.	Some work will focus on schools, so that young people will be involved in learning more about our rivers and oceans and understanding how what they do can have an impact on them.

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>Although the actions in the plan are generally short to medium term actions, they aim to secure the long term health and vitality of our rivers and oceans. The plan recognizes the impact that oceans have on climate change, and aims to help restore ocean health in order to help mitigate the impact of future climate change.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>Improving the state of rivers and oceans is a complex process and can only be delivered through collaboration with a wide range of partners. The proposal involves working with a number of partnerships in order to do this, as well as key stakeholders such as Natural Resources Wales and Dwr Cymru Welsh Water.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>The Motion for the Rivers and Ocean has been discussed at Monmouthshire Community Climate Champions and the views expressed there have helped to inform the action plan. In addition, the views of partners such as Severn Estuary Partnership have also fed into the plan. Involving communities in taking action to protect rivers and oceans is a key part of the action plan.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>The action plan aims to prevent ocean and river health from getting worse and to prevent further negative impacts on water quality, the local economy and human health and wellbeing. It seeks to ensure that oceans and rivers are able to reduce the impact of climate change and be resilient to a changing climate.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
 <p>Integration</p> <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>An ocean in crisis, and likewise rivers in crisis are not only bad news for our climate, but also for our fishing industry, aquaculture industry, tourism industry and for the health, wellbeing and prosperity of our coastal and river communities. Delivering the pledges set out in the Motion for the Rivers and Ocean could yield new jobs and opportunities, more resilient coastal and riverside economies, and happier, healthier people; as well as a cleaner, healthier and more productive natural environment. It is essential that all of these impacts are considered in a joined up way and that actions are delivered in partnership with others.</p>	<p>Not applicable</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	No impact	Not applicable	Any work involving schools or young people as part of the action plan will undertake appropriate safeguarding measures.
Corporate Parenting	No impact	Not applicable	Not applicable

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

Monmouthshire well-being assessment

There is detailed data on river water quality on NRW's website, specifically:

<https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/water-reports/river-wye-compliance-report/>

<https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/media/693025/compliance-assessment-of-welsh-sacs-against-phosphorus-targets-final-v10.pdf>

Also from NRW research on potential for restoring marine and coastal habitats:

https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/media/694065/final_pdf_nrw-restoration-opportunities.pdf

NRW research on the carbon sink potential of the Welsh marine environment:

https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/media/692035/nrw-evidence-report-428_blue-carbon_v11-002.pdf

UNESCO State of the Ocean report 2022:

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381921>

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 actions outlined in the action plan will have significant positive impacts on all the wellbeing goals, but in particular on a Prosperous Wales (valuing the role rivers and coasts play in tourism and enabling development to happen in a way that does not have a negative impact on the environment), a Resilient Wales (helping with nature and ocean recovery), a Healthier Wales (by improving water quality, as well as encouraging more people to enjoy rivers and coasts for recreation). There are no negative impacts on the Wellbeing Goals. The action plan will benefit everyone and will not negatively impact on people with any particular protected characteristic.

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
Plan a reporting framework to report progress against action plan back to Council every six months	As soon as report is agreed by Council	Sustainability Policy Officer

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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	Place Scrutiny	15 th September 2022	

Motion for Rivers and Ocean Draft Action Plan – September 2022

What is the Motion for the Rivers and Ocean?

Monmouthshire is a coastal community, but its estuary location means that it is often not viewed as such. Coastal local authorities around the UK are working hard to bring about a brighter future for the communities we serve. We work to boost local economies, improve community health and wellbeing, and to protect and enhance local biodiversity. We know that the health, wellbeing and prosperity of coastal communities is dependent on a clean, healthy and productive marine environment – yet too often we consider these issues separately, rather than thinking about it in a joined-up way.



The Motion for the Ocean was created to enable local authorities to tackle these potentially competing ambitions in a more holistic way. Developed by leading coastal and marine experts, Cllr Dr Pamela Buchan (former Plymouth City Councillor), Emily Cunningham (formerly Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group (LGA Coastal SIG)) and Nicola Bridge (Ocean Conservation Trust), at its core the motion aims to help councils and the communities we serve to “think ocean” and ensure the development of the blue economy is regenerative, delivering the recovery of our ocean and reducing socio-economic

inequality in our coastal communities. The motion aims to help councils embed this new way of thinking at the highest levels of local decision-making, so it is not the responsibility of one team, but of the whole council.

The LGA Coastal SIG who helped develop and promote the motion contacted Monmouthshire County Council to see whether we were interested in adopting the motion as the first local authority in Wales to do so. As well as having an estuary coastline, Monmouthshire also has the rivers Wye and Usk running through it, both of which are facing significant challenges in terms of water quality, with much publicity about pollution from sewage and agricultural run off hitting the local and national media. In light of this, in March 2022 elected members voted for not just a Motion for the Ocean, but Rivers and Ocean, recognising the importance of taking a catchment to coast approach to protecting water quality.

“This Council is proud to be a coastal county and the starting point of the Wales Coastal Path. We recognise the importance of the marine ecosystem and our role as a stakeholder and guardian of it. A report should be brought forward to Council within 6 months of this motion containing appropriate recommendations to ensure we play our part in ensuring realising clean, healthy and productive rivers and oceans alongside our existing commitment to tackle the climate emergency.” March 2022

Why is it needed now?

We recognise that our ocean, waterways, nature and climate are in a state of emergency and that the communities we serve are on the frontline. An ocean in crisis, and likewise rivers in crisis are not only bad news for our climate, but also for our fishing industry, aquaculture industry, tourism industry and for the health, wellbeing and prosperity of our coastal and river communities. Delivering the pledges set out in the Motion for the Rivers and Ocean could yield new jobs and opportunities, more resilient coastal and riverside economies, and happier, healthier people; as well as a cleaner, healthier and more productive natural environment. Healthy oceans and rivers are essential allies in our fight against climate change and blue carbon could play an integral role in helping us meet our net zero targets.

The health of our ocean is inextricably linked with our climate and with human health, wellbeing and prosperity. A healthy ocean is fundamental in regulating the global climate system and is an essential ally in our fight against climate change. The ocean absorbs more than 90% of the excess heat in the climate system as well as absorbing around 20% of annual carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions generated by human activity.



However, decades of irresponsible marine exploitation and pollution have led to significant levels of degradation, and this together with the detrimental impacts of our changing climate on marine ecosystems has led to national and global recognition that the world ocean is in crisis. An unhealthy ocean does not absorb or store carbon as effectively as a healthy one, further worsening the impacts of the climate crisis.

Around the UK fish stocks continue to collapse from permitted and illegal overfishing and poor water quality is impacting seafood and safe bathing. The coastline and ocean are blighted with litter, much of it plastic. Marine microplastics have been found in all marine environments and in the bodies of many species, including humans and the species of fish we regularly eat.

Our residents are on the frontline of climate change. The impact of the climate crisis on the ocean is profound, from rising water temperatures and changes in ocean chemistry, to sea level rise and increased storminess. This is increasing the risk to infrastructure and properties and increasing the risk of flooding and storm damage both along the coast and in our riverside communities.

Urgent action is needed to halt these devastating changes and recover the health of our ocean to enable it to deliver the full range of benefits, including climate regulation, carbon storage in coastal and marine habitats, coastal protection, a thriving local economy, clean safe recreation and happy, healthy coastal communities. We must play our part in recovering the health of the ocean.

Similarly, across the UK the health of our rivers is under threat, which is threatening wildlife and habitats, as well as potentially human health. Healthy rivers and good catchment management are essential for mitigating climate change and building resilience for a changing climate.



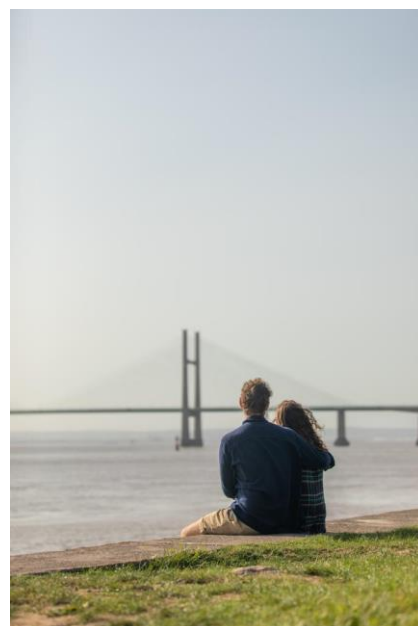
Rivers and water form some of the most attractive features of the Monmouthshire landscape, and are at the heart of our heritage and economy. They are popular routes for walking and cycling and have high ecological value as well as being the foci of historical settlements. From the rich maritime and ship building heritage of Chepstow to the thousands of visitors who come on holiday to enjoy the Wye Valley and follow in the footsteps of the historic Wye Tour, many come to experience the sight, sound and feel of our rivers and coast.

However, Monmouthshire's waterways are under threat from pressure from development, increases in recreational use, changes in agricultural practice and climate change. The Rivers Wye and Usk are both designated as Special Areas of Conservation for their water quality, but over recent years the water quality has deteriorated significantly. This is due to a complex range of issues, including sewage releases into the rivers and phosphates and nitrates entering the rivers due to agricultural activity. Phosphates and nitrates entering the river cause a process called eutrophication to occur, where toxic algal blooms feed on the excess nutrients and multiply and reduce light and oxygen levels, killing fish and other species. This effect has been exacerbated this year with extremely dry weather and high temperatures, which mean that the water levels in our rivers are very low. These pressures have resulted in planning restrictions being imposed by NRW which are impacting on the development of new homes.

The severity of the water quality problem is significant and has attracted much local and national publicity. A number of local campaign groups have formed and have organised marches and protests to raise the profile of the issue and try and make stakeholders take action. Work needs to happen both sides of the English and Welsh border, and the large river catchment means that collaboration with neighbouring authorities in both England and Wales is essential to protect waterways along the length of their catchments.

Rivers and oceans can play a vital role in our economic recovery and we must strive to develop a sustainable and equitable blue economy that delivers both river and ocean recovery and local prosperity. We must ensure that river and ocean recovery is embedded in our relevant strategic decision-making, policymaking and budget-setting; as well as being considered in future strategies and plans, including those seeking to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents.

First-hand experience of our rivers and ocean are essential if people are to be motivated to play their part in protecting it, whether that is through disposing of their litter responsibly, recycling what they can or volunteering in conservation or monitoring and data collection projects with local organisations. Helping individuals develop their ocean literacy (understanding of the relationship between people and the ocean) is an important part of this motion, as is individual and collective river and marine citizenship (promoting and demanding blue recovery through local, national and international policy changes).



Monmouthshire Context

Monmouthshire County Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and our Climate Emergency Action Plan recognises the importance of managing green spaces to reduce energy use, absorb carbon and be resilient.

The importance of protecting our rivers and coasts has risen in profile over the last year. When the Climate Emergency Action Plan was updated in 2021, the emphasis on nature recovery was strengthened, in recognition of the nature emergency, and an action on addressing water quality was added.

The Motion for the Rivers and Ocean agreed by the Council in March 2022 was followed by further debate in Council in June 2022, which led to the following more detailed motion which relates specifically to rivers:

In addition, the Wye Valley Villages Plan which was adopted by MCC in July 2022 includes measures to tackle river water quality, and will include measures by partner organisations and landowners.

“This Council:

- *Notes the decision of full council in March to become the first in Wales to declare a water quality emergency and commission a strategy to improve our waterways.*
- *Has grave concerns about the declining state of the Wye and Usk rivers in Monmouthshire and the multiple sources of phosphate and other pollutants including those originating upstream outside of Monmouthshire, which are threatening biodiversity and wildlife as well as fish numbers.*
- *Commits the Leader and Cabinet Member to work with opposition groups and relevant authorities including Powys County Council and Herefordshire County Council to ensure action is being taken to improve the health of our rivers before it’s too late.”*

Preparation of this action plan has highlighted how complex the partnership landscape is that is working to protect our rivers and ocean. There are numerous partnerships, both in place and emerging, which are all aiming to tackle different aspects of how our rivers and coasts are managed and looked after.

Monmouthshire plays an important role in many of these partnerships. Likewise, there is much work going on within the council to address the nature emergency and protect water quality. However, there needs to

be more of a co-ordinated focus on how we have an impact on our rivers and coasts. This action plan aims to pull together the work that is going on across many different council services in a co-ordinated way and to address areas where the council could be doing more to protect our rivers and coast.



Local authorities cannot solve the ocean and river crises alone, but we can – and must – play our part.

Action	Officer	Timescales
Estuary and coastal management		
Continue participation in ASERA partnership to discharge statutory duties to protect European Marine site in line with EU Habitats Directive	Environment & Culture Manger (Matthew Lewis)	On going
Become members of the Severn Estuary Partnership in order to connect with, learn from and work in partnership with other estuary stakeholders	Sustainability Policy Officer (Hazel Clatworthy)	Autumn 2022
Through membership of SEP, engage with the Welsh Government Wales Marine Action and Advisory Group (WMAAG) on the development of a Blue Recovery Plan for Wales to support sustainable development actions to both help coastal communities to recover, and to achieve our vision of Welsh seas that are clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse.	Sustainability Policy Officer (Hazel Clatworthy)	Ongoing
Work with partners over the next 12 months to secure longer term funding for the Living Levels partnership. The Living Levels aims to re-connect people and communities to the Gwent levels landscape and provide a sustainable future for this historic and unique area.	Environment & Culture Manger (Matthew Lewis) Cllr Catrin Maby Cllr Frances Taylor	2022/2023
Participate in the Diverse Marine Values research project with Cardiff University and other research partners to help understand how diverse values can influence marine policy and decision making.	Hazel Sustainability Policy Officer (Hazel Clatworthy)	2022/24
Continue as an active member of the Severn Estuary Coastal Group (SECG) to be responsible for the implementation of the Shoreline Management Plan, to promote community and stakeholder engagement on the Shoreline Management Plan Actions, to encourage research into established problems and concern about current and future trends affecting the coastline and to ensure the dissemination of any information obtained.	Flood Risk Manager (Ross Price)	Ongoing
Work with NRW to identify improvements to the Caldicot sea wall to reinstate its function as a defence against future tidal flooding.	Head of Placemaking, Regen, Highways & Flooding (Mark Hand)	2022/24
Through membership of SEP, work with the Blue Marine Foundation and cross-border partners to scope the potential for a National Marine Park for the Severn Estuary	Sustainability Policy Officer (Hazel Clatworthy) and colleagues	2023/24
Through membership of SEP work to explore options for the development of the Severn Vision work into a deliverable framework for action; one which maximises nature restoration, climate mitigation and adaptation benefits for the whole Severn Estuary and outer reaches area	Sustainability Policy Officer (Hazel)	2022/23

Action	Officer	Timescales
	Clatworthy) and colleagues	
Input to the development of the SEP Resilient Communities application to NRW to expand the Discover the Severn and Litter Free Coast and Seas projects across Monmouthshire and neighbouring LAs	Hazel Sustainability Policy Officer (Hazel Clatworthy)	2022/23
Through membership of ASERA and SEP engage with coastal disturbance through behaviour change.	Environment & Culture Manger (Matthew Lewis)	2023/24
River catchment management		
Continue to participate and play a more active role in the Wye Nutrient Management Board in order to ensure the Lower Wye phosphate issues are addressed	Head of Planning (Craig O'Connor) Cllr Catrin Maby	On going
Continue involvement in the Wye Nutrient Management Board Technical Advice Group to identify and analyse options for delivering improvements for water quality	Biodiversity & Ecology Lead (Kate Stinchcombe)	On going
Play a key role in the development of the Usk Catchment Partnership in order to tackle nutrient management on the River Usk	Head of Planning (Craig O'Connor) Biodiversity & Ecology Lead (Kate Stinchcombe) Cllr Catrin Maby	Work commenced summer 2022
Continue involvement with the Wye Catchment Partnership in order to protect water quality, water quantity and biodiversity	Environment & Culture Manger (Matthew Lewis) Wye valley AONB	On going
Support catchment wide action, nature-based solutions and natural flood management and seek to develop partnerships and funding to deliver these.	Flood Risk Manager (Ross Price)	2022/23
Clarify the arrangements for Internal Drainage Districts with Natural Resources Wales	Head of Placemaking, Regen, Highways & Flooding (Mark Hand)	Completed July 2022
Work with Welsh Water to provide a phosphate stripping facility at Llanfoist to improve water quality and facilitate new development in the Usk catchment.	Head of Placemaking, Regen, Highways & Flooding (Mark Hand)	2023
Continue to work with NRW, Welsh Water, neighbouring Councils and other partners to identify phosphate solutions including nature-based solutions for both the river Usk and Wye catchments.	Head of Placemaking, Regen, Highways	2022/24

Action	Officer	Timescales
	& Flooding (Mark Hand)	
Review and amend the spatial strategy for sustainable growth in Monmouthshire within the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) to ensure that development does not have an adverse impact on the conservation status of the Rivers Wye and Usk. The amended spatial strategy has been developed following discussion with NRW and Welsh Water on future strategic solutions for phosphate mitigation within river catchment areas.	Head of Placemaking, Regen, Highways & Flooding (Mark Hand)	Autumn 2022
Use our powers as a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) approving body to ensure new developments manage on site surface water in a sustainable way	Flood Risk Manager (Ross Price)	Ongoing
Use our powers as Land Drainage Authority to ensure works undertaken within ordinary watercourses do not have a negative impact on water quality or on the local environment.	Flood Risk Manager (Ross Price)	Ongoing
Appoint a Nutrient Management Officer to sit within the Planning team	Head of Placemaking, Regen, Highways & Flooding (Mark Hand)	2022/23
Maintain regular officer liaison meetings with NRW and broaden their scope to cover river water quality issues, and suggest that Cabinet Member liaison meetings are introduced.	Head of Planning (Craig O'Connor) Cllr Catrin Maby	Autumn 2022 to broaden scope
Maintain good relationship and regular meetings with Welsh Water, with regular updates and information on sewage incidents and forward plans for improvements.	Head of Planning (Craig O'Connor)	Ongoing
Lobby Welsh Government to ensure Natural Resources Wales have the resources they need to protect our river and marine environment	Elected members	2022/23
Build and strengthen relationships with Natural Resources Wales at all levels.	Various MCC officers	On going
Take part in a new cross-border working group of agencies, local authorities, MPs and other key parties to develop the first five-year integrated plan to cut pollution in the River Wye.	Cllr Catrin Maby	2022/27
Nature recovery		
Continue involvement to lead the Gwent Green Grid and Resilient Greater Gwent partnership and explore ways to sustain the partnership beyond the end of current funding in 2023 in order to maintain a regional approach to green infrastructure and nature recovery, including river and ocean recovery	Green Infrastructure Manager (Colette Bosley) Environment & Culture Manger (Matthew Lewis)	2022/23
Continue to lead Monmouthshire and Newport Local Nature Partnership to share best practice and resources to maximise benefits for people and wildlife	Biodiversity & Ecology Lead	On going

Action	Officer	Timescales
	(Kate Stinchcombe)	
Develop the Monmouthshire and Newport Nature Recovery Action Plan with the Local Nature Partnership to include river and marine environments	Biodiversity & Ecology Lead (Kate Stinchcombe)	2023
Litter reduction		
Deliver litter campaigns with a focus on the impact of litter entering rivers and sea	Green Infrastructure & Litter Education Officer (Sue Parkinson)	Ongoing
Work with community groups and Keep Wales Tidy to provide support for local litter picks and implement litter picking hubs.	Green Infrastructure & Litter Education Officer (Sue Parkinson)	Ongoing
Continue support of plastic free towns in Monmouthshire	Head of Neighbourhood Services (Carl Touhig)	Ongoing
Work with schools to raise awareness of the impact litter has on Rivers and Oceans	Green Infrastructure & Litter Education Officer (Sue Parkinson)	2022/23
Work with Keep Abergavenny Tidy on a litter campaign targeting business in Abergavenny	Green Infrastructure & Litter Education Officer (Sue Parkinson)	2022/23
Engage with Welsh Government throughout the development of the Single Use Plastic Bill.	Head of Neighbourhood Services (Carl Touhig)	2022/23
Education and awareness		
Play a role in the development of an Ocean Literacy action plan in Wales	Decarbonisation Graduate (Niamh Falconer)	Autumn/ Winter 2022
Use the One Planet Centre as a focus for education about marine and river pollution	Bec	Ongoing
Deliver dog fouling campaign which will reduce water pollution	Green Infrastructure & Litter Education	Summer 2022

Action	Officer	Timescales
	Officer (Sue Parkinson)	
Facilitate ongoing discussion between MCC and community groups on river and coastal issues through Community Climate Champions network	Sustainability Policy Officer (Hazel Clatworthy)	On going
Strengthen the guidance notes for integrated impact assessment to ensure that the Resilient Wales goal is understood to include rivers, coasts and ecosystem resilience, to ensure rivers and oceans are considered as part of council decision making	Sustainability Policy Officer (Hazel Clatworthy)	Autumn 2022
Develop information and resources on rivers and oceans to put on MCC website.	Decarbonisation Graduate (Niamh Falconer) and Sustainability Policy Officer (Hazel Clatworthy)	Autumn/ Winter 2022
Promote the Visit Wales addo (promise to care for Wales' communities and environment)	Destination Manager (Nicola Edwards)	Ongoing
Target socially and environmentally responsible visitor segments in our destination marketing	Destination Manager (Nicola Edwards)	Ongoing
Encourage local action, community awareness initiatives, demonstration projects and encourage participation in volunteer monitoring and data collection	Environment & Culture Manger (Matthew Lewis) and Head of Neighbourhood Services (Carl Touhig)	Ongoing
Use the Space for Local Production Programme pilot of 4 farms to understand how the farms look now and how they could look in the future if certain measures were taken, and use this learning to understand how land management can better protect waterways.	Sustainable Food Projects Manager (Deserie Mansfield)	2022/23

Glossary

A “Blue Economy” is one which uses ocean resources sustainably or even regeneratively whilst improving community wellbeing and social equity. It is not simply marine or maritime economic activity or “blue growth”.

“Ocean literacy” is where a person understands the ocean's influence on them and their influence on the ocean. For example, an understanding that the ocean stores carbon and an understanding that what they put down the drain can impact on ocean health. It can also include learning how to be an active marine citizen.

“Marine citizenship” is exercising the right to participate in the transformation of the human-ocean relationship for sustainability. This means taking individual and collective responsibility to consider one’s own and society’s impacts on the ocean; and exercising rights as a marine citizen, e.g. writing to a local Councillor to ask them to take action for ocean recovery; or promoting or making local, national or international policy changes.

SUBJECT: PROGRESSING MONMOUTHSHIRE'S REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (RLDP)
MEETING: PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE: 15 September 2022
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to facilitate pre-decision scrutiny on the proposed way of progressing the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP), ensuring that the RLDP delivers on the Council's objectives and addresses key local issues, in particular affordable housing, demographic balance and the climate and nature emergency, and to seek Committee's feedback/comments.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

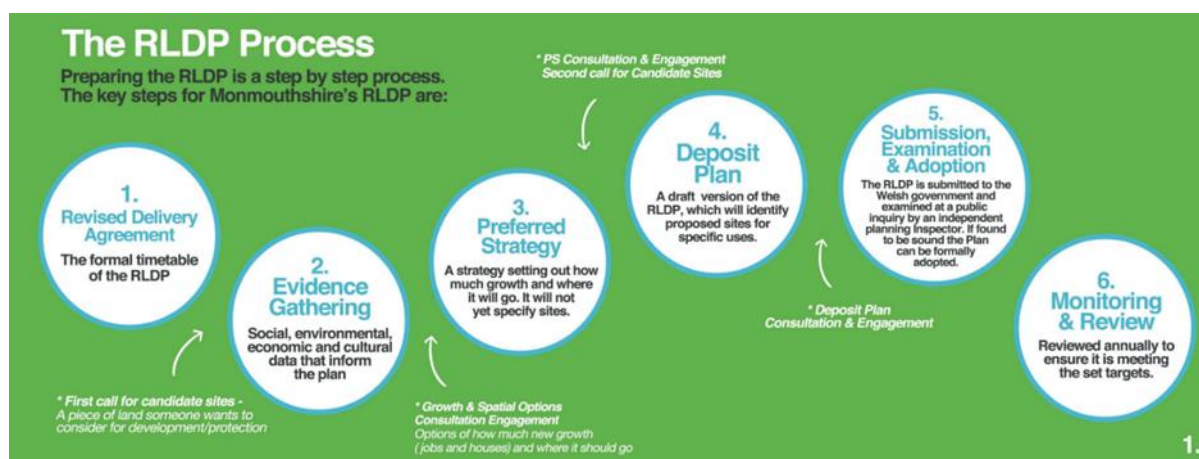
- 2.1 To scrutinise the proposed way of progressing the Replacement Local Development Plan, prior to the proposal being reported to Council on 22nd September 2022.

3. KEY ISSUES:

Background

- 3.1 The Council is preparing a Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) for the period 2018 to 2033. The RLDP is a key Council policy document that allocates land for development, designates areas for protection and contains policies to provide the basis for deciding planning applications. It will cover the whole of the County except for the part within Brecon Beacons National Park. The current adopted LDP covered the period 2011-2021 but remains the planning policy framework for making decisions in Monmouthshire until the adoption of the RLDP.
- 3.2 The RLDP will identify where and how much new, sustainable development will take place to 2033, underpinned by a clear and robust evidence base. Early stages of the project identified 38 issues facing the communities we serve, based on a range of evidence including responses to consultation on the Public Service Board's Local Wellbeing Plan. The RLDP's issues, vision and objectives were subject of targeted engagement in January-February 2019 and were [reviewed](#) in the light of the subsequent Climate Emergency declaration by Council in May 2019. A [further review](#) in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic concluded that the Plan's strategic direction of travel remained relevant and identified a number of key messages that will require ongoing consideration as the RLDP progresses.
- 3.3 The seventeen Plan objectives are grouped to reflect the seven wellbeing goals and not order of importance. However, as the Plan has developed, three core objectives have become apparent: delivering affordable housing to help address inequality, rebalancing the County's demography to ensure communities are socially and economically sustainable, and responding to the climate and nature emergency to ensure proposals are environmentally sustainable.

- 3.4 The diagram below shows the key steps in the RLDP process. Although the Preferred Strategy is the first statutory consultation stage in the RLDP preparation process, the Council chose to engage from the outset and consulted on the issues, vision and objectives, and the growth and spatial options stages.



- 3.5 The Preferred Strategy stage provides the strategic direction for the development and use of land in Monmouthshire (excluding the area within the Brecon Beacons National Park) over the Plan period 2018 to 2033 and identifies how much sustainable growth is needed and where this growth will broadly be located. Its preparation is guided by a framework of key inputs that includes the assessment and consideration of the growth and spatial options, responses from the consultation process, the findings of the [Integrated Sustainability Appraisal \(ISA\)](#), the [Sustainable Settlement Appraisal](#), [Future Wales the National Plan 2040](#), the LDP tests of soundness¹, Welsh Government's [Building Better Places](#) document, and the pressing need to address the key challenges relating to the County's demography, housing affordability and climate and nature emergency to achieve a sustainable, balanced and deliverable outcome.

Progress to date

- 3.6 Stakeholder consultation and engagement on the 'Sustainable and Resilient Communities [Preferred Strategy](#)' took place in Summer 2021, alongside a second opportunity for stakeholders to suggest sites for inclusion in the Plan for development or protection (the second call for candidate sites). This Strategy sought to:
- Make provision for 8,366 homes to deliver a housing requirement of 7,605 homes (this provision adds a 10% flexibility allowance which will be given further consideration and refined at Deposit Stage). As the Plan period began in 2018, the existing supply of housing land contributes towards the Plan's housing target. This means we would be required to allocate new sites for approximately **3,660 new homes**.
 - This housing growth figure included the provision of 2,170 to 2,450 affordable homes. Approximately 1,210 to 1,490 of these would be on new allocations.
 - Set out the planning policy framework to support the provision of 7,215 additional jobs by allocating sufficient employment land in the right places in the County to meet the needs of new and existing businesses.
 - Spatially distribute growth proportionately across the County's most sustainable settlements, with the majority of housing growth in Primary Settlements (Abergavenny including Llanfoist, Chepstow and Monmouth including Wyesham),

and Severnside (Caldicot, Caerwent, Crick, Magor, Undy, Rogiet, Portskewett and Sudbrook), with some growth in our Secondary Settlements (Penperlleni, Raglan and Usk) and Rural Settlements.

- 3.7 The consultation also sought views on options for strategic growth areas around each primary settlement and Severnside. These were set out in the [Easy Read](#) guide.

Reasons why a different approach is now proposed

- 3.8 Following the consultation/engagement on the Preferred Strategy, a number of challenges have arisen which have impacted on the progression of the RLDP and require further consideration, namely the Welsh Government objection to the Sustainable and Resilient Communities Preferred Strategy and phosphate water quality issues in the Rivers Wye and Usk.

Welsh Government Consultation Response to the Preferred Strategy

- 3.9 The Welsh Government's (WG) Planning Division response to the Preferred Strategy consultation raised some significant concerns regarding the proposed level of growth and the Strategy's 'general conformity' with policies 1 and 33 of the Future Wales: the National Plan 2040. This suggested that growth in Monmouthshire would undermine growth in the national growth area of Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys (Appendix 1). WG's consultation response takes the unprecedented step of prescribing a maximum growth of 4,275 dwellings for Monmouthshire to 2033. This is considerably lower than the Preferred Strategy dwelling requirement that we consulted on (7,605 dwellings) and would result in barely any new housing allocations over RLDP period due to the existing housing landbank. This approach would fail to deliver on our key locally evidenced issues and objectives including affordable housing delivery, economic growth/prosperity and rebalancing our demography, to the detriment of the sustainability of Monmouthshire's communities. It would also fail to accord with policies 4, 5 and 7 of Future Wales 2040: the national plan (FW2040) which specifically support rural communities and seek to increase the delivery of affordable homes throughout Wales (Appendix 1).
- 3.10 On 14th December 2021, a [a special meeting of the Council's Economy and Development Select Committee](#) considered the implications of the Welsh Government Planning Division's response on Monmouthshire's communities and on addressing the locally evidence-based outcomes and objectives.
- 3.11 The Welsh Government Planning Division's letter poses a significant challenge. An amended RLDP that follows the letter's requirements would not meet the tests of soundness at examination because it would not address the evidenced based issues or achieve the outcomes. Conversely, proceeding as originally proposed would be a high risk strategy. Consequently, officers and elected members have been liaising with Welsh Government officials and the Minister to seek to identify an acceptable way forward.

Phosphates

- 3.12 As a result of recent evidence regarding the environmental impacts of phosphate in watercourses, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) adopted tighter targets for the water quality of watercourses and conducted an assessment of the 9 riverine Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) in Wales. This assessment has established that phosphorus breaches are widespread within Welsh SAC rivers with over 60% of waterbodies

failing against the new targets. Within Monmouthshire, NRW identified that within the River Usk, 88% of the river's water bodies failed to meet the required target and within the River Wye, 67% of the river's water bodies failed to meet the required target.

- 3.13 In response, NRW has issued detailed planning guidance to ensure that the environmental capacity of the rivers does not deteriorate any further. Any proposed development within the affected catchment areas of the rivers Usk and Wye that might increase phosphate levels need to clearly evidence that the development can demonstrate phosphate neutrality or betterment in its design and/or its contribution to the water body. This issue affects the upper (non-tidal) parts of the two rivers, as shown in the plan at Appendix 2.
- 3.14 The phosphates water quality issue affecting the River Wye and River Usk has implications for the progression of the RLDP as the Preferred Strategy that we consulted on in July-August 2021 directed future growth to a number of key sustainable settlements within these affected catchment areas. Further consideration has, therefore, been given as to the RLDP can progress in light of this issue, carefully balancing the need for growth with the climate and nature emergency. Following discussions with Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water (DCWW) and NRW, it has become apparent that whilst a workable solution to this water quality issue is achievable for the Llanfoist Waste water Treatment Works (WWTW) (River Usk catchment), there is no identified strategic solution for phosphate mitigation at the Monmouth WWTW (River Wye catchment) at this time that will be implemented during the Plan period. Without an identified deliverable solution, it will not be possible to demonstrate at examination that sites in the upper Wye catchment are deliverable, making the Plan unsound. This means that new site allocations for future growth cannot be directed to settlements within the affected Wye catchment area, including the primary settlement of Monmouth, until a feasible solution is identified that can be implemented within a timescale that facilitates development within the Plan period. The restrictions on new housing and employment development in this area during the Plan period has obvious implications for the RLDP spatial strategy.
- 3.15 Therefore, notwithstanding the Welsh Government Planning Division's objection to the Sustainable and Resilient Communities Preferred Strategy consulted upon in July and August 2021, the phosphates issue means a revised strategy is needed. This approach aligns with the Motion of the Rivers and Ocean Action Plan that is also being reported to this Council meeting.
- 3.16 Consideration has therefore been given to how to progress the RLDP having regard to the above challenges, whilst also ensuring that the RLDP delivers on the Council's objectives and addresses the core issues of delivering much needed affordable housing at pace and scale, responding to the climate and nature emergency by delivering zero carbon ready new homes for our communities, and ensuring our communities are socially and economically sustainable by attracting and retaining younger people to rebalance our ageing demographic. This report invites Council to agree a proposed way forward.

Preferred Option for Progressing the RLDP

- 3.17 The recommendation to Council is that the best option to proceed is to progress with an amended growth and spatial strategy that responds to the challenges identified above. The purpose of this report is to seek Council's agreement to this direction of travel. If agreed, a report will be brought to December's Council meeting containing an amended Preferred Strategy and Delivery Agreement for Council's endorsement for going out to public consultation.

- 3.18 The proposed revised preferred strategy would reduce the level of growth proposed and would amend the spatial distribution of new growth to avoid the upper Wye catchment. The revised Preferred Strategy would:
- Provide for approximately 5,400 - 5,940 homes over the Plan period 2018-2033. This includes the provision of approximately 1,500 - 1,770 affordable homes². As there are currently approximately 3,940 homes in the housing landbank³, the RLDP would need to allocate land for approximately **1,460 - 2,000 new homes, including 730 - 1,000 new affordable homes**. The Council's current data on affordable housing contained in the 2020 Local Housing Market Assessment indicates that 68% of the affordable housing provided needs to be social housing for rent, 7% intermediate rent and 25% low cost home ownership. This assessment is being updated based on a new WG template, but given increased property prices and the cost of living crisis, social rented affordable housing is expected to remain the greatest proportion of need.
 - Set out the planning policy framework to support/enable the provision of approx. 6,240 additional jobs by allocating sufficient employment land in the right places in the County to meet the needs of new and existing businesses. The Plan will also include policies to facilitate growth in retail, leisure and tourism sectors. The RLDP will be supported by an economic development strategy.
 - Locate growth proportionately across the County's most sustainable settlements, including Abergavenny, Chepstow and Severnside, as well as some growth in our rural settlements to deliver much needed affordable homes and to address rural inequality and rural isolation in these areas. Due to the lack of an identified strategic solution to the treatment of phosphates at the Monmouth WWTW within the Plan period, no new site allocations can be considered in settlements within the upper River Wye catchment area north of Bigsweir Bridge, including the primary settlement of Monmouth.
 - Identify preferred strategic sites in our primary settlements of Abergavenny and Chepstow and in Severnside.
 - Set out strategic policies on a range of topic areas, reflecting the four placemaking themes in Planning Policy Wales (PPW)⁴.
- 3.19 On balance, it is considered that the revised Preferred Strategy (as set out in paragraph 3.18) would best achieve sustainable balanced deliverable outcomes by:
- Delivering a level of growth (homes and jobs) that addresses our locally evidence-based issues and objectives in the south of the County and River Usk catchment area, including in relation to the delivery of affordable homes, rebalancing our demography and responding to the climate and nature emergencies, whilst having regard to WG officer concerns regarding alignment with Future Wales: the National Plan 2040.
 - Maximising affordable housing delivery on new housing allocations, reflecting the Administration's manifesto commitment to deliver 50% affordable homes on new housing sites which would help to tackle Monmouthshire's housing need, homelessness and social inequality. This approach would also enable the Council to consider alternative mechanisms for delivering affordable homes.
 - Providing a wider choice of smaller homes to enable younger people to live and work in Monmouthshire which would make our ageing communities more socially and economically sustainable.

² This adds a 10% flexibility allowance which will be given further consideration and refined at Deposit Stage

³ As the Plan period has already begun (2018) some of the homes in the landbank have been built, are under construction or have planning permission. The landbank figure also takes into account windfall sites and small sites.

⁴ PPW edition 11, WG, February 2011.

- Requiring new homes to be zero carbon ready, reflecting our commitment to responding to and tackling climate change.
- Delivering growth in our most sustainable settlements⁵. This would limit the impacts of climate change and ensure good placemaking principles of attractive, accessible places to live and work that have access to sustainable transport links and reduce the need for journeys by the car.
- Reconsulting on a revised Preferred Strategy which would enable the Council to progress the RLDP in a timely manner, with a view to adopting the Plan in summer 2025.

3.20 Notwithstanding the above, it is recognised that the preferred option would not deliver the Council's objectives or address key issues, including the delivery of new affordable homes, in those settlements in the phosphate affected upper River Wye catchment. However, as there are currently no identified strategic solutions to the treatment of phosphates in the River Wye catchment area during the Plan period, this shortcoming is unavoidable. It is not possible to allocate sites for new growth (homes and employment) in the affected river catchment. In contrast, strategic solutions are being developed to enable the treatment of phosphates in the River Usk catchment area. This will enable sustainable growth within the most sustainable settlements within the River Usk catchment area over the Plan period.

3.21 In recommending this level of growth, there would need to be a commitment to ensuring that the new site allocations provide 50% affordable housing. In order for residential sites to be allocated in the RLDP, it will be essential to demonstrate that sites are viable and deliverable, having regard to the Administration's commitment for 50% affordable housing provision on new sites, the requirement for zero carbon ready homes and associated infrastructure to support the development. This might require WG policy position changes on use of Social Housing Grant or other public sector funding. Additional viability work will be required to demonstrate site viability and deliverability based on these policy requirements. Current policy seeks neutral tenure, but the RLDP could, if desired include a policy specifying the affordable housing mix (social rent, intermediate rent and low cost home ownership). Such a policy should be based on the evidence contained in the updated Local Housing Market Assessment: this detail is a matter for the Deposit Plan at a future stage. The revised Preferred Strategy will seek to identify sites which provide sustainable access to existing urban settlements. It will seek to ensure high levels of sustainability in the construction and liveability of the new housing.

Next Steps

3.22 Feedback from the Place Scrutiny Committee will be reported to Council on 22nd September alongside the proposed way forwards. If Council endorses this proposal for progressing the RLDP, a revised Preferred Strategy based on this strategy option will be reported to Council in December 2022 for endorsement to be issued for statutory consultation/engagement in December 2022 to January 2023. The consultation responses received will then inform and shape the next key stage of the RLDP process, the Deposit Plan. In December 2022, Council's agreement will also be sought for the RLDP Revised Delivery Agreement, which will amend the project timetable for Plan preparation, for submission to the Welsh Government for Ministerial approval.

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

⁵ Excluding those settlements in the River Wye catchment area due to the inability to deliver strategic solution to phosphate mitigation the area's WWTW.

- 4.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) sets out the requirement for all LDPs to be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). All stages of the RLDP will be subject to an Integrated Sustainability Assessment (ISA) (including Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Well-being of Future Generations (WBFGE), Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA), and Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA)). The ISA findings would inform the development of the revised Preferred Strategy and will be used to inform detailed policies and site allocations in the Deposit Plan, in order to ensure that the Plan will promote sustainable development. The Initial ISAR would be published alongside the revised Preferred Strategy.
- 4.2 An Equality and Future Generations Evaluation (including equalities and sustainability impact assessment) is attached to this report at Appendix 3.

Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting

- 4.3 There are no safeguarding or corporate parenting implications arising directly from this report. The RLDP has the potential to provide affordable housing, delivery and allocation of which should be cognisant of the needs of children leaving care.

Socio-economic Duty

- 4.4 The RLDP seeks to tackle inequality, specifically by seeking to address house price unaffordability, which currently prevents some of our communities accessing suitable housing within the County. This is likely to benefit younger people, who in turn will make our ageing communities more socially and economically balanced and more sustainable. Good quality and affordable homes are important in achieving poverty reduction and equitable prosperity, and supporting the best start in life. Good spatial planning helps to build cohesive communities. The provision of affordable homes 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. In accordance with the WBFGE, the RLDP also seeks to prevent future problems and will therefore continue to avoid new development in flood risk areas and will seek zero carbon ready development to help address the climate and nature emergency and also tackle issues such as fuel poverty.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 5.1 In arriving at the proposed way forwards above, a number of options have been considered:
- Option 1: Proceed with the existing Preferred Strategy that we consulted on in July-August 2021;
 - Option 2: Adopt an amended approach and proceed with a demographic-led strategy (based on the latest detailed population data⁶) and an amended spatial strategy to take account of the phosphate constraint in the River Wye catchment. This is the recommended option;
 - Option 3: Proceed with the WG prescribed maximum dwelling requirement (4,275 dwellings over the Plan period), and a spatial strategy that takes account of the phosphate constraint in the River Wye catchment; or
 - Option 4: Restart the RLDP process.
- 5.2 A detailed options appraisal of the four options has been undertaken and is attached at Appendix 4. This sets out the demographic, dwelling and jobs growth levels

associated with each option, together with the benefits and risks, including in relation to the ability of each option to meet our objectives and address our key issues, the impact on plan preparation and deliverability of the RLDP. The table below provides a high level summary.

5.3 The options appraisal concludes that Option 2, to proceed with a revised Preferred Strategy based on a demographic-led strategy and an amended spatial strategy to take account of the phosphate constraint in the upper River Wye Catchment (i.e. avoiding growth in the affected settlements), is the most appropriate option for progressing the RLDP in light of the aforementioned challenges. The other three options have been discounted for various reasons, as set out in the options appraisal (Appendix 4).

Option	Benefit	Risk	Comment
Endorse Option 2 as the Preferred Option to progress the RLDP.	This option would best deliver on the Council's objectives to create sustainable and resilient communities for current and future generations and enable the RLDP preparation process to progress in a timely manner.		Option 2 is considered to promote an appropriate level and spatial distribution of housing and employment growth for the County to 2033 having regard to the key challenges (set out above) and the pressing need to deliver key outcomes, including housing affordability, demographic balance and climate change. This is the preferred option.
Endorse one of the alternative options to progress the RLDP.		As set out in the Options Appraisal, the alternative options have been discounted for various reasons and are not considered an appropriate basis on which to progress the RLDP.	As above, it is considered that Option 2 would best deliver on the Council's objectives to create sustainable and resilient communities for current and future generations and enable the RLDP preparation process to progress in a timely manner. It is not considered appropriate to endorse one of the discounted options.
Do not endorse any of the options to progress the RLDP.		This would lead to a significant delay in the RLDP preparation process with resultant implications, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A delay in addressing our key issues, including housing affordability, demographic balance 	As above, it is considered that Option 2 would best deliver on the Council's objectives to create sustainable and resilient communities for current and future generations and enable the RLDP preparation process to progress in a timely

Option	Benefit	Risk	Comment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy gap - evidence/ policy framework in the extant adopted LDP becomes more out dated. • Associated lack of certainty for communities and investors. 	<p>manner.</p> <p>Not endorsing any option would result in significant delays to the RLDP preparation process with associated negative implications.</p>

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Officer and consultant time and costs associated with the preparation of the revised Preferred Strategy option will be met from the Planning Policy budget and existing LDP reserve.
- 6.2 Delivery of the RLDP, once adopted, will need to be accompanied by a range of infrastructure provision including transport, education, health care, leisure and affordable housing. The infrastructure requirements will be identified in the Infrastructure Plan and updated Local Transport Plan accompanying the RLDP. Although it is expected that most of this infrastructure would be funded via S106 planning contributions (or possibly a Community Infrastructure Levy), there may be a requirement for Council expenditure to assist in providing some infrastructure or in bringing some sites forwards. This might include the use of Compulsory Purchase Orders and/or potential commercial investment to provide 'shovel ready' sites or business premises. There may also be grant funding available.

7. CONSULTEES

- Informal Cabinet
- Cabinet Member for Sustainable Economy, Deputy Leader
- SLT
- Communities and Place DMT
- Member workshop 12th September 2022

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- [RLDP Preferred Strategy](#) (June 2021)
- [Initial Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Report](#) (AECOM, June 2021)
- [HRA of the Monmouthshire RLDP Preferred Strategy](#) (AECOM, June 2021)
- Preferred Strategy consultation responses, including Welsh Government Planning Division's response.
- [RLDP Delivery Agreement](#) (Second Revision, October 2021)
- Monmouthshire RLDP Demographic Update Report (Edge Analytics, November 2021)

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APPENDICES:

APPENDIX 1: Welsh Government Planning Division's response to the RLDP Preferred Strategy (June 2021), Future Wales: the National Plan 2040 Policies 1, 4, 5, 7 and 33 and South East Wales Regional Strategic Diagram.

APPENDIX 2: Map of River Usk and River Wye Catchment Areas

APPENDIX 3: Equality and Future Generations Evaluation

APPENDIX 4: RLDP Options Appraisal



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Y Gyfarwyddiaeth Gynllunio
Planning Directorate

Mark Hand
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27 August 2021

Dear Mark

**Monmouthshire County Council – Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP)
Preferred Strategy Consultation: Welsh Government Response**

Thank you for consulting the Welsh Government on the Monmouthshire County Council Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) – Preferred Strategy consultation. It is essential the authority is covered by an up-to-date LDP to give certainty to local communities and business.

Without prejudice to the Minister's powers, the Welsh Government is committed to helping Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) minimise the risk of submitting unsound plans by making comments at the earliest stages of plan preparation. The Welsh Government looks for clear evidence that the plan is in general conformity with Future Wales: The National Development Framework and that the tests of soundness (as set out in the 'LDP Manual') are addressed.

The development planning system in Wales is evidence led and demonstrating how a plan is shaped by the evidence is a key requirement of the LDP examination. It is essential that a plan is in general conformity with Future Wales, responds to national planning policy and the place making agenda, addresses climate change and nature emergencies, and demonstrates strategy delivery.

After considering the key issues and policies in Future Wales, the **Preferred Strategy, as presented in relation to the scale of growth, is not in general conformity with Future Wales: The National Development Framework**. Specific comments are set out in the **Statement of General Conformity** (Annex 1 to this letter) with additional guidance contained in the Development Plans Manual (3rd Edition, March 2020) – 'the DPM'.

The Preferred Strategy has been considered in accordance with the tests of soundness as set out in the DPM (Table 27, page 166). **Our representations are provided by topic area, with further detail in the attached Annex 2.**

National planning policies are set out in Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 11, which seeks to deliver high quality, sustainable places through a place-making approach. The implementation of the core policy areas in PPW, such as adopting a sustainable spatial strategy, appropriate housing and economic growth levels, infrastructure delivery and place-making, are articulated in more detail in the LDP Manual (Edition 3). We expect the core elements of the Manual, in particular Chapter 5 and the 'De-risking Checklist', to be followed.

It is very disappointing that key background documents on issues including Strategic Site delivery, a high-level/site-specific viability appraisal, a Renewable Energy Assessment and Gypsy and Traveller Assessment have not been completed to 'front load' the process and inform findings in the Preferred Strategy. A robust evidence base is critical to fully understand the plan.

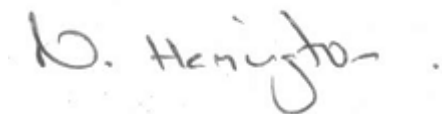
Our representation includes more detailed issues set out in Annex 1 and Annex 2 to this letter. Collectively, our comments highlight a range of issues that need to be addressed for the plan to be considered 'sound'. The key areas include:

- Housing and economic growth levels
- Affordable housing policy-on approach
- Site delivery/implementation, including financial viability
- Phosphates and nutrient neutrality
- Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation
- Minerals

I would urge you to seek your own legal advice to ensure you have met all the procedural requirements, including the Sustainability Appraisal (SA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA), as responsibility for these matters rests with your authority. A requirement to undertake a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) arising from the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017, if appropriate, should be carried out to assess the likely effect of the proposed development plan on health, mental well-being and inequality.

My colleagues and I look forward to meeting you and the team to discuss matters arising from this response.

Yours sincerely



Neil Hemington
Chief Planner Welsh Government

For matters relating to general conformity with Future Wales and planning policy please contact: PlanningPolicy@gov.wales

For matters relating to Local Development Plan procedures please contact: Planning.Directorates@gov.wales

Statement of General Conformity

The Welsh Government has very significant concerns regarding the Monmouthshire LDP Preferred Strategy. Future Wales places great emphasis on the development of National Growth Areas. The Preferred Strategy is not in general conformity with Policies 1 and 33 of Future Wales and undermines the role of Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys as the main focus for growth and investment in the South East region.

Reasons

The Welsh Government acknowledges the work the local authority has undertaken in developing the Preferred Strategy, which includes consideration of a number of growth and spatial options. However, there is fundamental concern about the impact of the chosen growth option of 7,215 new jobs and 7,605 homes on the South East region as defined in Future Wales.

As the local authority acknowledge, Monmouthshire forms part of the South East Wales Region which includes a National Growth Area that focusses new development in Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys. Monmouthshire is not within the National Growth Area, as defined by Policy 1 and Policy 33 of Future Wales. **The level of economic and housing growth proposed by the Preferred Strategy undermines Future Wales focus for strategic economic and housing growth in the SE Wales National Growth Area.**

With regard to housing, the level of housing proposed is 4,740 units above the Welsh Government 2018-based principal household projection of 2,865 homes. The housing requirement is based on data for Monmouthshire County Council as a whole and includes land within the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA). The WG principal projection for the plan area, minus BBNPA area, is 2,610 units which means that the Preferred Strategy is actually some 4,995 dwellings above the WG 2018 principal projection. The proposed level of housing growth (507 dpa) is also very significantly above the past 5 and 10-year build rates (310 and 285 pa respectively).

Monmouthshire is predominantly a rural area with widely distributed market towns and villages. The south of the county has strong functional linkages to Newport, Cardiff and Bristol. The county is characterised by very significant environmental assets including the Wye Valley AONB, the setting of the Brecon Beacons National Park, the Gwent levels, Special Areas of Conservation, numerous SSSI's and many historic buildings and landscapes. The County also possesses some of the most significant tracts of Best and Most Versatile Agricultural land in Wales.

The level of growth proposed has the potential to negatively impact on environmental assets and have adverse consequences for climate and nature emergencies. This is heightened by the absence of brownfield land development opportunities and the consequential need to identify significant green field sites for development.

There are major regional strategic impacts arising from the level of growth proposed. Displacement of population, housing and jobs from elsewhere in the region to Monmouthshire will occur. This will hinder regeneration and the take up of brownfield land for development in the National Growth Area.

To be considered to be in general conformity with Future Wales the Monmouthshire RLDP must provide for a lower level of housing. The WG principal housing projection for the plan area, 2,610 units, provides a starting point for the level of housing required. In recognition of build rates achieved over the last 10 years, a higher level of housing may be justified. The proposed level of housing growth should however be no greater than 4,275 units (15 x the 10 year build rate) plus an appropriate flexibility allowance. This will ensure that Monmouthshire continues grow in a

sustainable manner based on a locally appropriate level of development which is compatible with policies 1 and 33 of Future Wales.

There are also significant reservations about proposed levels of employment growth which are set out fully in Annex 2.

It is positive that the Strategy recognises the importance of biodiversity enhancement with language such as “must maintain, protect and enhance.” As well as highlighting ranges of opportunities such as minimum garden standards and planting in public realm spaces. However, the statement *the RLDP must ensure biodiversity is considered in any development in order to protect any interest on the site and encourage biodiversity enhancements where necessary* should be stronger. As outlined in Future Wales Policy 9 – Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure, rather than encourage biodiversity enhancements where necessary, biodiversity enhancements must be considered in all development and the enhancements should be proportionate in size and scale to the development.

Future Wales identifies a Green Belt to the north of Cardiff, Newport and the eastern part of the region and is clear that LDPs should not permit major development in areas shown for consideration as Green Belts, except in very exceptional circumstances. This is until the need for Green Belts and their boundaries has been established by an adopted Strategic Development Plan. Although the areas identified for growth in the Preferred Strategy fall outside of the indicative Green Belt boundary and national planning policy allows for extensions to existing settlements within and adjoining the Green Belt of an appropriate scale, there should be no ambiguity about the need to protect land elsewhere.

The additional comments below are intended to provide assistance to the authority and ensure the plan and supporting evidence better aligns with the requirements in the National Development Framework (NDF):

- **Strategic Policy S3** - ‘promote’ in clauses 2 and 3 is a weak word. A stronger approach is encouraged.
- **Strategic Policy SP4** sets the right tone, but the concern is that ‘positive impact’ will be subject to too much debate and won’t achieve significant impacts. The list of methods in the policy shouldn’t be in the policy text.
- **Strategic Policy S5** regarding infrastructure provision uses the term ‘delivered in phase with proposed development’. PPW states for active travel infrastructure - ‘should be prioritised and put in place from the outset’. This policy should be strengthened to be clear what ‘in phase’ means.
- **Strategic Policy S12** uses the term ‘within or adjoining town and village development boundaries subject to detailed planning considerations’. The supporting text should include reference to the town centre first approach.

Strategic Policy S10 – this policy should take into account Llwybr Newydd and should also address reducing parking levels and refer to rural transport issues including the provision of EV charging.

- **Strategic Policy S11** – suggests that retailing will remain the predominant land use focus in town centres. The emphasis should be switched to overall town centre health/vibrancy, rather than retail hierarchy, to ensure a more effective approach.

Annex 2 to Welsh Government Letter dated 27 August 2021 in response to Monmouthshire County Council's Replacement LDP – Preferred Strategy

Phosphates

Following NRW's publication of updated guidance relating to phosphates and nutrient neutrality in January 2021, the ability of LDPs to demonstrate they can align with the revised approach is paramount for plans to be able to be considered 'sound'. This primarily applies to the scale and location of new development, the ability of the existing infrastructure to remove phosphates to accommodate growth, the levels of phosphates within the riverine system and how nutrient neutrality can be achieved. **The Deposit Plan and associated HRA must demonstrate nutrient neutrality or betterment in order to be considered sound.**

Growth Levels: Homes and Jobs

The Council's Preferred Strategy is based on Growth Option 5, a population/demographic-led projection, with added policy assumptions. This results in a requirement of 7,605 dwellings (507 dpa) over the plan period 2018-2033.

Policy S6: Delivery of Homes, makes provision for 8,366 dwellings to deliver a requirement of 7,605 units with a 10% flexibility allowance. The Council needs to explain why 10% is appropriate in line with requirements in the DPM as a lower flexibility allowance may be suitable.

The proposed level of housing is very significantly above the WG 2018 principal projection, requiring an annual completion rate higher than both the previous 5 and 10 year averages. Monmouthshire is outside the South East Wales National Growth Area, as set out in the Future Wales. **The Preferred Strategy is not in general conformity with Future Wales due to the very high level of housing growth proposed. Further detail is provided in Annex 1.**

Spatial Distribution of Housing

Monmouthshire's preferred spatial strategy, Option 2: 'Distribute Growth Proportionately across the County's most Sustainable Settlements' states the level of growth proposed in each settlement will be proportionate to its size, amenities, affordable housing need and capacity for growth. The settlement hierarchy listed in Strategic Policy S2 is underpinned by findings in the Council's Sustainable Settlements Appraisal (June 2021). The appraisal confirms the dominant role of the Tier 1 County towns of Abergavenny, Chepstow and Monmouth that account for the majority of all housing development at 58%. The appraisal identifies the other Tier 1 settlement of Caldicot within the Severnside cluster, which has strong geographical and functional linkages to other Tier 2, 3 and 4 settlements along the M4 corridor. There is also a strong functional linkage with Newport, Cardiff and Bristol. Together the area accounts for 28% of the plan's housing growth. This could be increased to reflect proximity to the National Growth Area and Bristol, future improvements to public transport capacity, land released by the withdrawal of the M4 Highway Orders and the possibility that growth in Abergavenny and Monmouth will be constrained by phosphate pollution. **Welsh Government does not object to the Preferred Strategy's settlement hierarchy and distribution of housing growth** with 86% of all new housing development proposed in the Tier 1 settlements and the Severnside cluster.

The Deposit Plan should:

- Specifically identify the number of new homes proposed in Tier 4 Main Rural Settlements and Tier 5 Minor Rural Villages separately. Tier 5 will not have settlement boundaries.
- The rationale for including Tier 6 Open Countryside in the settlement hierarchy is unclear as new buildings away from existing settlements or allocated sites must be strictly controlled.

Affordable Housing

The Local Housing Market Assessment 2020-2025 (LHMA) 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 1 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 LHMA need on sites of 50:50 affordable and market housing, thus providing an additional 1,410 affordable and market units over the plan period. **The Welsh Government supports the principle of affordable housing-led sites, but their delivery will need to be evidenced by testing in the Council's viability appraisals** at Deposit stage. Evidence should also include a resolution to use public land for this purpose, a binding legal agreement where the land is in private ownership or a resolution of the council to use compulsory purchase powers. The Council should explain why 10% of the need identified in the LHMA has been chosen and not alternative percentages. The location of sites to accommodate the additional 705 affordable units is unclear.

Strategic Policy S7 identifies the plans affordable housing target totalling 2,450 units based on viability percentages in the adopted LDP. There is **no viability evidence to accompany the revised plan on either a high level or site specific viability appraisals**. This needs to be rectified by Deposit stage. The Welsh Government also has the following observations:

- The Council should clarify if the 1,489 affordable units (Table 7, LDP) on allocated sites include 705 units through the affordable housing policy-led element, or whether these are additional.
- The Deposit Plan should meet the requirements as set out in the DPM 'Affordable Housing Policy Framework – Checklist'.

Employment Provision and Job Growth

Strategic Policy S13 makes provision for a minimum of 43ha of employment land. This is supported by the Council's Employment Land Review (ELR, 2021) advising that employment forecasts are based on past take-up rates (2.1ha per annum) plus a 5-year buffer (10.7ha), equating to a requirement of 43ha over the plan period (2018-2033).

The scale of job growth being sought by the Council is accelerated growth, beyond existing levels achieved, described as radical structural economic change (Future Monmouthshire, Economies of the Future Analysis: Strategic Direction Report, October 2018). This is above the Oxford Economics baseline growth level, as well as UK growth rates. The Regional Employment Study, Larger than Local (March 2020), suggests that:

"Between 2018 and 2040, employment is forecast to decrease by 1%, a drop of 400 jobs. This decline is against the growth trend projected for the UK (+7%) and Wales (+1%)." (Page 164)

This study was undertaken by BE Group, which would appear to be at odds with the Edge Analytical evidence to support the LDP, a difference of 7,600 jobs.

Furthermore, *"The relatively low employment growth projections for Monmouthshire were challenged by considering another set of employment projections by Experian, illustrated in Figure 38, which were found to be even more negative for the County. As per Experian's projections, employment growth is expected to stagnate/decline throughout the next two decades, placing Monmouthshire below both UK and Welsh projected growth levels."* (Future Monmouthshire, Economies of the Future, Economic Baseline Report, March 2018, page 34)

The Councils strategy is not to reflect past trends, but increase job opportunities. On the basis of the evidence the levels of job growth are extremely optimistic and do not reflect historic trends. This could result in housing delivery not being matched to new job opportunities, leading to further out commuting. **It will be essential to demonstrate how the increase in jobs can be achieved in a way which is compatible with the South East Wales National Growth Area.** This is particularly relevant when Newport is considered to have high levels of B1 office provision/expansion to meet the majority of need in the region.

The following should also be addressed by Deposit stage:

- Of the 7,215 new jobs, the Council acknowledges that not all of these jobs will be in the B-Class sector and will build on existing sectors including agri-food and manufacturing. However, the Council's own evidence identifies a decline in these sectors over the plan period. The Council will need to demonstrate greater certainty on delivering the scale of job growth as an under delivery of jobs will not deliver on the key issues the plan is seeking to address.
- The Council needs to explain how growth in surrounding Councils, as expressed in the 'Larger than Local Study', such as the strong economic driving force of Newport and high employment take-up rates in Caerphilly, will impact on employment growth in Monmouthshire.
- Allocations at Quay Point (13.76ha) and Gwent Europark (13.30ha) account for almost 67% of available supply in the County. For the development of these sites to occur, significant infrastructure investment is required before making them available for development in the medium to long term. With a reliance on these sites to deliver a high number of B-Class jobs, the council needs to demonstrate how their timing and phasing relates to the delivery of 481 new jobs per annum.
- Significant new employment land allocations will be required in Abergavenny and Monmouth to support proposed housing growth. Failure to provide suitable sites will result in further out commuting contrary to one of the stated aims of the plan. Alternatively, a higher proportion of housing growth could be allocated to settlements where employment land is available.

Gypsy and Traveller Provision

No Gypsy and Traveller Assessment (GTAA) for the replacement plan has been included in the evidence base (the Council submitted a draft assessment for approval to Welsh Government's Communities Division early 2021). The draft assessment identifies a need for 13 pitches over the plan period (2018-2033) with 9 residential pitches 2020-2025 and a further 4 pitches 2026-2033.

A GTAA must be agreed by Welsh Ministers by Deposit stage and cover the full plan period 2018 to 2033. Provision must be made in the Deposit plan for appropriate and deliverable site allocations to meet the identified need in the timescales set out. Failure to agree the GTAA and meet the identified need, specifically in the short to medium term, is likely to result in the plan being considered 'unsound'. We would therefore encourage your authority to work with our Communities Division to ensure an agreed GTAA is in place by Plan Deposit.

Minerals

The second review of the Regional Technical Statement (RTS2) has been endorsed by Monmouthshire County Council and identifies that no allocations are required in the plan period for crushed rock or sand and gravel. It is a requirement of the RTS2 for all authorities, including Monmouthshire, to agree a Statement of Sub-Regional Collaboration (SSRC) on their contribution to the future provision of aggregate production in the Former Gwent sub-region, which also includes the authorities of Newport, Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent. A SSRC is pertinent for the region as the RTS2 identifies a shortfall of crushed rock, particularly in Newport and Torfaen, with extensive unworked reserves in Monmouthshire.

Other Matters to address at Deposit Stage

- Ensure all development is compliant with TAN15 and flood risk issues. This should be done in compliance with the revised TAN15, anticipated to be published September 2021.
- Set out a robust housing trajectory, clearly identifying the phasing and timing of sites, linked to any infrastructure required to deliver the housing requirement. Tables 16, 17, 19, 20, 21 and Diagram 16 in the DPM should be completed.
- The selected strategic growth options should be progressed further, with greater clarity, including schematic diagrams and the key issues which need to be addressed for each site to come forward.
- Ensure there is a net benefit for biodiversity (PPW, paragraphs 6.4.5 – 6.4.8).
- Prepare an Infrastructure Plan to demonstrate how relevant infrastructure to support development will come forward (DPM, paragraphs 5.125 – 5.128).
- For some strategic development sites, there is potential for cumulative trunk road capacity impacts, especially at Abergavenny and Chepstow. All strategic development sites should be supported by Transport Assessments that are underpinned by the Welsh Transport Strategy and have regard to Active Travel and air quality, especially in existing Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).
- Undertake further work on the contribution renewable energy can make to assist with climate change and decarbonisation.

Future Wales: the National Plan 2040 – Key Policies and South East Wales Regional Strategic Diagram

Future Wales: the National Plan 2040 - Policies 1, 4, 5, 7 and 33

Policy 1 – Where Wales will Grow

The Welsh Government supports sustainable growth in all parts of Wales. In three National Growth Areas there will be growth in employment and housing opportunities and investment in infrastructure. The National Growth Areas are:

- Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys
- Swansea Bay and Llanelli
- Wrexham and Deeside

The National Growth Areas are complemented by Regional Growth Areas which will grow, develop and offer a variety of public and commercial services at regional scale. There are Regional Growth Areas in three regions:

- The South West
- Mid Wales
- The North

Development and growth in towns and villages in rural areas should be of appropriate scale and support local aspirations and need.

Policy 4 – Supporting Rural Communities

The Welsh Government supports sustainable and vibrant rural communities.

Strategic and Local Development Plans must identify their rural communities, assess their needs and set out policies that support them. Policies should consider how age balanced communities can be achieved, where depopulation should be reversed and consider the role of new affordable and market housing, employment opportunities, local services and greater mobility in tackling these challenges.

Policy 5 – Supporting the Rural Economy

The Welsh Government supports sustainable, appropriate and proportionate economic growth in rural towns that is planned and managed through Strategic and Local Development Plans.

Strategic and Local Development Plans must plan positively to meet the employment needs of rural areas including employment arising from the foundational economy; the agricultural and forestry sector, including proposals for diversification; start-ups and micro businesses.

The Welsh Government also strongly supports development of innovative and emerging technology businesses and sectors to help rural areas unlock their full potential, broadening the economic base, and creating higher paid jobs.

Policy 7 – Delivering Affordable Homes

The Welsh Government will increase delivery of affordable homes by ensuring that funding for these homes is effectively allocated and utilised.

Through their Strategic and Local Development Plans planning authorities should develop strong evidence based policy frameworks to deliver affordable housing, including setting development plan targets based on regional estimates of housing need and local assessments. In response to local and regional

needs, planning authorities should identify sites for affordable housing led developments and explore all opportunities to increase the supply of affordable housing.

Policy 33 – National Growth Area – Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys

Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys will be the main focus for growth and investment in the South East region.

Strategic and Local Development Plans should recognise the National Growth Area as the focus for strategic economic and housing growth; essential services and facilities; advanced manufacturing; transport and digital infrastructure.

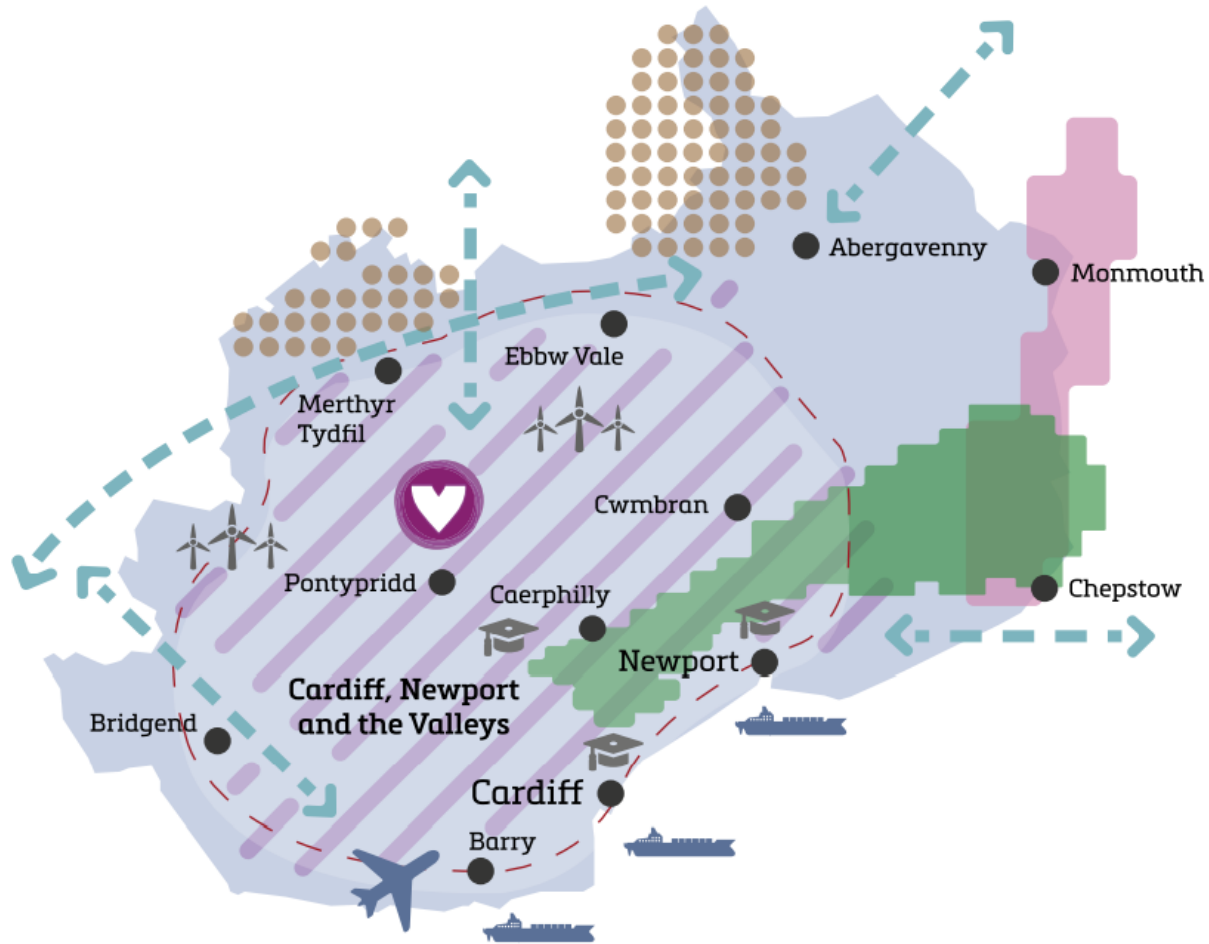
The Welsh Government will work with regional bodies and local authorities in the region and in neighbouring regions of England to promote and enhance Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys' strategic role and ensure key investment decisions support places in the National Growth Area and the wider region.


The Welsh Government supports Cardiff's status as an internationally competitive city and a core city on the UK stage. Cardiff will retain and extend its role as the primary national centre for culture, sport, leisure, media, the night time economy and finance.


The Welsh Government supports an increased strategic role for Newport as a focus for sustainable, long-term growth and investment. The Welsh Government will work with authorities within the region and in England to promote Newport's strategic role and ensure key investment decisions in Wales and England support Newport.


The Welsh Government supports co-ordinated regeneration and investment in the Valleys area to improve well-being, increase prosperity and address social inequalities. The Welsh Government will work with regional bodies, local authorities, businesses, the third sector, agencies and stakeholders to support investment, including in the manufacturing sector, and to ensure a regional approach is taken to addressing socio-economic issues in the Valleys. The Welsh Government supports development in the wider region which addresses the opportunities and challenges arising from the region's geographic location and its functions as a Capital Region.


Future Wales: the National Plan 2040 – South East Wales Regional Strategic Diagram





- National Growth Area 


- National Connectivity 


- Ports 


- Green Belt – Areas for Consideration 


- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty 


- National Parks 

- Valleys Regional Park 

- South East Metro 

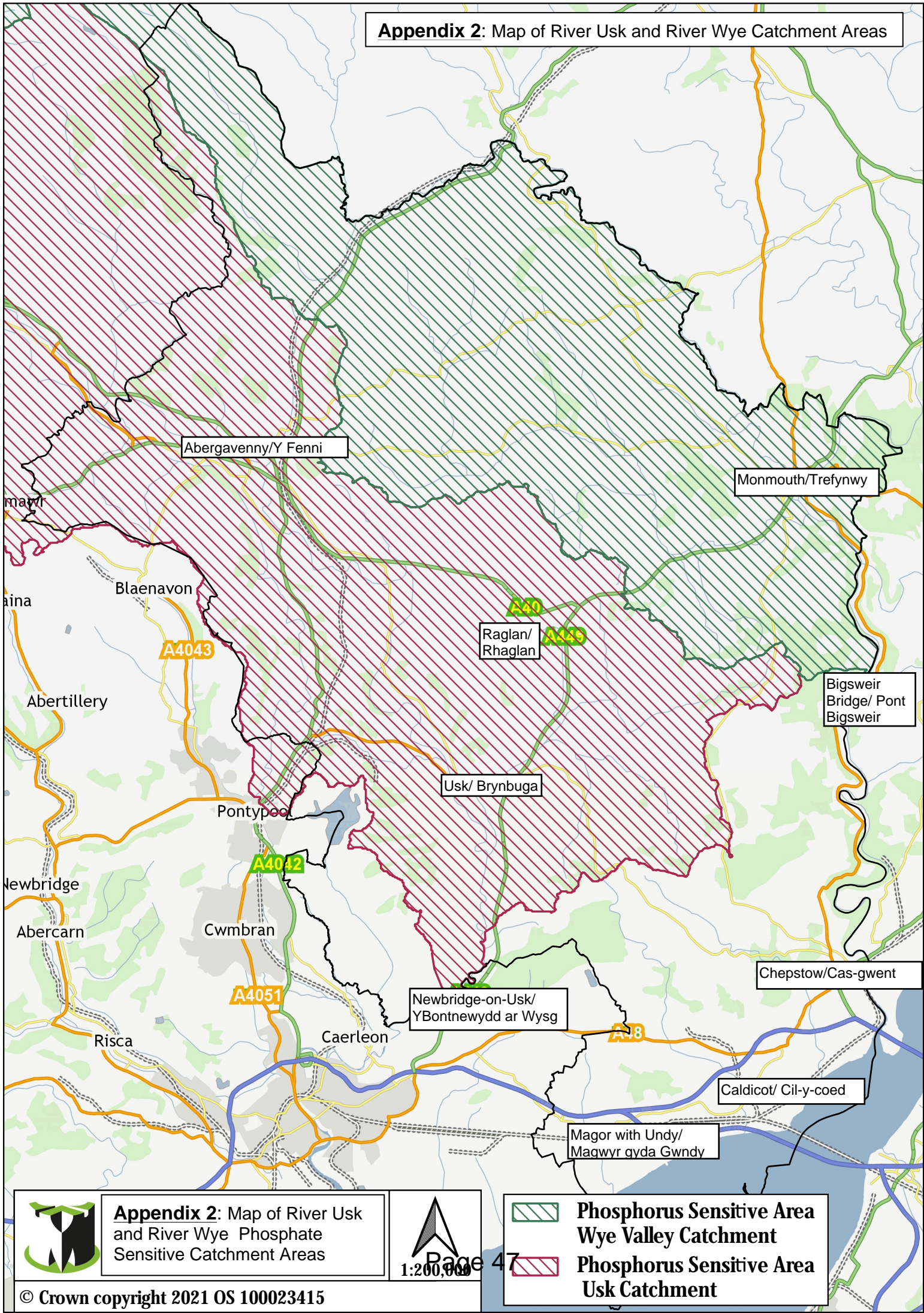
- Cardiff Airport 

- Pre-assessed Areas for Wind Energy 

- Universities 



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Appendix 2: Map of River Usk and River Wye Catchment Areas



Appendix 2: Map of River Usk and River Wye Phosphate Sensitive Catchment Areas

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 **Phosphorus Sensitive Area Wye Valley Catchment**
 **Phosphorus Sensitive Area Usk Catchment**

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Equality and Future Generations Evaluation

<p>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Mark Hand</p> <p>Phone no: 07773478579 E-mail: markhand@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>To inform Place Scrutiny Committee of the proposed way of progressing the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP), ensuring that the RLDP delivers on the Council's objectives and addresses key local issues, in particular affordable housing, demographic balance and the climate and nature emergency, and to seek Committee's feedback/comments as pre-decision Scrutiny prior to the matter being reported to Council on 22nd September.</p>
<p>Name of Service area</p> <p>Planning (Planning Policy)</p>	<p>Date 15/09/2022</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	<p>The Proposal aims to have a positive impact on people of all ages, particularly through increasing opportunities for the younger population to both live and work within Monmouthshire to assist in ensuring a balanced demography whilst also supporting the needs of the older population socially, economically and by ensuring an appropriate housing mix to meet different needs. This would benefit younger people but not to the detriment of older age groups.</p>	<p>Opportunities to deliver on these objectives, in particular delivering affordable homes and job opportunities, are limited in the upper Wye catchment due to the need for the Spatial Strategy to respond to the environmental constraint of water quality in the River Wye, for which no deliverable strategic solution has yet been identified.</p>	<p>The Proposal seeks to provide a more balanced demographic profile for Monmouthshire. This will inform the RLDP Preferred Strategy which will set out the Plan's growth and spatial strategy for Monmouthshire up to 2033. The recent Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated the importance of sustainable communities and a balanced demography to support the older age groups.</p> <p>Consideration will be given to how currently stalled sites in Monmouth and the Upper Wye catchment could come forward in the future should a water quality solution be identified and implemented.</p> <p>Placemaking will be embedded throughout the Plan, with masterplanning and design policies ensuring that quality places are created that are safe, accessible and pleasant for all.</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?
Disability	<p>The Proposal recognises the need to ensure the provision of a wide-ranging choice of homes including meeting affordable and accessible housing needs as far as possible. It also recognises the importance of the health and well-being of people and aims to create attractive, safe and accessible places to live, work and visit. The recent Covid-19 pandemic has emphasised 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>Opportunities to deliver on these objectives, in particular delivering a wide-ranging choice of homes including affordable and accessible homes and job opportunities, are limited in the upper Wye catchment due to the need for the Spatial Strategy to respond to the environmental constraint of water quality in the River Wye, for which no deliverable strategic solution has yet been identified.</p>	<p>The Proposal aims to support the well-being of current and future generations that are more inclusive, cohesive, prosperous and vibrant. This will inform the RLDP Preferred Strategy which will set out the Plan's growth and spatial strategy for Monmouthshire up to 2033.</p> <p>Consideration will be given to how currently stalled sites in Monmouth and the Upper Wye catchment could come forward in the future should a water quality solution be identified and implemented.</p> <p>Placemaking will be embedded throughout the Plan, with masterplanning and design policies ensuring that quality places are created that are safe, accessible and pleasant for all.</p>
Gender reassignment	None.	None.	<p>Placemaking will be embedded throughout the Plan, with masterplanning and design policies ensuring that quality places are created that are safe, accessible and pleasant for all.</p>

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Marriage or civil partnership	None.	None.	N/A
Pregnancy or maternity	None.	None.	Placemaking will be embedded throughout the Plan, with masterplanning and design policies ensuring that quality places are created that are safe, accessible and pleasant for all.
Race	None.	None.	Placemaking will be embedded throughout the Plan, with masterplanning and design policies ensuring that quality places are created that are safe, accessible and pleasant for all.
Religion or Belief	None.	None.	Placemaking will be embedded throughout the Plan, with masterplanning and design policies ensuring that quality places are created that are safe, accessible and pleasant for all.

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	<p>One of the challenges facing the County is the imbalance between male and female earnings, although this situation is improving. The Proposal aims to provide economic growth and employment provision, which could indirectly impact on wage equality and therefore access to housing and quality of life.</p>	<p>The jobs in the foundation economy are disproportionately occupied by females. This sector is vital to support our communities, as are jobs in tourism. Neither sectors are generally well-paid, although they often offer flexible working conditions that can assist work-life balance. Wage levels are not within the remit of planning policy and policies to try to seek only high paid jobs could be to the detriment of this vital economic sector.</p> <p>Opportunities to deliver on these objectives, including delivering job opportunities, are limited in the upper Wye catchment due to the need for the Spatial Strategy to respond to the environmental constraint of water quality in the River Wye, for which no deliverable strategic solution has yet been identified.</p>	<p>The Proposal aims to support economic growth and prosperity. This will inform the RLDP Preferred Strategy which will set out the Plan's growth and spatial strategy for Monmouthshire up to 2033. Other policy tools beyond the RLDP are available to the Council could assist with securing well-paid employment opportunities within the County.</p> <p>Consideration will be given to how currently stalled sites in Monmouth and the Upper Wye catchment could come forward in the future should a water quality solution be identified and implemented.</p> <p>Placemaking will be embedded throughout the Plan, with masterplanning and design policies ensuring that quality places are created that are safe, accessible and pleasant for all.</p>
Sexual Orientation	None.	None.	<p>Placemaking will be embedded throughout the Plan, with masterplanning and design policies ensuring that quality places are created that are safe, accessible and pleasant for all.</p>

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>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 Proposal seeks to tackle house price unaffordability, which currently prevents some of our communities accessing suitable housing within the County, by maximising affordable housing delivery on new housing allocations, reflecting the Administration’s manifesto commitment to deliver 50% affordable homes on new housing sites. This is likely to benefit younger people in particular, which in turn will make our ageing communities more socially sustainable. Good quality and affordable housing is important in achieving poverty reduction and equitable prosperity, and supporting the best start in life. Good spatial planning helps to build cohesive communities. 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</p>	<p>People in poverty or on low incomes might not be able to access digital opportunities to work from home and/or are more likely to be employed in roles that cannot work from home.</p> <p>Opportunities to deliver on the evidence-based objectives, in particular delivering affordable homes and job opportunities, are limited in the upper Wye catchment due to the need for the Spatial Strategy to respond to the environmental constraint of water quality in the River Wye, for which no deliverable strategic solution has yet been identified.</p>	<p>Future stages of the RLDP (Preferred Strategy and Deposit) will set out the planning policy framework to assist in addressing these key issues. The Preferred Strategy will set out our commitment to maximise the provision of affordable homes on new housing allocations and to deliver zero carbon ready new homes.</p> <p>We will consider the need for planning policies in the Deposit Plan to control the housing mix of the market housing on development sites, to ensure it helps create mixed communities and supports the retention of younger people who can afford an open market home were there sufficient supply of 2 and 3 bedroom homes.</p> <p>We will consider the need for small affordable housing schemes in rural settlements similar to the current LDP’s 60/40 sites in the Deposit RLDP.</p> <p>We will consider a range of policies in the</p>

safe, secure and suitable housing. Requiring new homes to be zero carbon ready will improve energy efficiency for new build properties which will reduce the cost of living. The provision of suitable employment land, planning policy tools to support business and the use of other (non-planning) tools to stimulate economic activity will increase employment opportunities within the County. In accordance with the WFGA, the RLDP also seeks to prevent future problems and will therefore continue to avoid new development in flood risk areas and will seek zero carbon ready development to help address the climate emergency and also tackle issues such as fuel poverty.

Deposit RLDP around the climate change theme to minimise the carbon footprint of new development, and therefore mitigate negative impacts associated with the proposed growth.

A policy requirement for broadband infrastructure provision will maximise opportunities for all to access the technology to work from home where possible, reducing commuting and associated costs.

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 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. Any level of growth for the County relies on in-migration, some of which, whether English or Welsh or other nationality, will choose Welsh Medium education for their children. Also in-migration to Monmouthshire comes from other areas in Wales (including rural Welsh speaking areas e.g. Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion, Gwynedd, Ynys Môn, Denbighshire). This is in the main due to the significantly increased employment opportunities offered in Cardiff, Newport and in adjacent areas of England e.g. Bristol, Gloucester etc. Monmouthshire with its border location and transport links is accessible to all of these areas. This in-migration, together with the ambition to retain and attract younger families, will expose more children to Welsh curriculum education in all schools, increasing the number of Welsh speakers in the County. Future stages of the RLDP process (Preferred Strategy and Deposit) will be</p>	<p>Any level of growth for the County relies on in-migration, being a border County a proportion of this is likely to be from England.</p>	<p>The Proposal aims to support culture and the Welsh language.</p> <p>We will liaise with the Local Education Authority to understand if the proposed growth necessitates additional Welsh medium school provision.</p> <p>There are already significant plans and proposals in place in terms of expanding Welsh Medium education in Monmouthshire. This is due to a number of factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the increased popularity of the Welsh Language. - the opportunity for children to be become bilingual - the increased employment opportunities that this affords them in Wales.

	subject to a Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA) as part of the wider Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Reports (ISAR).		
Operational Recruitment & Training of workforce	An expansion of the provision of Welsh Medium education in the County will increase the opportunities for Welsh speakers to apply for vacancies within the Council thus increasing the Council's Welsh speaking capacity.	None of the current Planning Policy Team are fluent 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 statutory documentation on the RLDP and associated consultation along with notices, social media and general correspondence will be bilingual. 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 . When requests are made for people to be added to the RLDP consultation database we will record language choice and communicate accordingly.	None of the Planning Policy 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 and is included within the RLDP Objective relating to Culture, Heritage and Welsh Language to ensure there is no negative impact. Future stages of the RLDP process will be subject to a Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA) as part of the wider Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Reports (ISAR). We will review this further if any additional assessment is required as we go through the RLDP process.

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 Proposal identifies the preferred level of growth over the RLDP period and broad spatial distribution of this growth. As well as housing growth, the Proposal aims to provide economic growth and employment provision in both urban and rural areas.</p> <p>Negative: Careful site selection is required to minimise loss of best and most versatile agricultural land and mineral resource.</p>	<p>The Proposal has been assessed against the RLDP Objectives relating to economic growth/employment and retail centres, which have been set in order to address the identified issues relating to creating a prosperous 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 Proposal has been assessed against the RLDP Objectives including the impact of development on the natural environment in already constrained areas. It is, however, recognised that developments could improve connectivity through opportunities to create new linkages. The limited supply of brownfield land within the County is a recognised issue. The Proposal has been assessed against a climate change objective which recognises that we are in a climate emergency. The RLDP will set out a commitment to deliver zero carbon ready new homes. Resilience of new development to aspects of climate change can be achieved via the design and location of new developments. All developments can provide opportunities to minimise carbon by providing opportunities for renewable energy generation, seeking to reduce commuting,</p>	<p>The Proposal has been assessed against the RLDP Objectives relating to Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Landscape, Flood Risk, Minerals and Waste, Land and Natural Resources which have been set in order to address the identified issues relating to creating a resilient Wales.</p> <p>There are water quality issues in the River Usk and River Wye SACs. There is a legal and national policy requirement to maintain and enhance ecology. This is reflected in the Proposal which avoids new allocations in the River Wye catchment area given the inability to deliver a strategic solution to phosphate mitigation in the Monmouth WWTW at this time.</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>supporting use of ultra-low emission vehicles and public transport, and the provision of quality Green Infrastructure.</p> <p>There are phosphate water quality issues in the River Usk and River Wye SACs. There is a legal and national policy requirement to maintain and enhance ecology. This is reflected in the Proposal which avoids new allocations in the Upper Wye catchment area given the inability to deliver a strategic solution to phosphate mitigation in the Monmouth WWTW at this time.</p> <p>The recent pandemic has emphasised the need to enable such responses in delivering sustainable and resilient communities. It has also emphasised the importance of placemaking 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 would likely result in further pressure on the natural environment. New developments could nevertheless improve Green Infrastructure and ecological connectivity through opportunities to create new linkages. The value and importance of having access to locally accessible open/green spaces to assist in recreation and health and well-being has been heightened during the recent pandemic.</p> <p>The environmental benefit of avoiding new site allocations in the upper Wye catchment is countered</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?
	by the impact this has on achieving the social, economic and cultural objectives. However, without a deliverable strategic solution to water quality issues in the upper Wye catchment, this environmental constraint needs to take priority.	
<p>A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>Positive: The Proposal identifies the preferred level of growth over the RLDP period and broad spatial distribution of this growth (including avoiding new allocations in the River Wye catchment due to phosphate water quality issues). It is recognised that any developments will be encouraged to support healthier lifestyles and provide sufficient open space. The RLDP will encourage Active Travel and will reflect the Integrated Network Maps. The recent Covid-19 pandemic has emphasised the vulnerability of those in our communities with underlying health conditions, as well as the importance of placemaking and Green Infrastructure for the provision of open spaces in close proximity to homes for physical and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>The need for affordable housing, both in terms of purchase/rent and living costs, is being exacerbated by the current cost of living crisis. The Proposal seeks to maximise affordable housing delivery and provide net-zero ready homes.</p> <p>Negative: Higher levels of growth have the potential to increase commuting which could affect areas with air quality problems, however, the RLDP seeks to provide for jobs within the County. Moreover, the recent pandemic has demonstrated that a significant</p>	<p>The Proposal has been assessed against the RLDP Objectives including Health and Well-being in order to address the identified issues relating to creating a healthier Wales. The recent Covid-19 pandemic has emphasised the vulnerability of those in our communities with underlying health conditions, as well as 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>


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?
	proportion of our communities can work from home which is likely to continue over the longer term.	
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>Positive: The Proposal identifies the preferred level of growth over the RLDP period and broad spatial distribution of this growth (including avoiding new allocations in the River Wye catchment due to phosphate water quality issues), and considers the balance of housing, employment and infrastructure in both urban and rural areas. The recent pandemic has emphasised the importance of socially sustainable communities and ensuring a balanced demography.</p> <p>Negative: Lower growth levels would result in communities that are not socially /economically sustainable.</p>	<p>The Proposal has been assessed against the RLDP Objectives including housing, place-making, communities, rural communities, infrastructure and accessibility in order to address the identified issues relating to creating a Wales of cohesive communities.</p> <p>Policies included in the Preferred Strategy and Deposit Plan will consider design and placemaking in more detail.</p>
<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 Proposal identifies the preferred level of growth over the RLDP period and broad spatial distribution of this growth (including avoiding new allocations in the River Wye catchment due to water quality issues). It has been assessed against the RLDP Objectives including the impact of options on climate change. The climate change objective recognises that we are in a climate emergency and has committed to strive to limit the increase in global temperatures to 1.5°C. The RLDP will set out a commitment to deliver net zero carbon ready new homes reflecting our commitment to respond to the climate emergency. In addition, the recent pandemic</p>	<p>The Proposal has been assessed against the RLDP Objectives including climate change which has been set in order to address the identified issues relating to creating a globally responsible Wales. Climate change considerations will inform the RLDP's planning policy framework which will include policies, proposals and land use allocations.</p> <p>Section 6 of the Environment Act already requires biodiversity enhancement, which will help address the nature emergency.</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>has demonstrated that a significant proportion of our communities can work from home which is likely to continue over the longer term. The RLDP seeks to reduce the commuting ratio and to enable home-working, reflective of recent trends. The RLDP will also include a specific policies relating to climate change.</p> <p>The Proposal has been drafted in tandem with the Motions for Rivers and the Ocean, also being presented to this Committee.</p> <p>Negative: None.</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>Positive: The Proposal identifies the preferred level of growth over the RLDP period and broad spatial distribution of this growth (including avoiding new allocations in the River Wye catchment due to phosphate water quality issues). It has been assessed against the RLDP Objectives including the impact on Culture, Heritage and the Welsh language.</p> <p>Negative: Any level of growth for the County relies on in-migration, being a border County a proportion of this is likely to be from England.</p>	<p>The Proposal has been assessed against the RLDP Objectives including including including Culture, Heritage and the Welsh Language which has been set in order to address the identified issues relating to creating a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language. We will liaise with the Local Education Authority to understand if the proposed growth necessitates additional Welsh medium school provision.</p>
<p>A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances</p>	<p>Positive: The Proposal identifies the preferred level of growth over the RLDP period and broad spatial distribution of this growth (including avoiding new allocations in the River Wye catchment due to phosphate water quality issues). Housing and</p>	<p>The Proposal has been assessed against the RLDP Objective relating to demography which has been set in order to address the identified issues relating to creating a more equal Wales. The recent pandemic has highlighted the links between poverty</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>economic growth in both urban and rural areas will assist in balancing the demography across the County and in addressing the County's affordability challenges. The Proposal aims to readdress the higher proportion of older age groups and lower proportion of young adults compared to the Welsh average. One of the key objectives of the RLDP is to deliver much needed affordable housing, having a safe secure and suitable home gives people the best start in life.</p> <p>Negative: None.</p>	<p>and resilience, as well as the higher level of homelessness. The Proposal seeks to take action to enable younger 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 jobs.</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 Proposal will inform the RLDP revised Preferred Strategy which will set out the level of growth for housing/employment and the spatial distribution of this growth across the County. The revised Preferred Strategy will also set out the RLDP vision, the role of which is to clarify the core purpose of the RLDP and provide a framework for developing the Plan and future detailed policies. The Vision will set the overarching context for Monmouthshire for the period up to 2033.</p>	<p>The Proposal has been assessed against the RLDP Objectives in order to address the issues, challenges, opportunities and drivers facing the County.</p>
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>The Proposal has been informed by a range of evidence. We have engaged with consultees at key stages from the outset of the RLDP process to build consensus including on the issues, vision and objectives, and the growth and spatial options.</p> <p>Pre-deposit plan preparation and engagement has also included: collaborative working with neighbouring local authorities; Member involvement; discussions with key stakeholders including internal departments and external organisations including key infrastructure providers.</p> <p>We will continue to engage/consult on future key stages of the RLDP process, including the next key stage - the Preferred Strategy. We have met with the Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement to discuss how this area can be strengthened.</p>	<p>The RLDP Delivery Agreement ensures full stakeholder /community's involvement to shape the RLDP.</p> <p>Future key stages of the RLDP process will be subject to engagement/consultation with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders. The next key stage of the RLDP process is the Preferred Strategy.</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>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p> <p>Involvement</p>	<p>The Proposal has been informed by a range of evidence. We have engaged with consultees at key stages from the outset of the RLDP process to build consensus including on the issues, vision and objectives, and the growth and spatial options.</p> <p>Pre-deposit plan preparation and engagement has also included: collaborative working with neighbouring local authorities; Member involvement; discussions with key stakeholders including internal departments and external organisations including key infrastructure providers.</p> <p>The RLDP Delivery Agreement Community Involvement Scheme sets out the way in which the Council proposes to involve the local community and other stakeholders in the preparation of the RLDP. We have met with the Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement to discuss how this area can be strengthened.</p>	<p>The Revised Delivery Agreement ensures full stakeholder /community's involvement to shape the RLDP.</p> <p>Future key stages of the RLDP process will be subject to engagement/consultation with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders. The next key stage of the RLDP process is the Preferred Strategy.</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>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>The Proposal will inform the RLDP revised Preferred Strategy which will set out the level of growth for housing/employment and the spatial distribution of this growth across the County to address the core issues of delivering much needed affordable housing at pace and scale, responding to the climate and nature emergency by delivering net zero carbon ready new homes for our communities, and ensuring our communities are socially and economically sustainable by attracting and retaining younger people to rebalance our ageing demographic.</p> <p>The Spatial Strategy avoids new site allocations in the upper Wye catchment due to the absence of a strategic solution to water quality issues at this time. The Proposal has been prepared in tandem with the Motion for Rivers and Ocean report also on this Committee agenda.</p>	<p>The Proposal will inform the RLDP revised Preferred Strategy which will seek to address our key issues/challenges/opportunities (in a land use context) and support delivery of the Council’s vision for the future of the County and its communities.</p> <p>The RLDP Delivery Agreement seeks to ensure that the Plan will be delivered in accordance with the project timetable and ensures full stakeholder /community involvement to shape the RLDP. A revised Delivery Agreement which will amend the project timetable for Plan preparation, will be reported to Council alongside the revised Preferred Strategy.</p>




Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies

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>The Proposal will inform the RLDP revised Preferred Strategy which will set out the level of growth for housing/employment and the spatial distribution of this growth across the County. The Proposal has been assessed against the RLDP Objectives which seek to address the issues/challenges/opportunities identified (in a land use context) and support delivery of the Council's vision/objectives for the future of the County and its communities. The RLDP will be subject to an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) including Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Well-being of Future Generations Assessment (WBFG), Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA), and Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA)), whose findings will be used to inform the development of the RLDP strategy, policies and site allocations in order to ensure that the Plan will be promoting sustainable development.</p> <p>The RLDP will also set out the Vision which will set the overarching context for Monmouthshire for the period up to 2033. MCC recognises that we are in a climate emergency and nature emergency and has committed addressing these. The RLDP will have a key role in addressing these issues.</p>	<p>The Proposal will inform the RLDP revised Preferred Strategy which will be subject to statutory consultation in December 2022-January 2023. The RLDP will be subject to an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) including Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Well-being of Future Generations Assessment (WBFG), Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA), and Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA)), whose findings will be used to inform the development of the RLDP strategy, policies and site allocations in order to ensure that the Plan will be promoting sustainable development.</p> <p>We will continue to work closely with our neighbours, both in Wales and England, including the joint procurement of evidence as applicable.</p> <p>The RLDP will align with the new Integrated Network Maps for Active Travel, and will be accompanied by an Infrastructure Plan, revised Local Transport Plan and Economic Development Strategy.</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	None.	None.	N/A
Corporate Parenting	The RLDP has the potential to provide affordable housing, the delivery and allocation of which should be cognisant of the needs of children leaving care	None.	N/A

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

	<p>A range of background evidence and data has been used to inform the Proposal, from a wide range of sources both internal and external to the Council, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues, Vision and Objectives Paper (Updated June 2019) Draft-Issues-Vision-and-Objectives-Paper-June-2019.pdf (monmouthshire.gov.uk) • Review of RLDP Issues, Vision and Objectives and Evidence Base in light of Covid-19 (September 2020) Monmouthshire-RLDP-Review-of-Issues-Vision-Objectives-and-Evidence-Base-in-Light-of-Covid.pdf • Monmouthshire Local Development Plan Review Report (March 2018) https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2018/03/Final-Review-Report-1.pdf • Monmouthshire Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Reports (2015- 2021) https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/annual-monitoring/ldp-annual-monitoring-report • RLDP Preferred Strategy (Consultation Draft, June 2021) Preferred-Strategy-June-2021.pdf (monmouthshire.gov.uk) • Initial Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Report (AECOM, June 2021) https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2021/07/Monmouthshire-Initial-ISA-Report-June-2021-1.pdf • HRA of the Monmouthshire RLDP Preferred Strategy (AECOM, June 2021) https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2021/07/Monmouthshire-Development-Plan-HRA_FINAL_280621.pdf • Preferred Strategy June 2021 consultation responses • RLDP Delivery Agreement (Second Revision, October 2020) https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2020/11/Revised-DA-October-2020-Final.pdf • Updating the RLDP Demographic Evidence, Edge Analytics (November 2021)
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- Monmouthshire RLDP Candidate Sites Register (February 2022) [Monmouthshire Replacement Local Development Plan Candidate Sites Register \(Electoral Wards 2022\) - Monmouthshire](#)

External sources of data include Welsh Government, Cadw, Natural Resources Wales, Hometrack, Office for National Statistics and Stats Wales.

- *Equalities dashboard link.* [Equality data dashboard for EQIA's 2020.xlsx](#)

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?

Positive -

The Proposal will inform the RLDP revised Preferred Strategy which will set out the level of growth for housing/employment and the spatial distribution of this growth across the County to address the core issues of delivering much needed affordable homes, responding to the climate and nature emergency by delivering zero carbon ready new homes for our communities, and ensuring our communities are socially and economically sustainable by attracting and retaining younger people to rebalance our ageing demographic. This is a positive impact for social justice.

The revised Preferred Strategy will be the subject of further engagement/consultation and political reporting as the RLDP is progressed.

Negative –

People in poverty or on low incomes might not be able to access digital opportunities to work from home and/or are more likely to be employed in roles that cannot work from home.

Opportunities to deliver on the evidence-based objectives, in particular delivering affordable homes and job opportunities, are limited in the upper Wye catchment due to the need for the Spatial Strategy to respond to the environmental constraint of water quality in the River Wye, for which no deliverable strategic solution has yet been identified.

There are no negative implications for corporate parenting or safeguarding.

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
Inform the Place Scutiny Committee of the proposed way of progressing the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP), ensuring that the RLDP delivers on the Council's objectives and addresses key local issues, in	Place Scutiny Committee 15 th September 2022.	Head of Placemaking, Regeneration, Highways and Flooding Head of Planning

particular affordable housing, demographic balance and the climate and nature emergency.		Planning Policy Team
Seek Council's endorsement of the proposed way of progressing the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP), ensuring that the RLDP delivers on the Council's objectives and addresses key local issues, in particular affordable housing, demographic balance and the climate and nature emergency.	Council 22 nd September 2022. If Council endorses the proposed way of progressing the RLDP, a revised Preferred Strategy based on this strategy option will be reported to Council in December 2022 for endorsement to be issued for statutory consultation/engagement in December 2022 - January 2023. A Revised Delivery Agreement, which will amend the project timetable for Plan preparation, will be reported to the same Council meeting for agreement and endorsement to submit to the Welsh Government for Ministerial approval.	Head of Placemaking, Regeneration, Highways and Flooding Head of Planning Planning Policy Team

10. VERSION CONTROL: The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process to demonstrate how you have considered and built in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
0.0	LDP Review Report and Delivery Agreement	20/04/2018	Draft for Council 10 th May 2018
1.0	Issues, Vision and Objectives scrutiny	01/02/2019	Draft for Economy & Development Select Committee 14 th February 2019

1.1	Issues, Vision and Objectives endorsement following consultation	09/04/2019	Draft for Cabinet 5 th June 2019
1.2	Issues, Vision and Objectives endorsement following consultation	14/06/2019	Amended for Cabinet 3 rd July 2019 to reflect 16 th May 2019's Climate Emergency declaration by Council
2.0	Growth and Spatial Options endorsement to consult	07/06/2019	Draft for Cabinet 3 rd July 2019
2.1	Growth and Spatial Options scrutiny	09/07/2019	Draft for Economy & Development Select Committee 17 th July 2019
3.0	Preferred Strategy endorsement to consult	11/12/2019	Draft for Council report 5 th March 2020
3.1	Preferred Strategy endorsement to consult	17/02/2020	Social Justice Strategy reviewed with Judith Langdon
4.0	Revised Delivery Agreement	05/03/2020	Timetable amended further to account for slippage as a result of the pre-election period preceding the December 2019 General Election, the additional time and work needed to inform the Preferred Strategy and delays associated with joint working with neighbouring local authorities on joint evidence base work.
4.1	Revised Delivery Agreement and review of Issues, Vision and Objectives and of evidence base in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic.	07/10/2020	Timetable amended further to account for Covid-19 pandemic and revised Welsh Government population and household projections.
5.0	Revised Growth and Spatial Options scrutiny	17/11//2020	Draft for Economic Development Select Committee 10 th December 2020
5.1	Revised Growth and Spatial Options endorsement to consult, including identifying growth option 5 and spatial option 2 as the proposals at this stage of the process.	03/12/2020	Draft for Cabinet report 16 th December 2020
6.0	Preferred Strategy Consultation endorsement to consult.	24/06/2021	Draft for Council Report 24 th June 2021
7.0	Pre-decision scrutiny by Place Scrutiny Committee of the proposal to progress the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) prior to it being reported to Council on 22 nd September 2022.	02/09/2022	Draft for Scrutiny Committee and Council reports

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APPENDIX 4

RLDP Options Appraisal

Options	Population, Dwellings and Jobs Growth over the Plan Period 2018-2033	Benefits	Risks
<p>1. Proceed with the existing Preferred Strategy (as consulted on July-August 2021)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population growth: 12,443 (+13.2%) • Net Migration: 18,345 • Dwellings: Total provision approx. 7,605-8,366* homes, including 2,170 - 2,450 affordable homes • Existing Landbank: approx. 4,710 homes** • New Allocations: approx. 2,900 - 3,660 homes, including 1,210 - 1,490 affordable homes. • Jobs: Policy support to provide for 7,215 jobs*** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This option would deliver key outcomes. • Based on robust and credible local evidence • Address key RLDP local evidence-based issues & objectives across the County, including in relation to the delivery of affordable homes, balancing our demography and supporting sustainable economic development. • Momentum on finding solutions to Phosphates • Would be no need to re-consult on the Preferred Strategy which would save time in the Plan preparation process, with earlier Plan adoption and less time without an up-to-date RLDP and associated impacts. • Sufficient level of growth to enable the Council to consider alternative mechanisms for delivering affordable homes for our communities. • Aligns with Policies 4, 5 and 7 of Future Wales: the National Plan 2040 by supporting rural communities and delivering affordable homes. • Would meet key tests of soundness, including Test 2¹ • Evidence base would inform the emerging SE Wales Strategic Development Plan (SDP). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding an evidenced strategic solution for phosphate mitigation in the River Wye catchment highly improbable during the Plan period, meaning that the strategy could not be delivered. • Without an identified strategic phosphate solution for the River Wye catchment, the strategy would be at odds with the Council’s Climate and Nature Emergency Declaration and the emerging Motion for Oceans and Rivers, and would likely result in an NRW objection • WG objection letter would need to be addressed – level of growth considerably higher than prescribed WG level of growth. • The housing trajectory would be questionable given level of growth and Plan period remaining.

¹ Development Plans Manual (WG, March 2020): Soundness Test 2 ‘Is the plan appropriate? (Is the plan appropriate for the area in the light of the evidence?) • Is it locally specific? • Does it address the key issues? • Is it supported by robust, proportionate and credible evidence? • Can the rationale behind the plan’s policies be demonstrated? • Does it seek to meet assessed needs and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development? • Are the vision and the strategy positive and sufficiently aspirational? • Have the ‘real’ alternatives been properly considered? • Is it logical, reasonable and balanced? • Is it coherent and consistent? • Is it clear and focused?’

Options	Population, Dwellings and Jobs Growth over the Plan Period 2018-2033	Benefits	Risks
<p>2. Proceed with Demographic-led strategy² and an amended spatial strategy to take account of the phosphate constraint in the River Wye Catchment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population growth: 9,480 (+10.9%) • Net Migration: 13,950 • Dwellings: Total provision approx. 5,400 – 5,940* homes, including 1,500 - 1,770 affordable homes • Existing Landbank: approx. 3,940 homes**** • New Allocations: approx. 1,460 – 2,000 homes, including 730 – 1,000 new affordable homes***** • Jobs: Policy support to provide 6,240 jobs*** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would deliver growth (homes and jobs) that addresses our locally evidence-based issues and objectives in the south of the County and River Usk catchment area, including in relation to the delivery of affordable homes, rebalancing our demography and responding to the climate and nature emergencies, therefore delivering key outcomes. • Closer alignment between MCC’s preferred growth level and the level of growth prescribed by WG’s July 2021 letter. • All new dwelling allocations would be required to deliver 50% affordable housing, maximising the delivery of essential affordable homes and socially sustainable communities. • Sufficient level of growth to enable the Council to consider alternative mechanisms for delivering affordable homes for our communities. • Spatial strategy would avoid those areas affected by phosphates and without an identified feasible solution. • Aligns with Policies 4, 5 and 7 of Future Wales: the National Plan 2040 by supporting our rural communities and delivering affordable homes. • Would meet key tests of soundness, including Test 2³ • Evidence base would inform the emerging SE Wales Strategic Development Plan (SDP). Simplified strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would not deliver key outcomes/address local evidence-based issues in the River Wye catchment settlements, creating further inequality, however the environmental constraint makes this unavoidable at present. • No affordable housing delivery within Wye Catchment settlements, including Monmouth. • This option would require the Council to reconsult on an updated Preferred Strategy which would add time to the RLDP process, meaning a longer period without an up-to-date plan. • Limited Plan period left on adoption (approx. 8.5 years) which means there is less time to deliver the Plan’s growth, impacting on the housing trajectory. • Viability – would need to evidence that the provision of 50% affordable housing on new sites is viable. This could be challenging in view of our other policy requirements including in relation to zero carbon ready homes and associated infrastructure to support the development. Social Housing Grant (SHG) or other public funding may be required for some sites, requiring a change to current SHG rules.

² demographic-led option for the LPA area (i.e. excludes the BBNP area within Monmouthshire) using ONS 2020 MYE base and applying the same assumptions as the existing Preferred Strategy in relation to migration, household membership rates and commuting ratio.

³ As footnote 1 above.

<p>3. Proceed with a minimum growth option as per the July 2021 WG letters, combined with an amended spatial strategy which takes account of the phosphate constraint in the River Wye Catchment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population growth: 8,050 (+9.3%) • Net Migration: 12,450 • Dwellings: approx. 4,280 – 4,700, including 940 – 1,150 affordable homes • Existing Landbank: approx. 3,940 homes**** • New Allocations: approx. 330 – 760 homes, including 170-380 affordable homes***** • Jobs: Policy support to provide 4,290*** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses WG’s consultation response to the RLDP Preferred Strategy (August 2021). • Less environmental impact. • Spatial strategy would avoid those areas affected by phosphates and without an identified feasible solution. • Simplified strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This minimum level of growth is not based on robust and credible local evidence and would not meet our objectives or address our local evidence-based issues (including affordable housing delivery, balancing our demography and more generally supporting our communities) and as such would not meet key tests of soundness at Examination, including Test 2⁴. • Would not deliver the Administration’s manifesto commitment to maximise affordable housing delivery via 50% affordable housing provision on new housing sites as there would be very few new site allocations. This minimal level of provision would make minimal contribution towards addressing our affordable housing need in the County, as evidenced in the LHMA. • Lack of associated investment towards community infrastructure given limited new housing allocations. • This option would not support sustainable economic growth/prosperity and would exacerbate our existing key local issues including housing affordability, homelessness, ageing demographic and rural isolation. As such this option would not deliver on Council’s priority of addressing inequality. • Would not align with Policies 4, 5 and 7 of Future Wales: the National Plan 2040 as this level of growth would not support our rural communities (homes and jobs) or delivery much needed affordable housing. • This option would require the Council to reconsult on an updated Preferred Strategy which would add time to the RLDP process, meaning a longer period without an up-to-date adopted plan
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- Concern that the lack of ambition associated with the growth level and its negative implications for our local communities would be replicated in the emerging SDP. Local evidence-based issues, including affordability, demography and inequality, would be exacerbated over the longer term via the regional plan.

Options	Population, Dwellings and Jobs Growth over the Plan Period 2018-2033	Benefits	Risks
<p>4. Restart the RLDP process</p>	<p>N/A - would need to reconsider growth options</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This option would mean a review of the evidence base and the use of the most up-to-date evidence, including the 2021 Census which will inform updated national projections in 2023/24. • This option would enable more time to address phosphates issues with a view to identifying and implementing a strategic solution to phosphate mitigation in the River Wye catchment area. • The housing trajectory would be more achievable due to longer Plan period on adoption. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This would lead to a significant delay in the RLDP preparation process resulting in a longer period without an up-to-date RLDP for Monmouthshire. • The evidence base and policy framework in the extant adopted LDP would become increasingly outdated creating a local policy gap and reducing the Council’s ability to positively shape the future. • This option would result in a delay in addressing our key issues, during which time the issues would be exacerbated, including housing affordability, demographic balance and inequality. This would also impact on the delivery of sustainable economic growth. • Associated lack of certainty for our communities and investors. • This option would adversely affect momentum and undermine investment commitments to deliver phosphate solutions. • This option would necessitate re-starting the entire RLDP process, meaning that the issues, vision and objectives, and growth options stages of the RLDP would need to be revisited and evidence base work updated with revised base date and Plan period. This would have cost and resource implications for the Council, site promoters and other stakeholders engaged in the process. • The lack of leadership and direction would reflect poorly on the Council. • There would be a reduced opportunity to shape the SDP from the local level due to the timelines.

*includes 10% flexibility allowance

** The 2021 Preferred Strategy landbank figures included LDP Rollover applications, land supply commitments and allowances within the Wye Valley and the sites taken out due to non-delivery. It did not include completions for 2021/22.

*** Job figures are at a Unitary Authority level as small area data is not available. All other figures refer to the Local Planning Authority area, i.e. excluding Brecon Beacons National Park.

****The new 2022 option's landbank excludes existing land supply commitments and allowances within the River Wye catchment. Land bank also excludes LDP Rollover sites and sites taken out due to non-delivery. It includes completions for 2021/22.

***** Based on all RLDP site allocations being 50% affordable housing.

SUBJECT:	RURAL BROADBAND UPDATE
MEETING:	PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	15 SEPTEMBER 2022
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide an update on rural broadband following a request by the Place Scrutiny Committee made on 30th June 2022.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To receive the update on rural broadband as presented.

3. KEY ISSUES

Background¹

- 3.1 Telecommunications is a reserved power to the UK Parliament, and the UK Government has primary responsibility for setting broadband coverage and coverage targets.

Superfast

- 3.2 From 2010, UK Government policy focused on the roll-out of 'superfast' broadband – usually defined as broadband with download speeds of 30 Megabits per second.

- 3.3 Superfast broadband has mostly been delivered by Fibre-to-the-Cabinet (FTTC) technology, when fibre optic cables run into a street cabinet and then existing copper telephone wires run from the cabinet to individual premises. FTTC relies on using the copper telephone network that is owned and operated by Openreach, the infrastructure division of BT group. Communications providers, including BT, Sky and TalkTalk but also hundreds more, then deliver broadband services to consumers using Openreach's network.

- 3.4 Superfast broadband can also be provided by cable (Virgin Media O2), fixed-wireless (for example, provided by Broadway Partners in parts of Monmouthshire) or mobile (4G).

Gigabit-capable

- 3.5 The focus of Government and industry is now providing 'gigabit-capable' broadband (download speeds of at least 1 gigabit-per second; 1 Gbps or 1000 Mbps). Gigabit-capable broadband can be delivered by technologies such as full-fibre (FTTP, fibre from the local exchange direct to each premises), high-speed cable (Virgin Media O2) and possibly 5G.

- 3.6 UK Government has a target for gigabit broadband to be available across the UK by 2030, and it remains committed to reaching 85% coverage by 2025.² It is estimated that 20% of premises, mostly in rural areas, will require public funding to be provided with a gigabit-capable broadband connection.

¹ Gigabit-broadband in the UK: Government targets and policy, House of Commons Library, February 2022, available at: [CBP-8392.pdf \(parliament.uk\)](#), pg. 7.

² Gigabit-broadband in the UK: Government targets and policy, House of Commons Library, February 2022, available at: [CBP-8392.pdf \(parliament.uk\)](#), pg. 14.

3.7 Devolved administrations and local authorities are often involved in the delivery of broadband infrastructure projects. Welsh Government’s broadband strategy is set out in its Digital Strategy for Wales.³ It manages the Superfast Cymru project and its extension/successor contracts, which were arranged under the UK Government’s previous funding programme and in recent years have delivered gigabit-capable connections.

Current situation in Monmouth constituency

3.8 There are two main sources of data on broadband coverage in the UK: Ofcom’s Connected Nations reports⁴ (published twice yearly) and Thinkbroadband’s data⁵ (published weekly).

3.9 The House of Commons Library’s analysis of Ofcom’s data provides a comparison of Monmouth constituency (including urban and rural area split) to Wales and the UK against various broadband indicators:⁶

Area	Average download speed Mbps	Superfast availability	Gigabit availability	Unable to receive decent broadband	Receiving under 10 Mbps	Receiving over 30 Mbps
Monmouth	56.1	86.7%	26.1%	2.5%	14.0%	68.0%
-- Urban Areas	62.2	97.7%	34.6%	0.0%	8.9%	75.1%
-- Rural Areas	47.2	70.5%	13.6%	6.1%	21.5%	57.7%
Wales	69.5	94.2%	44.9%	0.8%	9.0%	76.3%
UK	86.5	95.6%	64.0%	0.3%	7.0%	78.2%

Around 58.9% of the constituency’s population lives in an area classified as urban

3.10 It also compares Medium Super Output Areas within the constituency to other areas of the UK, this indicates that some of the most rural parts of the county, such as Raglan and Llantillio Crossenny, are amongst the worst 10% of areas in the UK when it comes to many measures of broadband connectivity:

³ [Digital strategy for Wales \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

⁴ [Connected Nations and infrastructure reports - Ofcom](#)

⁵ <https://www.thinkbroadband.com/broadband-data>

⁶ House of Commons Library Constituency Data: broadband coverage speeds data dashboard: [Constituency data: broadband coverage and speeds \(parliament.uk\)](#); this dashboard also produces analysis and enables comparison by Medium Super Output Area.

Which small areas overlapping the constituency have the best and worst connectivity?

Key to table shading:

Best 10% of areas in the UK

Best 30% of areas in the UK

Worst 30% of areas in the UK

Worst 10% of areas in the UK

You can also view [maps of small area data](#)

Area name	Average download speed (Mbps)	Superfast availability	Gigabit availability	Unable to receive decent broadband	Lines receiving under 10 Mbps	Lines receiving over 30 Mbps
Abergavenny North	45.6	99.4%	29.6%	0.0%	7.8%	72.3%
Abergavenny South & Crucorney	42.6	86.4%	39.1%	4.5%	14.1%	62.1%
Caldicot North & Caer-went	45.5	80.6%	7.0%	2.9%	14.4%	65.8%
Chepstow North & Trellech	69.8	80.6%	27.0%	5.1%	17.8%	64.3%
Chepstow South	61.0	99.8%	10.2%	0.0%	6.4%	83.2%
Croesyceiliog	86.1	97.8%	71.5%	0.1%	10.6%	79.0%
Gilwern & Llanfoist	45.8	88.2%	21.9%	0.3%	11.5%	65.8%
Llantarnam & Oakfield	78.3	95.8%	45.1%	0.0%	12.1%	83.7%
Monmouth & Wyesham	60.3	94.0%	23.8%	0.0%	11.3%	69.9%
Rhaglan & Llantilio Crossenny	44.1	54.2%	15.3%	12.2%	33.1%	44.6%
Usk, Goytre & Llangybi Fawr	53.2	75.4%	8.1%	2.3%	15.4%	65.1%

Note that some of the areas shown may overlap only partially with the constituency. See the notes below for details.

- 3.11 A key source of data on individual premises in Wales is that produced by Welsh Government's Open Market Review,⁷ the process in which Welsh Government seeks to understand where private sector investment in broadband networks has occurred, is currently being built, or is planned within the next three years.
- 3.12 For Welsh Government, the OMR data allow them to classify premises according to their broadband coverage status. This classification then informs eligibility for receiving public funding (see Appendix A for a summary of this) and inclusion in future Welsh and UK Government interventions, such as Project Gigabit (see Appendix A). For MCC, the OMR data provides a source of data easily comparable with other local authority areas in Wales, a detailed picture of which areas of the county are at risk of being left behind and may require intervention (for example, through the Local Broadband Fund, see Appendix A), and a dataset that can be used to provide premises-level advice and support in response to individual enquiries from residents.
- 3.13 The 2019 OMR data showed that 2,494 or 5.1% of all premises in Monmouthshire (our 'digital deprivation rate') did not have access to broadband at over 30 Mbps and there were no plans for it to be available within three years.⁸ A further 5,490 or 11.1% of all premises were included in providers plans for network coverage but the upgrades were not fully proven or completed.⁹
- 3.14 The latest OMR was completed in Q2 2022, but MCC is still waiting to receive the full dataset on which to conduct analysis from Welsh Government. Once conducted, this analysis will form the basis of the refreshed Digital Infrastructure Action Plan – the 2020

⁷ [Broadband open market review 2021: summary of responses \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

⁸ These premises are classified as 'white'.

⁹ These premises are classified as 'under review'.

version of which can be found here: [5a. Appendix A Digital Infrastructure Action Plan Updated 200710.pdf \(monmouthshire.gov.uk\)](#).

The rollout of broadband in Monmouthshire

- 3.15 'Rolling out' improved broadband connectivity, whether in rural or urban settings, is a complicated process with many (often hidden) barriers, such as securing the necessary permissions from landowners to access land or install/replace infrastructure and needing to use historic infrastructure such as ducts or telephone poles that sometimes needs prior maintenance or replacement.

Full-fibre providers

- 3.16 As mentioned above, the focus of most policymaking and industry initiatives is the building of gigabit-capable, 'full fibre' broadband networks, which are the most future-proofed networks available and the current gold standard of connectivity.
- 3.17 In Monmouthshire, as in most parts of Wales and the UK, full-fibre broadband rollouts are generally being delivered by Openreach (including through their subcontractors) and/or 'alternative providers' (the generic term for providers other than Openreach). In most cases and with some exceptions, alternative providers are newer, smaller companies that build networks and connect customers in areas that Openreach do not plan to build in – that is, they do not seek to compete directly with Openreach.

Openreach

- 3.18 Openreach is a company wholly owned by BT Group that maintains much of the telecommunications infrastructure (for example, telephone poles, cables, ducts, cabinets and exchanges) that connects/connected most UK homes and businesses to the national telephone and broadband network.
- 3.19 Openreach currently builds and connects premises to its full-fibre network in three main streams:
- Commercial rollout
 - As a commercial company, Openreach invests significant amounts of non-public funds into upgrading its network.
 - It has stated an 'ambition to reach 25 million homes and businesses [across the UK] by December 2026, if the right investment conditions are in place'.¹⁰
 - It publishes a map and list of the areas to be upgraded in future online: [Where and when we're building Ultrafast Full Fibre broadband | Openreach](#)
 - In Monmouthshire, Openreach plans to upgrade many (but almost certainly not all) premises connected to the Abergavenny, Caldicot, Chepstow, Monmouth and Usk exchanges 'by December 2026'.
 - Openreach does not provide MCC with any further information about its commercial rollout plans.
 - Phase 2 Superfast Cymru contract with Welsh Government¹¹
 - Openreach also delivers the current Phase 2 Superfast Cymru contract, let and managed by Welsh Government. The contract has a total value of £52.5 million and will now continue to the end of March 2023 to connect a total of 37,137 premises with gigabit-capable fibre to the premises.
 - Due to past interpretations of state aid legislation, only premises that are without existing access to a superfast broadband connection and not included in providers' commercial build plans (as provided through the Open Market Reviews, see 3.11) are eligible to be provided with public

¹⁰ [Where and when we're building Ultrafast Full Fibre broadband | Openreach](#)

¹¹ Openreach also delivered the Phase 1 Superfast Cymru contract, which was supported by £225 million of public funding and provided mainly Fibre to the Cabinet to

support and included in this contract; as such, these premises are overwhelmingly in villages or more rural areas.

- The nature of the contract means that Openreach conducts surveys of the pool of possible premises, then informs Welsh Government of the expected cost and seeks approval to continue; as such, Welsh Government cannot direct Openreach to connect certain premises/areas.
- Welsh Government provides infrequent updates to MCC as to the number of premises in the county connected through this contract and the list of premises planned to be connected through it.¹²
 - As of April 2022, when data was last provided by Welsh Government, 1825 premises in Monmouthshire have been/are due to be provided with a full-fibre connection through this contract.
- Fibre Community Partnerships (formerly Community Fibre Partnerships)
 - This is a scheme in which Openreach ‘works with the local community’ to deliver full-fibre broadband.¹³ It typically focuses on smaller or more remote rural communities that are not in providers’ future plans for full-fibre.
 - The Partnerships are funded by a combination of the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme (see Appendix A), the community itself, and Openreach, and the build is due to be completed within 12 months of the funding being secured (although there are often significant delays).
 - FCPs have been used successfully to connect communities across the UK, but feedback from residents is that they can be a frustrating and drawn out process, and it is clear that potential schemes are sometimes disrupted by Openreach’s own commercial or publicly-subsidised activity.
 - In March 2022, the scheme was put on hold for new applicants, due to overwhelming demand.
 - Openreach provide MCC with a monthly update on FCPs within the county in order that officers can provide additional advice and support to the community, as required. Current potential schemes in Monmouthshire include:
 - ‘Crucorney Bettws Cottages’
 - ‘Chepstow Mouton House’
 - ‘Monmouth St Maughans’
 - ‘Trelleck Rock Road’¹⁴

3.20 For an individual premises, the end result is the same regardless of by which route they have been connected: they are able to place an order¹⁵ from any of the full-fibre supporting Internet Service Providers that use Openreach’s infrastructure.¹⁶

‘Alternative providers’ or ‘Altnets’

3.21 A number of smaller companies – although often backed by big investment – are building their own full-fibre networks, generally using some of Openreach’s infrastructure (for example, use of Openreach’s telephone poles or ducts to carry the fibre to premises).

3.22 Unlike on Openreach’s network, when a customer has a wide choice of communications providers with whom to take out a service, on alternative providers’ networks, the

¹² Welsh Government also used to host an online checker that people could use to check directly if their premises was included in the rollout; this was taken offline in September 2021.

¹³ [Fibre Community Partnership | Openreach](#)

¹⁴ These potential schemes are at different stages. This list is non-exhaustive.

¹⁵ It is important to note that fibre builds will only take the fibre to a piece of infrastructure near a premises; only when a customer places an order with an Internet Service Provider will Openreach be tasked with running the fibre from the last piece of infrastructure to and then into the premises.

¹⁶ [Ultrafast Full Fibre broadband service providers | Openreach](#)

customer is often only able to take out a broadband service direct from the provider itself – although this may change in future.

- 3.23 In Monmouthshire, there are two main alternative providers of full-fibre broadband:
- Ogi (formerly known as Spectrum Internet) has announced a £200 million investment to extend their full-fibre network to cover 150,000 premises in south Wales.
 - These including premises in Abergavenny, Caerwent, Caldicot, Chepstow, Crick, Magor, Monmouth, Portskewett, Pwllmeyric, Rogiet, Sudbrook and Undy.¹⁷
 - The network build is largely complete in Abergavenny with most premises able to order a service, underway in Monmouth and soon to begin in Chepstow.
 - Broadway Partners has secured £145 million investment to enable the rollout of their full-fibre network to cover 250,000 premises in rural Scotland and Wales by 2025.
 - The network build is complete in Llandewi Rhydderch and Llanarth and underway in Llanover.
 - In March 2021, MCC agreed to provide loan funding to a Special Purpose Vehicle wholly-owned by Broadway Partners, 'Monmouthshire Broadband Limited', to enable them to build a mixed wireless and fibre network across Monmouthshire.¹⁸ As of July 2021, 34 of the planned 57 radio base station sites were completed, covering 8,000 premises. Since then, Broadway Partners' new investment and other contextual changes have changed the focus of the scheme towards full fibre, and it is likely that the fibre network will replace much of the wireless network.

Other broadband technology rollouts

- 3.24 Other technologies, such as fixed-wireless access (including mobile broadband) and satellite, are also used to deliver improved broadband connectivity in the county. See Appendix A for further information about these technologies.
- 3.25 One example of a scheme utilising other technologies is a scheme being delivered by MCC in the Llanthony Valley using grant funding from Welsh Government's Local Broadband Fund. The scheme, currently still in the design and planning phase but due to be completed later in the year, will use a mix of fixed-wireless technologies, including licenced 5G spectrum, to deliver a fast (superfast but not gigabit capable) and reliable internet connection to premises in the area.¹⁹

Sources of funding

- 3.26 Various funding schemes are available to industry and/or residents or businesses to improve broadband speeds. See Appendix A for further information.

4. AFFORDING BROADBAND DURING THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS

Social tariffs

- 4.1 A number of broadband providers, including BT, Sky and Virgin Media, offer cheaper long-term tariffs²⁰ for those receiving benefits such as Universal Credit and Pension

¹⁷ [Boost for Wales's full fibre roll out - Ogi](#)

¹⁸ The investment is overseen by the MCC Investment Committee.

¹⁹ The challenging topography of and low density of premises within the area means that it is unlikely that building a fibre broadband network will be viable proposition for any provider in the foreseeable future.

²⁰ Some providers may offer new customer-only tariffs or offers that are cheaper than social tariffs but for a shorter contract period.

Credit. See [Discounted 'social tariffs' for those on certain benefits \(moneysavingexpert.com\)](https://moneysavingexpert.com) for an overview of some of these.

National Databank

- 4.2 The Good Things Foundation has developed a National Databank to provide free mobile data, calls and texts to people with a low-income – those at risk of data poverty: [National Databank - Good Things Foundation](#).

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

- 5.1 An evaluation is not required for this paper as the report is for information only and no policy or service change is proposed.

6. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 6.1 An Options Appraisal is not required, as this paper is for information only.

7. REASONS

- 7.1 The rural digital deprivation rate in Monmouthshire continues to be unacceptable particularly in this post Covid 19 climate whereby an ability to access broadband is an imperative for many citizens, particularly in terms of their ability to work from home to reduce travel costs or to access on line services to address the cost of living crisis.

- 7.2 Once the latest Open Market Review data is released in full, the team will conduct analysis in order to understand where private sector investment in broadband networks has been made, is being made, and is planned to be made within the next three years, in order to identify potential solutions for those that remain at risk of being left behind.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no resource implications for the Council this is a report for information only.

9. CONSULTEES

- Broadband companies operating in Monmouthshire
- Senior Leadership Team

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix A: Rural broadband additional information

11. AUTHORS

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12. CONTACT DETAILS

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Appendix A: Rural broadband additional information

OTHER BROADBAND TECHNOLOGY ROLLOUTS

- Fixed-wireless access
 - In a fixed-wireless access network, masts transmit radio signals through the air to small receivers on individual premises. Most fixed-wireless networks require unobstructed line of sight between the local mast and the premises. Such networks are typically deployed in very rural areas where the cost of deploying fibre is considered to be too high to be viable – although its popularity has appeared to decline in recent years as the cost of deploying full fibre has decreased at the same time as new investment in it has increased.
 - Fixed-wireless access networks are currently not capable of reliably providing gigabit speeds but above-superfast download speeds of 50-100 Mbps are common.
 - Several companies, including Bogons, Broadway Partners/Monmouthshire Broadband Limited and Countryside Connections, operate fixed-wireless access networks in different parts of the county.
- Mobile (4G and 5G)
 - A type of fixed-wireless broadband, mobile broadband connections use the 4G or 5G mobile networks put in place by the four major UK mobile network operators: BT/EE, O2, Three and Vodafone.
 - The capability of mobile broadband connections depends on multiple factors including signal strength (largely dependent on the distance between the premises and the nearest mast), mast speed and capacity (what speeds the mast can provide), and contention (how many other people are using the same mast at the same time).
 - Ofcom data suggests that 95-99% of premises in Wales have 4G mobile coverage (outdoors) from at least one of the mobile network operators, but 10% of the geographic area of Wales is not covered by any operator.
 - Officers are aware that this data is imperfect and are working with a local start-up company, Streetwave, to get a better understanding of mobile coverage in the county.
 - At the moment, public 5G network coverage remains rare in Monmouthshire, but is available in Abergavenny on BT/EE and Three and around Raglan on BT/EE¹; across Wales, 27-38% of premises have 5G mobile coverage (outdoors) from at least of the mobile network operators.
- Satellite
 - Satellite broadband is transmitted wirelessly from an operations hub, to an orbiting satellite, and then to a satellite dish on a subscriber's premises.

¹ Raglan coverage was provided as a consequence of the Connected Communities in the Rural Economy/5G Wales Unlocked project in which MCC was a partner: [5G Wales Unlocked](#)

- In the past, the high cost of launching and maintaining satellite broadband networks meant that customer packages were relatively expensive and provided below superfast speeds with fairly high latency and significant restrictions on usage.
- A new type of system – Low-Earth Orbit satellite – however, offers far higher speeds (as high as 200 Mbps download) and lower latency with much higher or no caps on usage. An example of this new type of satellite broadband is Starlink.

SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR BROADBAND

UK-wide

- UK Government Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme²
 - This is one element of UK Government’s Project Gigabit programme.³
 - It provides up to £210 million worth of voucher funding to people in rural areas experience slow broadband speeds.
 - On behalf of eligible premises, broadband operators can claim vouchers worth £1500 for homes and £3500 for businesses to contribute to the costs of installing gigabit broadband to groups of premises.
 - Until the end of March 2022, Welsh Government topped-up these amounts to £3000 for homes and £7000 for businesses.
 - Gigabit Vouchers are primarily used by alternative providers building fibre networks in rural areas (e.g., Broadway Partners) and often comprise the community’s contribution towards an Openreach Fibre Community Partnership.⁴
- Universal Service Obligation
 - The Universal Service Obligation is intended as a ‘safety net’ to deliver broadband to premises that do not have access to a decent broadband connection (defined by multiple parameters, including minimum 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload, data usage of 100GB per month).
 - It gives eligible residents and businesses a legal right to request a decent broadband connection from BT and KCOM (in Hull), the providers
 - Any technology capable of delivering the minimum standards is eligible and the choice of technology is up to the provider. The cost threshold is £3400 per premises – above this, customer have the option of paying the excess costs.

Wales-specific

- Access Broadband Cymru grant scheme⁵

² [Gigabit Vouchers \(culture.gov.uk\)](https://culture.gov.uk)

³ [Project Gigabit - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

⁴ For most prospective Fibre Community Partnership schemes, the main factor in its viability is the degree to which the estimated ‘cost per premises’ falls within the amount that can be claimed from the Voucher Scheme.

⁵ [Access Broadband Cymru grant scheme | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales)

- This Welsh Government scheme provides grant to fund or part-fund the installation cost of new broadband connections for homes and businesses in Wales.
- New connections through the scheme must deliver a significant change in speed (at least double current download speeds)
- The maximum grant available is £800 for new connections with speeds of 30 Mbps and above.
- The scheme is applied for by residents and businesses, based on a quotation from an Internet Service Provider.
- Grants from this scheme are typically used to fund the connection costs of a fixed-wireless (including mobile broadband) broadband connection.
- Local Broadband Fund
 - This £10 million Welsh Government fund is available to support local authorities and social enterprises to deliver broadband projects locally.
 - The funding can be used to deliver fast, reliable broadband in areas of Wales without access; create new broadband infrastructure; and upgrade existing broadband infrastructure.
 - MCC applied for two grants during the first application window and were successful with both: the Llanthony Valley community scheme and a carrier-grade upgrade scheme connected to the Monmouthshire Broadband Limited network. As the Monmouthshire Broadband Limited project changed in response to contextual changes, the carrier-grade upgrade scheme was deemed no longer required and the grant withdrawn.

PROJECT GIGABIT GAP-FUNDED SUPPLIER PROCUREMENTS

The main element of UK Government's Project Gigabit is the introduction of a Dynamic Purchasing Scheme, through which Internet Service Providers are invited to bid on contracts for providing gigabit capable coverage in intervention areas of different sizes. Areas with sub-30 Mbps speeds will be prioritised and the scheme is technology neutral (though full fibre is preferred).

In England, Broadband Delivery UK (an Executive Agency of UK Government's Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport) is managing the gap-funded supplier procurements. In Wales, the role of Welsh Government in Project Gigabit is still unknown, but we understand that the procurement process for Project Gigabit in Wales is expected to begin later in the year. Recent communication from BDUK has suggested that many premises in Monmouthshire will be included in regional lot 15 (Herefordshire), which they currently estimate will be procurement in Q2 2023, with contracts let in Q1 2024.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Data

Ofcom's Connected Nations reports and data: [Connected Nations and infrastructure reports - Ofcom](#)

House of Commons Library's 'Constituency data: broadband coverage and speeds' Data Dashboard: [Constituency data: broadband coverage and speeds \(parliament.uk\)](#)

ThinkBroadband data: [UK Broadband Data | thinkbroadband](#)

Information

Openreach's Fibre Checker: <https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/ultrafast-full-fibre-broadband#fibrechecker> (note that this only includes premises connected to Openreach's fibre network; other providers such as Ogi and Broadway Partners have their own checkers on their websites)

Project Gigabit Delivery Plan – spring update: [Project Gigabit Delivery Plan - spring update - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Welsh Government Rolling out fibre broadband: [Rolling out fibre broadband | GOV.WALES](#)

Welsh Parliament Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee: Digital connectivity – broadband: [CR-LD15290-E.PDF \(SENEDD.WALES\)](#)

Alternative providers known to be operating in Monmouthshire

Broadway Partners: <https://www.broadwaybroadband.co.uk/>

Bogons: [Bogons Ltd](#)

Country Connect: [Country Connect - Ultrafast Broadband Provider - Country Connect \(country-connect.co.uk\)](#)

Countryside Connections: [Countryside Connections – Rural Broadband Specialists \(countryside-connections.co.uk\)](#)

Ogi: <https://www.ogi.wales/>

Petition: Excessive speeding on Birbeck Road, Caldicot ~ 77 Signatures

THIS PETITION IS PRESENTED TO MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE RESIDENTS OF BIRBECK ROAD, CALDICOT. BY DEWSTOW WARD MEMBER COUNTY COUNCILLOR TONY EASSON .

BIRBECK ROAD ,CALDCOT, IS IN A 20 MPH ZONE. BUT BECAUSE THERE ARE NO SPEED RETARDING MEASURES IT IS USED AS A RAT RUN BYPASSING HUMPED STREETS. AS A CONSEQUENCE TRAFFIC TRAVEL AT GREATER SPEEDS THAN IS PERMITTED ON THE ROAD.

TRAFFIC WHICH TRAVEL OVER 20 MPH ARE PUTTING CHILDREN AT RISK .THERE IS A BUSY LOCAL CHILDREN'S PARK CLOSE BY ,AND THEY HAVE TO CROSS THIS ROAD. ELDERLY PEOPLE WALK THE FOOTPATHS AS WELL AND NEED TO CROSS IN SAFETY .SPEED SURVEYS HAVE SHOWN THAT THE AVERAGE SPEED IS JUST OVER 20 MPH. THE MEDIAN HIGH POINT ON THE SURVEY DID NOT IDENTIFY THE TRAFFIC TRAVELLING AT MUCH GREATER SPEEDS .

WE URGE MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICERS TO CONVENE A MEETING WITH A GROUP OF THE LOCAL RESIDENTS TO DISCUSS THE MOST SUITABLE MEANS OF APPLYING SPEED RETARDING MEASURES TO SLOW THE TRAFFIC DOWN: SUCH AS COBBLED RUMBLE PADS AT EITHER END OF, AND AT STRATEGIC POINTS ALONG THE ROAD. THIS PROBLEM HAS EXISTED FOR MANY YEARS, AND THIS PETITION INCLUDES 77 FRUSTRATED SIGNATURES. WHICH REPRESENTS 86 % OF THE RESIDENTS ON THE ELECTORAL REGISTER FOR BIRBECK ROAD.

WE THE UNDERSIGNED BEING RESIDENTS IN OR ABOUT THE VICINITY OF BIRBECK ROAD CALDICOT ARE VERY CONCERNED AT THE INCREASE IN TRAFFIC USING IT AS A RAT RUN AND AS A RESULT ARE CONSCIOUS OF TRAFFIC SPEEDING ALONG THIS ROAD IN DEFIANCE OF ITS 20 MPH STATUS.WE ARE SEEKING APPROPRIATE SPEEDING CONTROLS SUCH AS COBBLED PADS TO SLOW TRAFFIC DOWN.

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Petition: Llantrisant Village - Speed Reduction 1 ~ 58 Signatures from residents and 18 from regular visitors

LLANTRISANT VILLAGE ROAD SAFETY

This letter is written on behalf of almost all the Residents of this small village who are concerned for their own and their neighbours' safety and have signed the enclosed Petition seeking action by the County Council.

Additional people, who live in the vicinity or regularly visit the village for work have also signed in support of the request for action to improve Road Safety.

The Petition seeks action by the County Council to lessen current dangerous road conditions by the introduction of Speed Limits.

A 40 mph limit is requested for the section of the road from Usk to Langstone where it passes through and past the junctions into the village.

A 20mph Zone is requested for the full length of the inner village road as it curves round the church and then passes the ancient former public house (both listed buildings).

Points in justification are set out in the Petition.

The concern for action has grown in recent years as the

composition of families in the village has changed. There are now more young children in the village than at any time for over 30 years and markedly different lifestyles. There are more residents cars and far more delivery vehicles raising increased traffic hazards both on the village road and at its junctions with the main road. The main road itself is now busier given the development of several service businesses on one approach and a busy Private Show Jumping yard with stables at the other.

The Residents therefore wish to press the Council to prepare proposals for speed limits as a matter of present and future concern, and before near misses turn into an accident.

They also ask ,whilst such steps are moving through due process, that an immediate commitment is given to those initial safeguarding steps which can be taken swiftly and at little cost. There are currently no signs on the main road warning motorists that they are approaching junctions with poor visibility, and no signs at the access points to the village road warning of children and other pedestrians on a road with no footpath. This is particularly pressing given the recent increase in diverse delivery vehicles as the retail trade adjusts.

Please advise how our request will be taken forward.

LLANTRISANT VILLAGE

ROAD SAFETY

RESIDENTS' PETITION January 2022

TO MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

We the undersigned residents of Llantrisant Village request the Council to prepare and consult on proposals to improve public and road safety by introducing:

- 1) a 40 (forty) MPH speed limit on that section of the Usk to Langstone Road (?B4598 extension?) for a distance of approximately 0.7 of a mile between the village name signs; and
- 2) a 20 (twenty) MPH speed limit Zone along the entire length of the inner old village road.

Points in Justification.

Traffic speed on the Principal road (1) is only constrained by the national limit of 60mph: there are two junctions with the inner old village road, both having with poor visibility for those exiting the village and little warning for other motorists. There are also entrances to two farm businesses, a commercial stable yard, three private houses. And a growing small business estate. Both ends of this section of road are approached by fast straight stretches and then involve substantial bends close to and restricting visibility to both junctions and to key access points.

In recent years the village has become occupied by an increasing number of young families; vehicle traffic has increased with the development of local business; the route is greatly favoured by touring cyclists; it incorporates for 100yds and is crossed by, the popular Usk Valley Way (without a pedestrian footway or any protective warning for traffic) and the local livery stables generate some roadway exercising of horses. All these factors give rise to significant Road Safety Risks which are increased by the nature of the road itself.

The inner Old Village road (2) has become increasingly busy, not only through additional residential traffic, now 25 houses each with an average of two vehicles, but also a marked increase in retail and food delivery. More traffic on a narrow road without a pedestrian footway does not mix well with increased numbers of young children and gives rise to considerable road safety risks which a 20 mph Zone would reduce.

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**Petition: Poor Condition of Roads and Pavements in the Meadows, Usk ~ 28
Signatures**

Dear Sir/Madam

1. 7 2022

Re - Poor Road/Pavement Conditions.

We, the residents of the Meadows Usk are making a formal complaint about the poor state of our "Road and Pavement"

Every year pot holes appear and are filled in on a regular basis, only to appear again when rain and frost happen. Workmen came recently to patch up holes after a mechanical sweeper swept up what was left of repairs. After being repaired again they started to break up the following day.

AS we pay higher rates than other areas of Monmouthshire, we feel we deserve a much better service than we are getting at the moment.

We feel it is only a matter of time before someone has an accident. because of the poor state of the road and pavement.

Yours faithfully

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Petition regarding Usk to Wentwood Road - Speed Reduction 50mph ~ 86 Signatures

I enclose a petition signed by 86 residents of Llantrisant Fawr, Llanllowell, Usk and the surrounding area. This is independent from, and separate to, that submitted to the council recently on behalf of residents of Llantrisant village. However, it also involves the critical issue of road safety.

The signatories to this petition are asking the council to urgently consider the imposition of a 50 mph speed limit on the Usk to Wentwood road, at least covering the section between Llanllowell Church and the top of Penycaemawr Hill. This road is currently subject to the national 60 mph limit for single carriageway non-urban roads. Many of those who have signed this petition have stated that they would support the imposition of a lower limit of 40 mph.

We contend that the road is hazardous for motorists, cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians for the following reasons:

- There are seven road junctions along this particular section of road. One, Wernddu Lane, is on a blind bend. These junctions are in addition to private access roads, drives and pathways to properties along the route. Approximately 50 households are either situated directly on this section or on the lanes served by its junctions
 - For much of the section, there is no footpath or grass verge
 - There are at least five commercial businesses situated along this route, including a pub and hotel, a garage and enterprises involving heavy plant and machinery
 - Large, articulated, exceptionally heavy vehicles carrying felled timber from Wentwood Forest use this route regularly, often several times a day
 - The road is too narrow in places to allow vehicles travelling in opposite directions to safely pass each other without a radical reduction in speed. This problem is especially acute when the timber lorries are involved
 - There are several sharp bends and other places where visibility is inhibited by road gradients. One is the triangular road junction at The Hand. Some signatories to the petition have also requested that road signage be altered at this point to give priority to vehicles approaching the Usk to Wentwood road from the south or travelling from the Usk direction towards Llantrisant village.
-
- There is an overall increase in traffic, an issue exacerbated by home delivery vehicles whose drivers are less likely to be familiar with the road's hazards than local residents
 - There has been an active encouragement of touring cyclists to the area in recent years, many of whom use this road, especially at weekends. This can cause frustration to some motorists, who then take risks and therefore increase the possibility of accidents.

The road between Usk and Wentwood Forest is one of the few rural routes in the county without a specific speed restriction, despite the hazards listed above. This petition has the full support of Llantrisant Fawr Community Council. We ask Monmouthshire County Council to take action before there is a serious accident.

LLANTRISANT FAWR ROAD SAFETY:

AN APPEAL TO MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

This petition is independent from, and separate to, that submitted recently to the council on behalf of residents of Llantrisant village, as opposed to those living in the wider Llantrisant/Llanllowell community.

We, the undersigned, ask the council to urgently consider the imposition of a 50 mph speed limit on the Usk to Wentwood Forest road, at least covering the section between Llanllowell Church and the top of Penycaemawr Hill. This road is currently subject to the national 60 mph limit for single carriageway non-urban roads.

We contend that the road is hazardous for motorists, cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians for the following reasons:

- a) There are seven road junctions along the section of road described above. One of these, Wernddu Lane, is on a blind bend. These junctions are in addition to private access roads, drives and pathways to properties along the route. Approximately 50 households are either situated directly on this section or on the lanes served by its junctions.
- b) For much of the section, there is no footpath or grass verge.
- c) There are at least five commercial businesses situated along this route, including a pub and hotel, a garage and an enterprise involving heavy plant and machinery.
- d) Large, articulated, exceptionally heavy vehicles carrying felled timber from Wentwood Forest use this route regularly, often several times a day.
- e) The road is too narrow in places to allow vehicles travelling in opposite directions to safely pass each other without a radical reduction in speed. This problem is especially acute when the timber lorries (d) are involved.
- f) There are several sharp bends and other places where visibility is inhibited by road gradients.
- g) There is an overall increase in traffic, an issue exacerbated by home delivery vehicles whose drivers are likely to be less familiar with the road's hazards than local residents.
- h) There has been an active encouragement of touring cyclists to the area in recent years, many of whom use this road, especially at weekends. This can cause frustration to some motorists, who then take risks and therefore increase the possibility of accidents.

The road between Usk and Wentwood Forest is one of the few in the county without a specific speed restriction. We ask Monmouthshire County Council to address and rectify this hazardous situation.

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2022-23

Place Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
30th June 2022	Forward Work Programme	To discuss the process for formulating a forward work programme and agree items for future inclusion.	Hazel Ilett	Work Programming
	Wye Valley Villages Future Plan	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny on the report.	Roger Hoggins Mark Hand	Pre-decision scrutiny
	Regeneration Funding and Delivery Plan 2022-2025	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny on the report.	Mark Hand Daniel Fordham	Pre-decision Scrutiny
	Petition: Castle Meadows, Abergavenny	To agree whether to refer to the Executive or full Council for action.	Councillors Maby and Burch	Receipt of Petitions
	Petition: Community Play Area, Tudor Road, Wyesham	To agree whether to refer to the Executive or full Council for action.	Councillor Burch	Receipt of Petitions
12th September 2022 at 5pm	<u>Workshop 1:</u> Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033	To brief members on the Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033 and discuss next steps.	Mark Hand Craig O'Connor Rachel Lewis	Scrutiny Workshop
15th September 2022	Rivers and Ocean Report	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny on the report.	Hazel Clatworthy Councillor Maby	Pre-decision Scrutiny

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2022-23

Place Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
Page 102	Revised Local Development Plan: Options Paper	To scrutinise and options paper for the revision of the Local Development Plan.	Mark Hand Councillor Griffiths	Pre-decision Scrutiny
	Rural Broadband	To provide an update as requested.	Cath Fallon Adam Greenwood	Position Update
	Petition: Overnight Parking by HVG's in Abergavenny Bus Station	To agree whether to refer to the Executive or full Council for action.	Councillor Maby	Receipt of Petitions
	Petition: Excessive speeding on Birbeck Road, Caldicot	To agree whether to refer to the Executive or full Council for action.	Councillor Maby	Receipt of Petitions
	Petition: Llantrisant Village Speed Reduction	To agree whether to refer to the Executive or full Council for action.	Councillor Maby	Receipt of Petitions
	Petition: Usk to Wentwood Road Speed Reduction 50mph	To agree whether to refer to the Executive or full Council for action.	Councillor Maby	Receipt of Petitions
	Petition: Poor Condition of Roads	To agree whether to refer to the Executive or full Council for action.	Councillor Maby	Receipt of Petitions

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2022-23

Place Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
	and Pavements in the Meadows, Usk			
Special Meeting Monday 26th September (10am)	Speed limit of 20mph on the B4245	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny on the report and consider the community responses received.	Paul Keeble Councillor Maby	Pre-decision Scrutiny
	Response to the Forest of Dean's Replacement Local Development Plan	To provide a view from MCC as part of the Forest of Dean's consultation process.	Mark Hand Councillor Griffiths	Consultation
19th October 2022 at 5pm	<u>Workshop 2:</u> Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-33	To brief members on the Candidate Sites put forward for inclusion into the Replacement Local Development Plan and discuss next steps.	Mark Hand Craig O'Connor Rachel Lewis	Scrutiny Workshop
2nd November 2022 at 5pm	<u>Workshop 3:</u> Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-33	To brief members on the Preferred Strategy sites put forward for the Replacement Local Development Plan.	Mark Hand Craig O'Connor Rachel Lewis	Scrutiny Workshop
10th November 2022	Revised Local Development Plan: Preferred Strategy	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny on the amended Preferred Strategy (subject to Council's decision on 22nd September on the options).	Mark Hand Craig O'Connor Rachel Lewis	Pre-decision Scrutiny

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2022-23

Place Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
	Local Toilet Strategy	To scrutinise the latest policy development.	David Jones	Policy Development
12th January 2022				
2nd March 2023				
13th April 2023				

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Workshops: Revised Local Development Plan

- **12th September** ~ To brief members on the Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033
- **19th October** ~ To brief Members on the Candidate Sites submitted.
- **2nd November** ~ To brief members on the Preferred Strategy

Items for future Inclusion into the Work Programme

- Flood prevention and protection ~ new Flooding strategy, the Update paper on Section 19 (flooding investigation reports)
- Replacement Local Development Plan
- Town Centre Regeneration ~ Transforming Chepstow Masterplan
- Placemaking ~ Placemaking and maximising civic capital for the benefit of the County
- Active Travel Plans (across Highways and MonLife)

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

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

Committee / Decision Maker	Meeting date / Decision due	Subject	Purpose	Author	Date item added to the planner	Date item originally scheduled for decision
Council	01-Sep-25	RLDP for Adoption		Mark Hand	23-Aug-22	
Council	01-Sep-24	LDP submission for examination		Mark Hand	23-Aug-22	
Cabinet	07-Jun-23	2022/23 Revenue and Capital Monitoring - Month 12		Jon Davies		
ICMD	05-Apr-23	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 7 held on 9th March 2023		Dave Jarrett		
Council	09-Mar-23	Capital Strategy & Treasury Strategy		Jon Davies	17-May-22	
Council	09-Mar-23	Final Budget Sign Off including Council Tax Resolution		Jon Davies		
Cabinet	01-Mar-23	2022/23 Revenue and Capital Monitoring - Month 9		Jon Davies	17-May-22	
Cabinet	01-Mar-23	2023/4 Final Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals		Jon Davies	17-May-22	
Cabinet	01-Mar-23	2023/4 WCF/Trust Treasury Fund Investments		Dave Jarrett	17-May-22	

Council	01-Feb-23	LDP submission for examination		Mark Hand	23-Jan-20	
ICMD	25-Jan-23	Community Council and Police Precepts - final		Jon Davies	17-May-22	
Council	19-Jan-23	Council Tax Reduction Scheme		Ruth Donovan	31-May-22	
Cabinet	18-Jan-23	Draft Revenue & Capital Proposals		Jon Davies		
ICMD	14-Dec-22	Council Tax Base report		Ruth Donovan	31-May-22	
ICMD	14-Dec-22	2023/4 Community Council & Police Precepts - draft		Jon Davies	17-May-22	
ICMD	14-Dec-22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group		Dave Jarrett	17-May-22	
Cabinet	07-Dec-22	2022/23 Revenue and Capital Monitoring report - Month 6		Jon Davies	17-May-22	
Cabinet	07-Dec-22	MCC Statement of Accounts		Jon Davies	17-May-22	
Council	01-Dec-22	Corporate Parenting Strategy		Diane Corrister	24-Aug-22	

Council	01-Dec-22	RLDP Preferred Strategy		Rachel Lewis	25-Jul-22	
Council	01-Dec-22	RLDP Deposit Plan for submission to WG for examination	Approval of Deposit Plan post-consultation for submission to WG for independent examination	Mark Hand / Craig O'Connor	30-Jul-21	
Council	01-Dec-22	Final Statement of Accounts		Peter Davies	7-May-21	
ICMD	30-Nov-22	Highways TRO Amendment Order 6 - speed limit changes including Wye Valley Villages, Gilwern and Usk	Agreement to make the traffic order	Mark Hand	23-Aug-22	
Cabinet	09-Nov-22	Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy		Scott James	22-Aug-22	
Cabinet	09-Nov-22	Revenue & Capital MTFP update and process		Jon Davies	17-May-22	
Cabinet	09-Nov-22	MonLife Heritage Strategy (or ICMD)		Matthew Lewis	10-Feb-22	
Council	27-Oct-22	Annual Safeguarding Report		Kelly Turner	24-Aug-22	
Council	27-Oct-22	Social Care & Health: Directors Report 2021/22		Jane Rodgers	6-Jul-22	
ICMD	26-Oct-22	Highways TRO Amendment Order 5 - speed limit changes including Devauden and B4245 Caldicot	Agreement to make the traffic order	Mark Hand	23-Aug-22	

ICMD	12-Oct-22	Local Development Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)		Rache Lewis/Cllr Paul Griffiths	23/08/22	
ICMD	12-Oct-22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group		Dave Jarrett	14/07/22	
ICMD	12-Oct-22	Planning Annual Performance Report (APR)	Sign off prior to submission to WG	Mark Hand	23-Aug-22	
Cabinet	05-Oct-22	22/23 Revenue and Capital Monitoring report - Month 4		Jon Davies	17-May-22	
Cabinet	05-Oct-22	Welsh Church Fund working group - meeting 3 held on 22nd September 2022		Dave Jarrett	17-May-22	
Cabinet	05-Oct-22	Monmouthshire Destination Management Plan		Matthew Lewis	10-Feb-22	
ICMD	28-Sep-22	Transport Policy		Deb Hill Howells - MG	22-Aug-22	
ICMD	28-Sep-22	B4245 speed limit	DEFERRED TO 26 OCT	Mark Hand	18-Jul-22	
Council	22-Sep-22	Tackling poverty and inequalities		Nick John	24-Aug-22	
Council	22-Sep-22	RLDP Options Report		Rachel Lewis	25-Jul-22	

Council	22-Sep-22	Rivers and Ocean		Hazel Clatworthy	9-Jun-22	
Council	22-Sep-22	Monmouthshire County Council self - assessment report 2021/2		Richard Jones	23-May-22	
ICMD	14-Sep-22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 2 held on 21st July 2022 (no meeting/no report - withdrawn)		Dave Jarrett	17-May-22	
Cabinet	07-Sep-22	Transport Policy Consultation Update.		Deb Hill Howells	22-Aug-22	
Cabinet	07-Sep-22	Cost Of Living		Matt Phillips	25-Jul-22	
ICMD	31-Aug-22	Homeseach Policy & Procedure - Amendments & Welsh Translation Requirement		Ian Bakewell		
ICMD	31-Aug-22	MY DAY, MY LIFE SERVICE EVALUTATION		Ceri York	15-Aug-22	
ICMD	03-Aug-22	Additional Resources in Educations Strategy	Resources required to develop and maintain schools education systems and the implementatin of WG Ed Tech Programme	Sian Hayward	14-Jun-22	
ICMD	03-Aug-22	Designation of Secondary Catchment Areas		Matthew Jones	6-Jun-22	
ICMD	03-Aug-22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 1 held on 23rd June 2022 - Moved to ICMD 3rd Aug 2022		Dave Jarrett		

Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Wye Valley Villages Future Improvement Plan		Mark Hand	1-Jul-22	
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Regen Three Year Programme		Mark Hand	1-Jul-22	
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Review of Chepstow High Street closure		Mark Hand	1-Jul-22	
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Home to School Transport Policy 2023-24.		Deb Hill Howells	27-Jun-22	
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	MUCH (Magor & Undy Community Hall) report		Nick Keys	9-Jun-22	
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Shared Prosperity Fund Local Investment Plan and Regional Lead Authority Arrangements		Hannah Jones	23-May-22	
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 1 held on 23rd June 2022 - Moved to ICMD 3rd Aug 2022		Dave Jarrett	17-May-22	
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	2021/22 Revenue and Capital Monitoring outturn		Peter Davies/Jon Davies	17-Feb-22	
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan 22/23		Matthew Lewis	10-Feb-22	
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Housing Support Programme Strategy (Homeless Strategy)		Ian Bakewell		

