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County Hall
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Usk
NP15 1GA

Monday, 12 February 2024

Notice of meeting

Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 20th February, 2024 at 10.00 am,
Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr USK 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 Interests	
3.	Public Open Forum Scrutiny Committee Public Open Forum ~ Guidance Our Scrutiny 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 Scrutiny 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 Scrutiny 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 Scrutiny Committees, please do so by emailing Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk

4.	Month 9 Budget Monitoring - To scrutinise the budgetary position (revenue and capital) for services falling within the committee's remit at Month 9.	1 - 56
5.	Exam Performance - Scrutiny of the latest exam performance data.	57 - 66
6.	School Attendance - Scrutiny of the latest school attendance data.	67 - 82
7.	Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme and Action List	83 - 88
8.	Council and Cabinet Work Plan	89 - 108
9.	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2024	109 - 114
10.	Next Meeting: 19th March 2024	

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Jill Bond, West End;, Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Alistair Neill, Gobion Fawr;, Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Paul Pavia, Mount Pleasant;, Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Peter Strong, Rogiet;, Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Ann Webb, St Arvans;, Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Laura Wright, Grofield;, Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Rachel Buckler, Devauden;, Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Catherine Fookes, Town;, Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Meirion Howells, Llanbadoc & Usk;, Independent

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

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

Objectives we are working towards

- Fair place to live where the effects of inequality and poverty have been reduced.
- Green place to live and work with reduced carbon emissions and making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency.
- Thriving and ambitious place, where there are vibrant town centres and where businesses can grow and develop.
- Safe place to live where people have a home where they feel secure in.
- Connected place where people feel part of a community and are valued.
- Learning place where everybody has the opportunity to reach their potential.

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.

Role of the Pre-meeting

1. Why is the Committee scrutinising this? (background, key issues)
 2. What is the Committee’s role and what outcome do Members want to achieve?
 3. Is there sufficient information to achieve this? If not, who could provide this?
- Agree the order of questioning and which Members will lead
 - Agree questions for officers and questions for the Cabinet Member

Questions for the Meeting

Scrutinising Performance

1. How does performance compare with previous years? Is it better/worse? Why?
2. How does performance compare with other councils/other service providers? Is it better/worse? Why?
3. How does performance compare with set targets? Is it better/worse? Why?
4. How were performance targets set? Are they challenging enough/realistic?
5. How do service users/the public/partners view the performance of the service?
6. Have there been any recent audit and inspections? What were the findings?
7. How does the service contribute to the achievement of corporate objectives?
8. Is improvement/decline in performance linked to an increase/reduction in resource? What capacity is there to improve?

Scrutinising Policy

1. Who does the policy affect ~ directly and indirectly? Who will benefit most/least?
2. What is the view of service users/stakeholders? 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: 2023/24 REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET – MONTH 9 UPDATE
MEETING: PERFORMANCE & OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE: 20th February 2024
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To provide Committee with an update of the progress of the Councils revenue budget for the 2023/24 financial year, based on actual expenditure incurred at the end of Month 9 (December), and overlaid with the most up to date budget information up until the time of publishing.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- i. That the Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee scrutinise the revenue budget forecast for the 2023/24 financial year;
- ii. That the Committee as part of their role assesses whether effective budget monitoring is in place; the extent to which budgets are spent within the agreed budget and policy framework, including the reasonableness of the explanation for variances and; consider the achievement of progress in meeting budget savings targets.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 3.1 That Cabinet note the overall revenue budget deficit forecast at month 9 of £314k, a slight deterioration of £29k since the previous forecast.
- 3.2 That Cabinet note the forecast 85% delivery of the £12.3m required service savings for the year, resulting in a £1.86m deficit that is needing to be managed as part of the overall revenue budget. The overall level of required savings includes the additional in-year budget recovery measures of £2.1m instigated at Month 5.

- 3.3 That Cabinet note the budgetary risks included within the forecast, namely;
- The volatility of demand for high-cost services, particularly in Adults & Childrens Social Care and Homelessness;
 - The risk of further non-delivery of the £12.3m of budgeted savings targets through to year-end;
 - The severely limited reserve cover available to the Council to cover any further deterioration in outturn position.
- 3.4 That Cabinet note the forecast draw of £5.6m on schools delegated balances as outlined in **Appendix 1** of this report, an increased draw of £1.85m since the previous forecast. Cumulative school balances are forecast to move into a deficit of £1.35m by the end of the financial year, with sixteen schools now forecast to be in a deficit balance.
- 3.5 That Cabinet note an overall forecast Capital budget under spend of £3.5m, alongside an indication of slippage in capital schemes of £11.9m. This consequently introduces £815k of useable capital funding that can assist in meeting forward capital pressures.

KEY ISSUES:

Summary messages
<i>A slight deterioration in the overall revenue budget forecast of £29k, comprising additional cost pressures identified within core service delivery directorates of 685k, offset by favourable movements in treasury costs, final pay award costs being less than previously forecast, and the pension costs relating to service redesign now being able to be met from existing capitalisation direction budgets.</i>
<i>The assumption for further unbudgeted grant income has now been removed from the forecast given the short period of time through to year-end and in light of continuing pressures on Welsh Government budgets.</i>
<i>A significant movement in cumulative School balances is forecast for the year, moving from a surplus of £4.25m to a forecast deficit of £1.35m at year-end. Sixteen schools are currently forecast to be in deficit by year-end.</i>
<i>Remaining service risks and variables through to the end of the year are the continuing high levels and complexity of demand for social care; the level of Homelessness presentations; and; the level of any additional unbudgeted grant awards and the subsequent ability for further core Council expenditure to be met from this.</i>

The risk highlighted at Month 6 relating to the potential deficit in funding for Universal Free School Meals is now removed following recent notification of further funding that meets the ongoing costs of roll out to all schools.

An overall under spend on the capital programme of £3.5m which results in £815k of useable funding that is released to assist in meeting forward capital pressures. The remaining £2.7m relates to specific scheme financing by way of borrowing and grant that is not available for future use.

Context

- 3.1 Councils across the UK continue to financial challenges on an unprecedented scale. It is widely acknowledged that local government funding over recent years has not kept pace with increased service demand, the additional responsibilities being transferred, and inflationary pressures.
- 3.2 Our 2022/23 revenue budget culminated in an over spend of £3.5m which required funding from earmarked reserves to cover the additional expenditure incurred following acute pressures experienced within Adult's and Children's services, Homelessness, and Additional learning needs.
- 3.3 The 2023/24 budget set in March 2023 accommodated additional costs of delivering services of £26m or 14%. Whilst income and funding increased by 9% (£16m) to meet some of these costs, the Council needed to find savings of 5% (£10m) from services.
- 3.4 The budget when set highlighted a number of known budgetary risks that sat outside of the core budget, some of which have now materialised and have resulted in further pressures being reported.
- 3.5 Financial headwinds continue to impact the service operating environment through higher inflation and interest rates, a shortage in staff resources, supply chain issues, and higher demands as a result of the cost of living crisis and the wider and longer lasting impact of the pandemic on communities.
- 3.6 These ultimately result in a growing need for supportive Council services, a reduced demand for income generating services, increased risks around debt recovery, and a continued high-cost operating environment.
- 3.7 Cabinet received an early financial update for the year at their 26th July 2023 meeting which highlighted significant early pressure on the Council's budget of around £6m. As part of a package of measures to tackle this, Cabinet approved the use of £2.5m of useable revenue reserves to increase the Council's overall level of inflation contingency. This equated to the amount of reserves that were originally

anticipated to be required to support the 2022/23 budget outturn position, but were not ultimately called upon. When set alongside a further unbudgeted grant assumption of £1m, this left a remaining forecast budget pressure of £2.6m.

- 3.8 Cabinet immediately instigated mitigating action to develop a structured approach to tackling the remaining forecast deficit through £2.1m of budget recovery proposals brought forward by services.
- 3.9 These proposals included a targeted vacancy freeze, maximising grants and income, bearing down on all non-essential spend, and identifying eligible capital related costs that could be met from capital funding.
- 3.10 The forecast at the end of Month 9 indicates an overall forecast deficit against budget of £314k, a slight deterioration of £29k since that reported at Month 6:

Month 9 Revenue budget forecast

Table 1: Budget forecast at Month 9

Directorate	Shortfall in saving target £000's	New budget Pressures / Savings £000's	Total Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ Month 9 £000's	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ Month 6 £000's	Variance Month 6 to Month 9 £000's
Social Care & Health	969	2,662	3,631	3,190	441
Children & Young People	107	304	411	340	71
Communities & Place	509	492	1,001	896	104
Monlife	76	(68)	8	8	0
Chief Executives Units	0	(46)	(46)	(45)	0
Law & Governance	30	121	151	115	36
Resources	175	(319)	(144)	(178)	33
Corporate, Treasury, Reserves & Financing	0	(4,698)	(4,698)	(3,306)	(1,393)
Totals	1,866	(1,552)	314	1,022	(708)
Grant assumption for remainder of year			0	(737)	737

Net budget position forecast at Month 9			314	285	29
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- 3.11 The overall deficit is due to a combination of a shortfall in services being able to meet their budgeted savings targets of £1.866m; in-year budgetary pressures across three of our frontline service directorates; offset significantly by in-year use of reserves of £2.5m to mitigate inflationary pressures, and savings within treasury, corporate costs, and financing budgets.
- 3.12 Whilst the ongoing work to embed placement and practice change continues to drive improvements within our Social Care directorate, we are continuing to see a trend of increased demand related pressures, with a £441k deterioration since Month 6, most notably in relation to additional adult’s care home placements, and increased complexity in Children’s care needs.
- 3.13 Treasury costs for the year are expected to be £1.1m less than originally budgeted. This budget predominantly covers the Council’s capital financing costs which have remained lower due to the peak in interest rates being lower than expected; higher than anticipated cash balances throughout the year, and; active treasury management to lock into forward starting loans at lower rates in light of a rising interest rate environment.
- 3.14 Within our Corporate budget which primarily covers centrally allocated costs, further work to identify the final impact of the pay award for Local Government employees has resulted in overall costs being less than previously forecast by £700k. Alongside this, the pension costs relating to service redesign have been able to be met from existing capitalisation direction budgets, resulting in a benefit to the revenue budget of £380k.
- 3.15 It is important to note that overall, the revenue budget for the year is being supported by one-off use of revenue reserves totalling £5.5m, £3m of which were approved as part of the original budget, and an additional contribution of £2.5m that was approved by Cabinet at their meeting on the 26th July 2023. Further mitigation is provided by utilising a maximum of £4m of capital receipts to meet revenue expenditure under regulation.

Service pressures and savings summary

- 3.16 **Appendix 1** to this report details the service pressures and savings that have been highlighted at Month 9. At a summary level these primarily relate to the following areas:

Table 2: Service budget pressures and savings

Pressure / Saving	Pressure / (Saving) £000's	Summary
Waste Services	882	<p>The recycling market remains volatile with increased reprocessing costs and reduction in recycling income. Inflationary pressures, and delays in rolling out polyprop reuseable bags due to depot infrastructure and vehicle issues is adding to pressure.</p> <p>This represents a deterioration of £115k from the previous forecast as the recycling market volatility continues to add to overall costs.</p>
Fleet	270	<p>Fuel and parts inflation remain high, supply chain issues for replacement parts is leading to the outsourcing of repairs to external contractors. Downtime of vehicles is also driving up hire costs.</p> <p>There has been no material change in position since Month 6.</p>
Housing/Homelessness	471	<p>The Housing team are continuing to review accommodation and the number of B&Bs in usage. Placements have increased from the last forecast from 47 to 50. Since the previous forecast costs have increased by £89k mainly due to additional damage repair and utility costs.</p>
Adult's care services	3,104	<p>Negotiated Care provider fees are £1.5m more than budgeted following significant hikes in rates in the current market.</p> <p>A further pressure of £1.25m from an increase in care home placements together with an increase in the average cost of placements.</p> <p>A shortfall of £0.8m against budgeted savings targets.</p> <p>This is offset by under spends of £900k in the My Day My Life, and Care at Home vacancies.</p> <p>This is an increase in over spend since Month 6 of £95k primarily as a result of external care home placements trending upwards.</p>
Children's care services	600	<p>Increased cost of new placements to meet demand and increase in provision for some existing packages. An increased over spend of £393k since Month 6.</p>
ALN Transport & Recoupment	579	<p>Transport contracts pressure of £737k (£650k at Month 6).</p> <p>Change in ALN formula for schools - all out of county recoupment for mainstream schools will be delegated to schools £451k (minimal change since Month 6).</p> <p>Reduction in number of pupils in out of county/independent schools, and further grant funding has resulted in a saving of £609k (£529k at Month 6).</p>

MonLife Finance & Business development	220	<p>Borough Theatre income deficit £180k and Attractions income deficit £80k, both due to lower than budgeted visitor levels.</p> <p>Contact centre/hubs £90k due to delays in implementing a restructure and cover for long term sickness.</p> <p>Offset by holding of staff vacancies as part of budget recovery measures.</p> <p>A reduction in over spend of £30k since Month 6.</p>
Democratic Services	137	Members costs have increased as a result of pay awards, higher than anticipated take up of the superannuation scheme, and an increase in co-opted members. No change since Month 6.
Pay inflation - non-teaching	185	The pressure over and above base budget provision for pay based upon the concluded outcome of pay negotiation by Local Government Employers. A reduction of £775k since Month 6 as final costs are now known.
Planning & Building Control	128	A £46k adverse swing from month 6 and is down to a further deterioration in income in both building control and planning due to the downturn in the economy meaning applications are reducing.
Investment properties	143	<p>NLP is expected to generate a £290k surplus after loan repayments, however this falls £47k short of the budget target for 23-24.</p> <p>Castlegate is forecasting to over spend by £96k due to unbudgeted utility costs associated with our vacant units.</p> <p>No change from Month 6.</p>
Coroners service	104	Coroner's Service are forecasting an over spend due to the urgent restructuring of the service as required by the Chief Coroner of England and Wales review.
CYP support services	(409)	Primarily in-year budget recovery action relating to use of PV reserves, sourcing of additional grant and holding some staff vacancies. Minimal change from Month 6.
Business Growth & Enterprise	(169)	Managed staff savings due to the funding of core staff costs in Economic development by grant. No change from Month 6.
Highways management & flooding	(339)	Fee income will exceed budgets mainly in road closure, inspection and SABs fees. Staff vacancy savings have increased as a result of the overall vacancy freeze in place. Further under spend of £23k since Month 6.
Facilities & fleet	(295)	<p>Improved private hire income and bus operator support grant provided by WG - £119k</p> <p>Building cleaning income and staff vacancies - £88k</p>

		Solar farm increased income £88k
Leisure, Youth & Outdoor Adventure	(108)	Higher than anticipated income at Monmouth Leisure Centre and higher than budgeted grant in sports development, offset by overspend in outdoor adventure and youth. A slight deterioration of £25k since Month 6.
Corporate Training	(124)	Staff vacancies being held within the unit. A further under spend of £13k since Month 6.
Financial services	(200)	A combination of significant staff vacancies held across the service, increased grant income, and the ability to passport qualifying costs to capital. A reduced under spend of £42k from Month 6 following inclusion of a bad debt provision.
Treasury costs	(1,118)	Forecast saving as a result of interest rate rises pausing and higher than expected cash balances. An increased under spend of £388k since Month 6 as trends continue.
Council Tax	(350)	Council tax reduction scheme caseloads are running slightly below historical levels. A reduced under spend of £80 since Month 6 as discounts and exemptions trend upwards.
Corporate costs	(138)	Primarily business rate refunds on Council owned properties following appeals process.
Inflation contingency budget	(3,000)	Full use of the reserve backed contingency budget is forecast. No change since Month 6.
Other variances	(259)	A number of smaller under spends within services
Total	314	

Unbudgeted grant assumption

- 3.17 Previous budget forecasts have included an assumption that up to a further £1m of unbudgeted grant would be awarded during the financial year, and that this award would allow for core Council expenditure to be met from the additional grant.
- 3.18 Whilst this assumption is in line with trends over recent years, it was noted that as the year progresses this assumption would continue to come with a higher degree of risk following the well documented in-year pressures on the Welsh Government budget.
- 3.19 At the time of writing, it is estimated that £450k of unbudgeted grant has been received during the year to date which has allowed core Council costs to be offset. It is now felt prudent to remove any further forecast for grant given the short period of time through to year-end and in light of continuing pressures on Welsh Government budgets.

Budgeted savings targets

- 3.20 Services are currently forecasting to deliver 85% (87% at Month 6) of their overall savings targets for the year, inclusive of the in-year additional budget recovery action identified. The shortfall of 15% or £1.86m is outlined below and full details can be found at **Appendix 2** to this report.

Table 3: Progress against budgeted savings targets

Savings proposals by Directorate	Total Saving / Budget recovery	Month 9 Forecast	Variance to Budgeted	% Forecast to be met
		£000	£000	
Social Care & Health	(3,495)	(2,526)	969	72.3%
Children & Young People	(2,241)	(2,134)	107	95.2%
Communities & Place	(3,396)	(2,887)	509	85.0%
Monlife	(1,292)	(1,216)	76	94.1%
Chief Executives Unit	(104)	(104)	0	100.0%
Law & Governance	(157)	(127)	30	80.9%
Resources	(1,178)	(1,003)	175	85.1%
Corporate Costs & Levies	(433)	(433)	0	100.0%
Totals	(12,296)	(10,430)	1,866	84.8%

School Balances

- 3.21 There is a significant movement in cumulative School balances forecast for the year, moving from a surplus of £4.25m to a forecast deficit of £1.35m at year-end. Sixteen schools are currently forecast to be in deficit by year-end.
- 3.22 There isn't a consistent picture of schools' balances. There has been a fluctuating trend for some time with some schools showing a continuing reduction in schools balances, which is of concern, and others a more stable trend.

- 3.23 Grants awarded to schools at 2020/21 and 2021/22 year-ends to manage the impact of the pandemic on education resulted in a large increase in overall school balances, which has somewhat masked inherent structural budget deficits across some schools.
- 3.24 The legacy impact of the pandemic continues within the school environment, particularly in respect of attendance, behaviours and increased additional learning needs. This has required increased staff and specialist resources to tackle the issues presenting and increased overall costs of provision. Higher than budgeted pay awards have also impacted upon budgets.
- 3.25 Finance teams will continue to support schools to closely monitor and manage expenditure through to the financial year-end in order to mitigate the impact on closing balances.

Remaining budgetary risks

- 3.26 There remain key specific budgetary risks presenting for the remainder of this financial year and beyond, that have the ability to further impact upon our financial sustainability as a Council:
- **Homelessness presentations** continue to be volatile and could lead to above forecast use of costly Bed & Breakfast or temporary housing solutions despite the strategies engaged to reduce this;
 - The **increased level and complexity of demand within Social care** continues to provide a financial risk through to year-end. Whilst the work to embed placement and practice change in both Adults and Childrens social care continues, demand for services can be volatile and in some cases can present emergency needs that are required to be met.
 - There remains a risk that **further non-delivery of budgeted savings** targets in the current difficult operating environment will impact on both 2023/24 and the medium-term if alternative strategies to deliver savings cannot be found;
 - The trend of **reducing debt recovery** and the need to make full assessment of the impact this may have on both our current year and medium term recoverability assumptions;
 - **Limited reserve cover** – the one-off use of revenue reserves to support the 2023/24 budget means reserves are at minimum prudent levels to provide sufficient cover for ongoing unforeseen risks. Any further deterioration in the revenue budget outturn position will impact upon this level of reserves.
 - **National picture** – there is continued pressure on both UK and Welsh Government budgets resulting from the wider economic environment. This will impact upon levels of further unbudgeted funding.

Financial implications and future focus

- 3.27 The continuing financial headwinds, increasing demand for services, funding uncertainty, and the need for service savings of £12m to be delivered within a challenging operating environment continues to present tangible ongoing budget risks for the remainder of the year.
- 3.28 There is therefore a requirement for all services to continue to bear down on avoidable cost and identify further income opportunities wherever possible for the remainder of the year, in order to limit the call on severely limited useable revenue reserves.
- 3.29 The targeted vacancy freeze that has been enacted will continue through to the end of the year. The more regular financial monitoring arrangements continue, strengthened by the Financial Management Board who continue to focus on high budget risk areas and in regularly assessing the progress being made against budgeted service savings, and the additional budget recovery action.
- 3.30 Whilst the next formal budget update report will be the financial outturn report, Cabinet will continue to receive monthly informal updates on the overall progress being made.
- 3.31 Work will continue to deliver on the structured approach to tackling the underlying budget pressures, which will continue to explore all available options open to the Council. This includes vacancy management; the potential for further or alternative savings; full utilisation of the budgeted capitalisation direction; and legitimately maximising all grant funding and income generation opportunities.
- 3.32 To the extent that this action can result in a surplus being delivered against budget at year-end, this will allow for a full evaluation of the Council's overall financial position, including an assessment of the robustness of revenue reserves and the sustainability of school balances.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The report itself covers the resource implications of the entirety of the revenue budget activity during the year. There are no further resource implications as a result of the recommendations in this report.

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

- 5.1 This report provides Members with an update on the early progress being made against the revenue budget of the Authority and carries no decisions. There are therefore no equality and future generations' implications directly arising from this report.

CONSULTEES:

Senior Leadership Team
Cabinet

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix 1 – Detailed service commentaries, Schools budget forecast, Capital budget forecast

Appendix 2 – Progress against service saving plans

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Section 1	Revenue budget position at Month 9
Section 2	Detailed service commentary on Month 9 forecast
Section 3	School balances update at Month 9
Section 4	Capital budget position at Month 9

Section 1 - Overall Revenue Position

Table 1: Council Fund 2023/24 Forecast Outturn Summary Statement at Month 9

Service Area	Original Budget 2023/24	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast (Under) / Overspend @ Month 9	Forecast (Under) / Overspend @ Month 6	Variance Month 6 to Month 9
	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's
Social Care, Health & Safeguarding	63,735	360	64,094	67,726	3,631	3,190	441
Children & Young People	62,420	63	62,482	62,894	411	340	71
Communities & Place	26,427	(956)	25,470	26,471	1,001	896	104
MonLife	8,188	165	8,353	8,361	8	8	0
Chief Executives Unit	3,068	113	3,181	3,135	(46)	(45)	(1)
Law & Governance	2,656	11	2,667	2,818	151	115	36
Resources	7,017	1,364	8,381	8,237	(144)	(178)	34
Corporate Costs & Levies	29,344	1,173	30,517	27,286	(3,231)	(2,146)	(1,085)
Net Cost of Services	202,854	2,293	205,147	206,927	1,782	2,182	(400)
Treasury & Reserves	5,661	(2,293)	3,367	2,251	(1,118)	(730)	(388)
Expenditure to be Financed	208,514	0	208,514	209,178	664	1,452	(788)
Financing	(208,515)	0	(208,515)	(208,865)	(350)	(430)	80
Net General Fund (Surplus) / Deficit	(0)	0	0	314	314	1,022	(708)
Unbudgeted grant assumption for remainder of year					0	(737)	737
Total General Fund (Surplus) / Deficit					314	285	29

Table 2: Council Fund 2023/24 Outturn Detailed Statement

Service Area	Original Budget 2023/24	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast (Under) / Overspend @ Month 9	Forecast (Under) / Overspend @ Month 6	Variance Month 6 to Month 9
	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's
Adult Services	38,246	120	38,366	41,469	3,104	3,009	95
Children Services	22,209	(32)	22,177	22,777	600	207	393
Public Protection	1,790	(3)	1,787	1,850	63	63	0
SCH Support	1,489	276	1,765	1,629	(136)	(89)	(47)
Social Care, Health & Safeguarding	63,735	360	64,094	67,726	3,631	3,190	441
Emergency Planning	170	(0)	170	169	(1)	(1)	1
Individual Schools Budget	50,423	63	50,487	50,711	224	176	49
Resources	1,140	(1)	1,139	730	(409)	(400)	(8)
Standards	10,686	1	10,687	11,283	596	566	30
Children & Young People	62,420	63	62,482	62,894	411	340	71
Enterprise, Housing & Community Animation	4,564	(1,077)	3,487	3,863	376	264	112
Facilities & Fleet Management	10,805	217	11,022	11,089	67	190	(123)
Neighbourhood Services	9,306	69	9,375	10,157	782	667	115
Placemaking, Highways & Flood	1,752	(165)	1,586	1,362	(225)	(224)	(0)
Communities & Place	26,427	(956)	25,470	26,471	1,001	896	104
Communications	203	(0)	203	181	(21)	(25)	4
Countryside & Culture	1,157	3	1,160	1,077	(83)	(83)	0
Finance & Business Development	4,170	237	4,407	4,627	220	250	(30)
Leisure, Youth & Outdoor Adventure	2,658	(75)	2,583	2,475	(108)	(134)	26
MonLife	8,188	165	8,353	8,361	8	8	0
Policy, Scrutiny & Customer Service	1,236	90	1,326	1,314	(11)	(11)	0
People	1,832	23	1,856	1,820	(35)	(34)	(1)
Chief Executives	3,068	113	3,181	3,135	(46)	(45)	(1)
Democratic Services	1,634	6	1,640	1,777	137	137	0
Legal and Land Charges	1,022	5	1,028	1,042	14	(21)	35
Law & Governance	2,656	11	2,667	2,818	151	115	36
Commercial, Corporate & landlord Services	1,597	72	1,669	1,754	85	67	18
Corporate Health & Safety	77	11	89	83	(6)	0	(6)
Finance	2,505	1,157	3,663	3,463	(200)	(242)	42

Information Communication Technology	2,837	123	2,961	2,937	(23)	(4)	(19)
Resources	7,017	1,364	8,381	8,237	(144)	(178)	34
Precepts & Levies	24,578	0	24,578	24,578	0	(0)	0
Coroner's	171	0	171	275	104	18	86
Archives	213	0	213	213	0	(0)	0
Corporate Management	355	0	355	217	(138)	(116)	(22)
Non Distributed Costs (NDC)	757	0	757	375	(382)	0	(382)
Strategic Initiatives	1,642	1,173	2,815	0	(2,815)	(2,040)	(775)
Insurance	1,628	0	1,628	1,628	(0)	(7)	7
Corporate Costs & Levies	29,344	1,173	30,517	27,286	(3,231)	(2,146)	(1,085)
Net Cost of Services	202,854	2,293	205,147	206,927	1,781	2,182	(400)
Interest & Investment Income	(925)	0	(925)	(1,501)	(576)	(550)	(26)
Interest Payable & Similar Charges	6,953	0	6,953	6,601	(352)	(8)	(344)
Charges Required under Regulation	6,800	0	6,800	7,006	206	223	(17)
Other Investment Income	0	0	0	(42)	(42)	(42)	(0)
Borrowing Cost Recoupment	(3,658)	0	(3,658)	(4,011)	(353)	(353)	0
Contributions to Reserves	63	0	63	63	0	0	0
Contributions from reserves	(3,572)	(1,109)	(4,681)	(4,681)	(0)	0	(0)
Contribution from Council Fund	0	(1,184)	(1,184)	(1,184)	0	0	0
Treasury & Reserves	5,661	(2,293)	3,367	2,251	(1,118)	(730)	(388)
Expenditure to be Financed	208,514	(0)	208,514	209,179	664	1,452	(788)
General Government Grants	(91,451)	0	(91,451)	(91,451)	0	0	0
Non Domestic Rates	(31,224)	0	(31,224)	(31,224)	0	0	0
Council tax	(93,642)	0	(93,642)	(93,642)	0	(150)	150
Council Tax Benefit Support	7,802	0	7,802	7,452	(350)	(280)	(70)
Financing	(208,515)	0	(208,515)	(208,865)	(350)	(430)	80
Net General Fund (Surplus) / Deficit	(0)	(0)	0	314	314	1,022	(708)

Unbudgeted grant assumption for remainder of year					0	(737)	737
Total General Fund (Surplus) / Deficit					314	285	29

Section 2 - Directorate – Service Variance Comments

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & SAFEGUARDING	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	2,830	3,190	3,631	0

The Social Care directorate continues to make in-roads into its identified savings targets; however, a number of key areas, particularly within adults' services, remain challenging. The service continues to deal with high demand and complexity of people's needs making the balance between reducing costs and ensuring that people have their basic needs met a challenging one. We are continuing to experience demand led pressures following hospital discharge including new care home placements and care in the community. There is increased oversight across the system to support practice and decision-making regarding the care and support we provide.

Within adults' services effective negotiations with care providers have allowed costs associated with fees and charges to be controlled. However, we have been unable to mitigate entirely the additional cost of care this year which has created a significant pressure.

It is pleasing to note that the work within children's services placement planning is showing good outcomes, and that the overall numbers of children coming into care continues to remain stable with a slight downward trend over the last 3 years. There are a number of key risks within the service which have an impact on cost including the insufficiency of children's placements. Month 9 has seen a further increase in our cost pressure, due to new placements and additional support required for existing provisions. The numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children entering the county has increased significantly which whilst cost neutral in itself puts renewed pressure on placements and on wider resources.

The service is benefitting from a number of Welsh Government grants some of which are known to be short-term and others of which remain uncertain with regards to how long they might be available. Services supported by grants are deeply integrated into the core deliver of the service and contribute heavily to managing demand and supporting the delivery of savings.

ADULT SERVICES				
Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	2,618	3,009	3,104	0

There is a £3.104m overspend in Adult Services.

Progress against savings mandates remains challenging particularly with regard to the reduction of care at home hours and care home placements. Following an initial review pilot process in the central area, initial savings associated with the reduction of care packages was identified as £80k. The work to reduce and change the care packages with individuals is underway and the review process that was established is now extending out across the service based on the work. To monitor this we are tracking the total

number of people in receipt of care at home against the total number of care hours delivered. It is also positive to note that the numbers of unmet need care at home hours have continued to show overall reductions.

We continue to show a deficit against saving mandates associated with Continuing Health Care. Some recent cases have been successfully pursued with health which has allowed us to generate £171k of savings against a target of £550k.

The main pressures are down to the £1.5M provider fees. At the beginning of the year this was calculated at £2M; however, after extensive fair fee negotiations with provider agencies we were able to reduce this by £0.5M.

A further pressure of £1.25M has arisen through continued increase in care home placements together with an increase in the average cost of care home placements. A gatekeeping panel has been established to provide oversight to all requests for high-cost care packages including residential placements. Residential placements are now used in situations where the cost of care at home would exceed the cost of a residential placement, contributing to the continued rise in residential placements.

The overspend has been assisted by £900K under spends within MDML and Care at Home vacancies, and the £1.1M Social Care Workforce and Sustainability Grant, leading to the true underlying over spend more in the region of £5M, coupled with debt for care charges still running high at £1.802M.

As a region the GWICES pool fund is overspending, of which £179K is attributable to this Authority. External funding has been granted of £500K to fund the regional overspend with £60K being provided to ourselves, leaving at this juncture a net £119K over spend.

Budget recovery measures are being enacted including increasing the oversight of all new packages of care against tightened eligibility criteria.

CHILDREN SERVICES

Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	211	207	600	0

Children's services have been able to capitalise on their progression planning activity with individual children, bringing children into placements that are closer to home and more in keeping with their care and support needs and longer-term personal outcomes. This has including supporting some children to return home, or, for older children, into more independent settings. Additional family support services have been put in place to support this endeavour – with the service benefitting from Welsh Government grants to achieve this.

The £600k overspend within children's service is largely due to the increased cost of new placements to meet demand and increase in provision for some existing packages.

The service continues to have an over-reliance on agency staff working in critical areas of the service particularly child-protection. The service is reviewing all agency assignments and accelerating agency exit plans wherever possible to contribute to budget recovery measures. The service is working in accordance with the All Wales pledge in order to control the costs associated with agency-worker fees.

PUBLIC PROTECTION

Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'s	63	63	63	0

The deficit results from the staff restructuring saving mandate not being delivered, as a consequence of the Head of Public Protection post being retained. A vacant EHO post has been deleted which partly offsets this budget pressure.

SCH SUPPORT

Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(62)	(89)	(136)	0

Due to vacancy savings within the directorate finance team.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE DIRECTORATE

Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	331	340	411	0

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARY:

The Directorate's Month 9 position is a forecast over spend of £411k. This overspend is due to ALN Transport (£737k) and a reduction in ALN Recoupment (£451k).

We have been able to offset a large proportion of our overspend by successfully developing our in County ALN provision, which has resulted in a reduction of the number of ALN pupils attending Out of County or Independent placements.

All opportunities to make savings are being reviewed. This includes the cost of ALN Transport and any vacancies that may occur in the Directorate.

The increase in overspend of £71k, from Month 6 to Month 9, is mainly due to an increase in ALN Transport costs (which included an unexpected charge of £34k from Carmarthenshire County Council for Sept '18 - Mar '23), plus an increase in Breakfast Club staff and catering costs. However, we have been able to mitigate these additional costs following a saving on Out of County ALN costs, as we had disputed 2021-22 and 2022-23 ALN charges, as the costs of support had been increased without our knowledge.

Emergency Planning

Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'s	(1)	(1)	(1)	0

The division is reporting to budget

Individual Schools Budget

Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	134	176	224	0

The overspend is largely due to an increase in transport costs and we are working with the PTU to try and minimise these costs going forward:

- £56k Post-16 Transport
- £20k Bus to Caldicot School
- £12k Llandenny to Usk Transport

A further overspend of £46k has been due to the 2022-23 Pay Award, which has caused the SRS costs to increase for all schools. This pressure was not known at the time of agreeing the Service Level Agreements (SLA's) and so it could not be passed onto the schools, and we have also included the £38.6k Prudential Borrowing Charge and £49k of the ILW costs in our forecast.

Resources

Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(388)	(400)	(409)	0

The under spend of £408,578 is due to the following:

- £270k – releasing reserve and in year income from the Photovoltaic Recharges cost centre (solar panel income)
- £45k – staff cost savings through vacancies
- £45k – grant offsetting staff costs
- £25k - savings on ICT, as budgeted costs for SIMS Centralisation costs not incurred and Address Cleaning will now take place in 24-25
- £14k – grant offsetting ALN licencing costs
- £10k - releasing remainder of 22-23 accrual for unspent School Essentials grant, as we have now paid this back to WG

Standards

Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	585	566	596	0

The overspend of £596,240 is due to the following:

- £737k ALN Transport – forecast revised based on Q1 – Q3 actuals and S and following re-tender where costs have significantly increased.
- £451k reduction in ALN Recoupment – with the recent changes in ALN formula for schools, all out of county recoupment for mainstream schools will be delegated to support pupils.
- £98k Breakfast clubs – increase in catering and staff costs and reduction in income
- £29k - ALN Administration Service – Deri View SRB costs and unable to currently make the employee related savings
- £18k ALN Management – unexpected pension costs, as a member of staff was automatically opted in and has not re-claimed their pension payments, after opting out again. An increase in staff costs and unable to make the employee related savings

Offset by:

- -£458k saving on ALN Out of County – reduction in number of pupils in out of county schools has resulted in a saving
- -£151k saving in independent schools – reduction in the number of pupils requiring places
- -£27k saving in Education Psychology – due to staff savings and additional income received
- -£98k grants used to offset staff costs

COMMUNITIES & PLACE DIRECTORATE	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	959	896	1,001	0

COMMUNITIES & PLACE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARY:

This is a deterioration in the position since Month 6 and the details of these changes are provided within the next sections of this report. Within this period, the noticeable key changes are within Waste Services and Housing. The placements into temporary and emergency accommodation for people presenting as homeless has increased but the notable change has been due to increased damage, repair and utility costs which have been reported across our hostels and leased accommodation. In previous years we have received some additional grant funding which has helped towards these costs, but we are not expecting any further funding in this year. In Waste Services, the recycling market has been very volatile this year and the current downturn in the market has resulted in an increase in reprocessing costs and reduction in recycling income, there have also been inflationary increases over and above what was built into the budget causing further pressures exacerbated with reductions in income and grant funding.

Across all services, all eligible costs continue to be claimed against any funding that is made available. In addition, we will continue to closely monitor and manage all operational and financial performance to ensure that all possible action is taken to constrain any further costs.

Enterprise, Housing & Community Animation

Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	524	264	376	0

Enterprise & Community Animation is forecasting a £376k overspend at month 9, this is mainly due to: -

- **Enterprise Mgt** - £48k overspend – our partner contribution towards City Deal has increased over and above available budget by £13k, on top of this senior management costs have exceeded budget due to the inability to make vacancy factor savings and an over spend in subscription and software costs. This is a £4k improvement from M6 due to some staff costs being claimed against grant.
- **Community & Partnership Development** - £33k under spend – savings generated from being able to pay for core staff costs through grant funding.
- **Housing** - £530k overspend, this can be broken down into these main areas: -
 - **Homelessness** – £199k overspend:

Since we last reported at Month 6 placements have increased from 47 to 50 but new costing projections estimate that we will spend £2.047m on B&B accommodation with a further £667k on ancillary spend including security, storage, and damage repairs. The majority of this cost will be offset by Housing Prevention grant of £472k and Housing Benefit of £1.372m but overall we are still left with a £98k shortfall against budget. We have received notice from WG that they will be providing some additional grant funding to help with housing costs, when we factor this in it turns the overspend into a £139k underspend.

There is a further overspend relating to B&B placements in our benefits service due to the funding subsidy gap between what we pay in Housing benefit and what we can claim back

from the DWP, currently this is forecast to be £338k over available budget. When you add this against the underspend in Housing the overall authority overspend related to Homelessness is £199k.

- **Shared Housing & Private Leasing** - £272k overspend – this is an increase of £87k since Month 6 and is mainly due to damage repair and increased utility costs across our hostels and leased accommodation. In previous years some of these costs were funded by additional HPG grant but we are currently not expecting any more grant this financial year.
- **Strategic Services** – £45k overspend – Service is now forecast to over spend due to the costs incurred in relation to the Gypsy & Romany Traveller surveys, the full extent of this was not known in September and is the reason for adverse variance from Month 6.
- **Business Growth & Enterprise** – £169k under spend – no change from Month 6 - this is as a result of managed staff savings due to the funding of core staff costs in Economic development (£135k) by grant as per M5 budget recovery plan and vacancy savings in the Strategic Operations Team due to the delay in the restructure that has only just been agreed (£33k).
- **Procurement** – On Budget.

Facilities & Fleet Management

Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	220	190	66	0

Facilities, Fleet & De-carbonisation are forecasting a £66k overspend, due to-

- **Schools Catering** – Break-even – At Month 6 we reported that we were awaiting a decision from WG regarding the updated UFSM rate – this has now been agreed at £3.20 and will be payable from the 1st January 2024. This has helped reduce the potential in-year over spend to £96k but in addition to the fee uplift WG have also reported that they will be releasing a further £3.3m of grant funding in 23-24 to counter any additional set-up costs within councils and we are assuming that our share of this grant will be enough to cover this shortfall.
- **Passenger Transport** – £82k under spend – This is an improvement from the break-even position reported at Month 6. We are continuing to see a budget pressure within the service mainly in external commissioning where contract prices remain over and above available budget and in our internal operations where high staff sickness has meant an increase in overtime cover. These pressures have been covered by improved private hire income and bus operator support grant provided by WG. An element of the bus support grant we have received this year relates to a windfall sum owing from our previous year BES submission, WG hadn't finalised the reconciliation until this year, so we were unaware of any further funding owing and is the main reason for the improvement from M6.
- **Regional Transport Team** - £37k under spend – staff under spend as we have been able to use capitalisation directive to fund core service cost.
- **Car Salary Sacrifice Scheme** – £31k over spend – £18k adverse swing from M6, the number of members in the scheme has reduced in recent years to a point where the actual savings being made have fallen below budgeted levels.
- **Fleet maintenance** - £270k over spend – No change from M6 - fuel and parts inflation coupled with supply chain issues that are driving up external repair costs are still the main cause of the over spend. In addition hire costs for replacement vehicles have resulted in a pressure in our hire vehicle budget. The unit is still on target to meet the £185k budget recovery measures built in as

part of the authority recovery plan. Officers will continue to review our fleet requirements to mitigate spend where possible.

- **Building Cleaning & Public Conveniences** - £88k under spend – mainly down to part year staff vacancy savings, improved income, and the managed reduction in non-essential spend.
- **Solar Farm & Sustainability** - £88k under spend – due to improved income mainly from our PV installations caused by the increased market rates for energy. This is a £11k improvement from M6 and is due to maintenance costs being included in the M6 forecast that can be funded by reserve.

De-Carbonisation Team - £61k overspend – savings in staff costs have increased to £190k as a result of 4 vacancies within the team which will now not be recruited in the current financial year due to the vacancy freeze and difficulties attracting suitable candidates. We have also received grant funding of £26k which will help offset core costs. These underspends have been offset by the inability to achieve the full corporate energy target by £177k and the total mileage saving of £100k so even though the position has improved by £29k since M6 we still have a budget pressure to manage.

Neighbourhood Services

Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	500	667	782	0

Neighbourhood Services are forecasting to over spend by £782k, this is due to:

Streetlighting – £50k under spend – No change from Month 6 due to an under spend in maintenance as we have been able to fund qualifying works from our capital budget as per the M5 budget recovery plan.

- **Highways Operations & SWTRA** – £50k under spend – No change from Month 6 - £50k under spend as a result of the rationalisation of our sweeping function to reduce costs as agreed in the authority's budget recovery plan. The work undertaken for SWTRA (South Wales Trunk Road Agency) is currently on target to come in within budget.
- **Waste Services** - £882k overspend – The 23-24 budget was based on an assumption that there would be a net zero cost to the processing of our recyclates. The recycling market has been very volatile this year and the current downturn in the market has resulted in an increase in reprocessing costs and reduction in recycling income, this has meant a net increase of £650k against our zero cost assumption. There have been inflationary increases over and above what was built into the budget causing further pressures exacerbated with reductions in income and grant funding.
- **Grounds Maintenance** – Break-even.

Placemaking, Highways & Flood

Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(286)	(224)	(225)	0

Placemaking, Highways & Flood is forecasting to under spend by £225k, this is as a result of -

- **Planning & Building Control** – £128k overspend – this is a £46k adverse swing from month 6 and is down to a further deterioration in income in both building control and planning due to the downturn in the economy meaning applications are reducing.
- **Planning Policy & LDP** – Reporting a balanced budget.
- **Car Parks & Civil Parking Enforcement** - £9k overspend – income has improved significantly from M6 due to a combination of more PCNs issued and MCC not offering free weekend parking during December, resulting in a £25k positive swing reducing the overspend significantly. If additional PCN

income is secured for the remainder of the year, it is likely the car parks and civil enforcement service will be on budget.

- **Highways management & flooding** - £362k under spend – Projections are still indicating that fee income across the department will exceed budgets mainly in road closure, inspection, and SABs fees. In addition, there has been an increase in staffing under spend as the part year staff vacancy savings reported at M6 have now grown as most of the posts will not be filled as part of the recruitment freeze to aid with M5 budget recovery.

MONLIFE DIRECTORATE	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	344	8	8	0

The Directorate is forecasting an over spend of £8k at Month 9. Inflationary rises, market instability and a post-covid environment continue to impact upon the cost of delivering key services. The primary areas of pressure being the Borough Theatre, Attractions, Markets, and the Contact Centre. The Borough Theatre has only reopened this year and is still recovering from the covid pandemic. This year's adverse weather has been detrimental to income delivery at our attractions, our Markets have not returned to pre covid levels and the contact centre remains under pressure due to increased demand and software updates.

(Monlife) Countryside & Culture

Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	(83)	(83)	

Countryside and Culture are predicted to under spend by £83k due to higher than anticipated grant income.

(MonLife) Communications

Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	5	(25)	(21)	0

Central communications are predicted to under spend by £21k due to the secondment of Central Communications Manager.

(Monlife) Finance & Business Development

Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	339	250	220	0

Finance and Business Development are predicted to over spend by £220k, the primary areas of significant pressure are:

Borough Theatre which is predicted to over spend by £180k due to lower than anticipated income levels, the section is still recovering, and full growth is not expected for another 12months. Service improvement relates to utilisation of grants to fund core staff as agreed in the budget recovery plan.

Attractions which are predicted to over spend by £80k due to lower-than-expected income. Visitor numbers to all our attractions have been significantly impacted by the adverse weather conditions, the section will look to reduce further costs and look at any opportunities for further income generation, this is limited as the service approaches season closure.

Contact Centre and hubs which are predicted to over spend by £90k due to higher than anticipated staffing levels to cover long term sick, delays in implementing restructure which impacted forecast savings, failure to meet employee related savings along with inflation on existing essential contracts.

Markets are forecast to over spend by £17k an improvement on earlier forecast due to staff vacancies and improvement in income.

Learning is forecast to over spend by £14k due to lower than anticipated income and the sections inability to achieve staff vacancy savings.

These pressures are off set, by £40k under spend on museums which includes a one off call on reserves of £30k as per the budget recovery plan, £60k reduction in service management which aligns with delay in non-essential spend and £60k saving in community education due to the freezing of the lead tutor post as agreed in the budget recovery plan.

(Monlife) Leisure, Youth & Outdoor Adventure

Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	(134)	(108)	0

Leisure, Youth & Outdoor Adventure are predicted to under spend by £108k, with the over spend in outdoor adventure and youth being mitigated by higher than anticipated income at our Leisure Centre and higher than budgeted grant in sports development.

This remains an area of concern and requires close monitoring due to the significant income targets and the effect of the cost-of-living crisis on disposable income and future memberships.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S UNIT DIRECTORATE	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(52)	(45)	(46)	0

HEAD OF POLICY, PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMENTARY:

Chief Executives is forecasting to under spend by £46k. There are continued pressures in a number of areas, including the volume of Welsh translations and increases in non-pay costs driven by higher inflation. These have been managed by holding a number of posts vacant across teams. This has been possible because of the additional work carried out by other colleagues.

Policy, Scrutiny & Customer Experience

Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(11)	(11)	(11)	0

Policy, Scrutiny & Customer Experience is forecasting to under spend by £11k, the outturn position is made up of a number of under and overspends across the division with the main variances being :-

- **Corporate** - £45k over spend – Same as M6 - Mainly staffing over spend due the full cost of CEO's PA which only had budget for a part time post, increase in a senior officer's banding after a realignment of responsibilities at Strategic Leadership Team which has no budget and the inability to meet vacancy factor savings.
- **Equalities & Welsh Language** – £19k under spend – No change from M6 - £69k under spend in staffing due to the delay in filling the Equalities officer post, this has been mostly offset by a £49k over spend in Welsh language costs due to the volume of external translation expected this year.

- **Levies, Subscriptions & Donations** - £20k over spend – membership subscriptions to external bodies such as the WLGA and LGA have increased over and above available budget.
- **Scrutiny** - £8k over spend – staffing costs are exceeding budget mainly own to inability to make vacancy factor savings.
- **Policy & Partnerships** – £65k under spend – mainly because of staff savings across the section where we have vacant posts within the community safety & CCTV teams and under spends in the GIS team as we have been able to passport core staff costs to capital.

People (CEO)

Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(41)	(34)	(35)	0

People Services is forecasting to under spend by £35k, the main variances are as follows:

- **Payroll & System support** - £96k over spend – The main reason is the service is currently in the process of changing the recruitment system and have exceeded budget due to the overlap costs of changing from one system to the other, in addition staff costs are above budget due to the employment of 2 temporary staff to provide additional resource whilst the system is embedded and the inability to meet vacancy factor savings.
- **People Management** - £12k under spend – Staff over spends due to honoraria payments and the inability to meet the vacancy factor saving have been offset by an increase in income as SLA recharges have exceeded budget.
- **Occupational Health** – Break-even – £10k change from month 6 – projections are now showing that service demand will equal available budget.
- **Corporate Training** - £124k under spend – Mainly as a result of staff vacancies (3) within the unit, one of which is the Head of Workforce planning & Development has been frozen and has been put forward as a saving proposal for 24-25. Holding this post vacant has generated a sizeable in-year saving used to off-set staffing costs in other teams in the department.
- **Innovation** - £4k Overspend

LAW & GOVERNANCE DIRECTORATE (PG)	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	119	115	151	0

Chief Officer summary: Law & Governance is forecasting to over spend by £151k, primarily due to an increase in members costs, alongside income shortfalls in Legal and land charges.

Every effort is being made to identify mitigating savings to recover the overall position, with £127k currently identified and forecast as part of the wider budget recovery plan. This includes looking at all uncommitted expenditure, the potential to capitalise system costs, and holding vacant posts open.

Democratic Services

Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	137	137	137	0

Democratic Services is forecasting to overspend by £137k, this is due to:

- **Members** - £124k overspend – No change from Month 6 - the cost of elected members has increased over budget this year and is down to a number of factors. The members pay award was agreed at 4.75% for 23-24, this is over the 4.25% built into the budget so has caused a small pressure. The number of co-opted members has increased and the projected cost for these is anticipated to be £28k over previous years. We have seen a higher uptake in members joining the Superannuation scheme than in previous years and this has increased staff oncosts over available budget. There is a vacancy factor saving built into the budget, this will only be partially achieved this year causing a further pressure.
- **Democratic Services** - £13k overspend – No change from Month 6 - mainly due to an increase in the cost of our ModGov support within the committee section offset by improved grant in Electoral Management

Legal and Land Charges

Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'s	(22)	(22)	14	0

Legal and Land charges is forecasting a £14k overspend:

- **Legal** - £3k under spend – staff savings generated by the gap in filling the Head of Governance post and the decision not to fill a post in line with the freeze on recruitment has been offset by additional honoraria payments to staff covering the deputy monitoring role. In addition there is an under recovery of income due to the inability this year to charge core staff costs to capital projects. The honoraria costs were not known in September and is the main reason for the adverse swing from M6.
- **Land Charges** - £17k overspend – Search fees have been impacted by the downturn in the housing market resulting in a budget pressure in income that has increased since M6. This has been part offset by a saving in staffing due to a vacant post and an under spend in supplies & services as we have been able to fund an essential server upgrade via capital funding.

RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(196)	(178)	(144)	0

Chief Officer summary: At month the Resources directorate is forecasting to under spend by £144k, resulting from the in-year budget recovery savings being incorporated into the forecast.

Efforts continue to ensure that the opportunity to further reduce cost or increase income and savings opportunities are taken to support the overall Council objective of ensuring a balanced budget position is achieved by year-end. To that end the need to cease non-essential spend and in holding vacancies within the protocol established will continue to be maintained throughout the year.

Notwithstanding the in-year budget recovery savings the pressures continue to be within the corporate & commercial landlord budget, which is offset by savings within finance and ICT.

Efforts continue to improve the shortfall in savings and income across Landlord Services, in relation to property rationalisation savings, continued improvement in commercial investment performance and wider income generation across the portfolio and in particular county farms, industrial units and cemeteries.

Finance				
Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(243)	(242)	(200)	0

Finance is forecasting to under spend by £200k, this is mainly due to -

- **Revenues** - £9k overspend – due to :-
 - **Benefits & Council Tax** - £45k overspend – due to a £16k residual budget pressure from the Finance restructure, reduced summons income in Council Tax and a bad debt provision top-up of £23k. This has been partially offset by one off administration grant income for Welsh Government Retail Relief scheme. This is a £37k adverse swing from M6 and is largely due to the inclusion of the bad debt provision and a reduction in summons income which was not known in September.
 - **Debtors & Charity relief** – £36k under spend – due to one off burden funding for administering the Energy schemes on behalf of UK Govt, savings from a part year vacancy and a managed under spend in supplies and services.
- **Finance** - £158k under spend – Staff savings due to vacancies as the section is awaiting a restructure.
- **Audit** – £15k under spend – this is a £6k improvement from M6 and is due to staff savings as recruitment has been frozen in line with the budget recovery plan.
- **Systems & Exchequer** – £36k under spend – there is a net under spend within the section due to a staff vacancy in Cashiers that has not been filled in line with the current recruitment freeze and a reduction in software costs as system development has been paused to help in-year budget recovery. In addition we have seen an uplift in income from school recharges, Ukraine funding and capitalisation. The under spend has increased from M6 as a vacant post in banking took longer than expected to recruit.

Future Monmouthshire				
Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	0	0	0

Future Monmouthshire is forecasting to return a balanced budget.

Corporate Health & Safety				
Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	0	(6)	0

Corporate Health & Safety is forecasting a £6k under spend for 23-24, this is down to a managed saving within Supplies & Services.

Information, Communication & Technology				
Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(4)	(4)	(23)	0

- **ICT** - £23k under spend, this is due to :-
 - **Digital Programme Office** - £14k under spend - mainly due to savings in materials and

equipment purchases.

- **SRS Contribution** - £17k over spend - The latest forecast from SRS is that our contribution required for the 23-24 financial year will exceed available budget by £17k. This is due to 2 main factors - an increase in licence costs and a shortfall in SLA income.
- **Digital Design & Innovation** - £23k under spend - mainly due to staff vacancy savings due to the budget manager leaving the authority at the start of Jan and 2 further staff leaving in Feb. This would not have been known in September and is the reason for the variance from M6.
- **Cyber Security Team** - £3k under spend - due to a managed reduction in non-essential spend as per authority budget recovery plan.

Commercial & Corporate Landlord

Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	51	67	85	0

Commercial & Corporate Landlord services is forecasting to over spend by £85k, due to :-

- **Investment Properties** - £143k over spend, due to –
 - **Newport Leisure Park** - £47k over spend – NLP is expected to generate a £290k surplus after loan repayments, however this falls short of the £337k budget target for 23-24. The £47K shortfall relates to unbudgeted rates on vacant units and rent-free periods for new tenants reducing turnover in 23-24. In 24-25 we will see these unexpected expenses reduce and income increase as the rent-free period ends.
 - **Castlegate Business Park** - £96k over spend – Castlegate is forecasting to over spend by £96k, this relates to the unbudgeted utility costs associated with our vacant units, the section continues to work on improving the vacancy rate which will help reduce this over spend by year end.
- **Landlord Services** - £66k over spend – The budget includes a £215k saving from the rationalisation of our property portfolio – currently we are only estimating to find £50k this financial year. This over spend has been part offset by improved rental income, a salary saving due to the freezing of a vacant post and a one-off grant to cover the Ukrainian welcome centre.
- **Shared Accommodation** - £2k under spend – this is a £19k adverse swing from what was reported at M6. Staff savings are still achievable due to a vacant cleaner post, but premises costs have increased, and income is now not expected to achieve earlier projections by £8k.
- **County Farms** - £17k under spend – Lettings have improved, resulting in increased rental income but we still have some vacant properties that are yet to be filled and is the reason for the £15k adverse swing from M6.
- **Industrial Units** - £37k under spend – Rental income has increased above budget due to a number of new lettings.
- **Cemeteries** - £58k under spend. Burial income is projected to come in higher than budget.
- **Property Services** - £10k under spend – same as Month 6 - under spend as a result of a vacant

post in office services that will now not be filled in line with the M5 recruitment freeze.

CORPORATE COSTS & LEVIES DIRECTORATE	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(2,139)	(2,146)	(3,231)	0
Precepts & Levies				
Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	0	0	0
No variance forecast at month 6.				
Coroners Services				
Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	18	18	104	0
Coroner's Service are forecasting an over spend due to the urgent restructuring of the service as required by the Chief Coroner of England and Wales.				
Corporate Management				
Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(116)	(116)	(138)	0
Increased income due to favourable rateable value adjustments on Council owned properties.				
Non-Distributed Costs				
Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	0	(382)	0
Forecast saving against budget for pension strain costs due to costs of reorganisation being met from capitalisation direction.				
Strategic Initiatives				
Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(2,040)	(2,040)	(2,815)	0
Unallocated reserve funded budgets that are mitigating the overall over spend within the Authority.				
Insurance				
Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	(7)	0	0
The Council has been out to tender for its insurance cover which resulted in premiums payable for 2023/24 being slightly less than anticipated at this stage in the year and reflective of a very competitive insurance market. Additional premiums arise during the year if further assets are acquired by the authority and require insurance cover.				

TREASURY & RESERVES	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(251)	(730)	(1,118)	0
Interest & Investment Income				
Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(111)	(550)	(576)	0
The performance of investments in money market funds and DMO deposits continue to improve with raising interest rates. Since Month 6 there have been further improvement in rates and larger invested balances have significantly improved the position.				
The net costs of investments and borrowing has been reduced by arranging short term borrowing in advance. In a rising interest rate environment interest available on investments can be higher than borrowing rates by the time the forward starting loans commence.				
Interest Payable & Similar Charges				
Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	12	(8)	(352)	0
The interest payable position has improved due to lower-than-expected temporary loan requirements combined with forward starting loans locking into beneficial rates. Interest rates have reduced from their peak lowering the costs of borrowing even further.				
It should be noted that the authority has been able to achieve lower short-term borrowing rates by arranging forward starting loans in a rising interest rate environment. As we have reached a peak interest rate there is no longer a benefit in forward starting loans.				
Charges Required Under Regulation				
Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	124	223	206	0
This budget covers the statutory amount the Council is obliged to set aside to fund future loan repayments (Minimum revenue provision – MRP) and the forecast is slightly higher than the £6.7m budget due to higher spend than anticipated in the 2022/23 capital programme that was funded from borrowing (MRP costs start the year after the corresponding expenditure). Additional charges have been made for vehicles disposed/written off. This movement is matched by and under spend in Borrowing Cost Recoupment.				
Other Investment Income				
Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(24)	(42)	(42)	0
Unexpected income related to discharge of SRS business capital advance and interest relating to the late payment on the balance of Hilston Park disposal.				
Borrowing Cost Recoupment				
Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(252)	(353)	(353)	0

This budget represents a technical accounting adjustment where borrowing costs relating to the purchase of capital assets is repatriated from service budgets to ensure that the full life cost of assets is borne by the end user. The variance to budget relates to vehicles purchased at the end of 2022/23 which were originally anticipated to be financed through a sale and leaseback arrangement, however following an options appraisal were found to be more cost effective to be purchased outright and financed from borrowing. No change since M6

FINANCING	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(460)	(430)	(350)	0

Council Tax Benefit Support

Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(260)	(280)	(350)	0

Case load for the scheme appears to be stabilising at around 5,530 cases. As a result an under spend is expected against this budget.

Council Tax

Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(200)	(150)	0	0

Generally the tax base remains strong. We continue to see the base grow as new properties come into the council tax list. However at the same time we are also seeing an increase in the number of discounts and exemptions awarded which has both a negative impact on the tax base and on the forecast outturn position. We are also seeing a slowing down in collection rates as households struggle with the cost of living crisis. Combined, this has eroded any anticipated surplus this year and it is possible that by year end income collected fails to meet the budget set for the year.

General Government Grants

Outturn Forecast	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	0	0	0

Income received to budget.

2. Section 3 – School Balances

- 2.1. A Board of Governors who are responsible for managing the school's finances directly governs each of the Authority's Schools. However, the Authority also holds a key responsibility for monitoring the overall financial performance of schools. Below is a table showing the forecast Schools' balances position based on month 9 projections for each Educational Cluster.
- 2.2. The LA and Governing Body have not formally agreed a 2023-24 budget for Chepstow Comprehensive. This will be agreed at the Governing Body Meeting in October.

Council Fund Outturn 2023/24 – School Balances Summary outturn position	(A) Opening Reserves (Surplus) / Deficit Position 2023/24	(B) Draw / (Contribution) from / (to) School Balances @ Month 5	(C) Draw / (Contribution) from / (to) School Balances @ Month 6	(D) Draw / (Contribution) from / (to) School Balances @ Month 9	(E) Draw/ (Contribution) to Reserves at Outturn	(A+D) Forecast 2023/24 Reserves
	£000's	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cluster						
Abergavenny	(1,598)	1,059	1,119	1,776	0	177
Caldicot	(1,151)	915	991	1,559	0	408
Chepstow	(112)	180	159	383	0	271
Monmouth	(1,425)	1,032	1,016	1,317	0	(108)
Special	29	478	478	572	0	602
Total	(4,257)	3,663	3,763	5,607	0	1,350

- 2.3. Collective School Balances at the beginning of the Financial Year amounted to £4,257,124 surplus. At Month 5, the forecast anticipated draw on reserves was £3,663,351, against a budgeted draw on reserves of £3,344,722, resulting in a forecast surplus balance of £593,885 at year-end. At month 6, the forecast draw on reserves increased by a further £123,714, resulting in a forecast surplus balance

of £494,159 at year end. At month 9, there is a further forecasted draw on reserves of £1,844,040, resulting in a forecast deficit balance of £1,349,880 at year end.

2.4. Grants awarded to schools at 2020/21 and 2021/22 year-ends resulted in a large increase in overall school balances and schools developed grant investment plans in line with the terms and conditions of these grants, hence the large draw on reserves during 2022/23 and 2023/24.

2.5. The movement of individual schools forecast to be in deficit at the end of the year is shown below:

Start of year	Month 5	Month 6	Month 9	End of year
Total: 5	Total: 11	Total: 15	Total: 16	Total: 0
Chepstow Comprehensive	Chepstow Comprehensive	Chepstow Comprehensive	Chepstow Comprehensive	
Llandogo	Llandogo	Llandogo	Llandogo	
Pupil Referral Service	Pupil Referral Service	Pupil Referral Service	Pupil Referral Service	
The Dell	The Dell	The Dell	The Dell	
Our Lady & St Michael's RC Primary School (VA)		Our Lady & St Michael's RC Primary School (VA)	Our Lady & St Michael's RC Primary School (VA)	
	Deri View	Deri View	Deri View	
	Ysgol y Fenni	Ysgol y Fenni	Ysgol y Fenni	
	Caldicot School	Caldicot School	Caldicot School	
	Archbishop Rowan Williams	Archbishop Rowan Williams	Archbishop Rowan Williams	
	Ysgol Y Ffin	Ysgol Y Ffin	Ysgol Y Ffin	
	Osbaston	Osbaston	Osbaston	
	Overmonnow	Overmonnow	Overmonnow	
		Gilwern	Gilwern	
		Rogiet	Rogiet	
		Thornwell	Thornwell	
			King Henry V111 3-19 School	

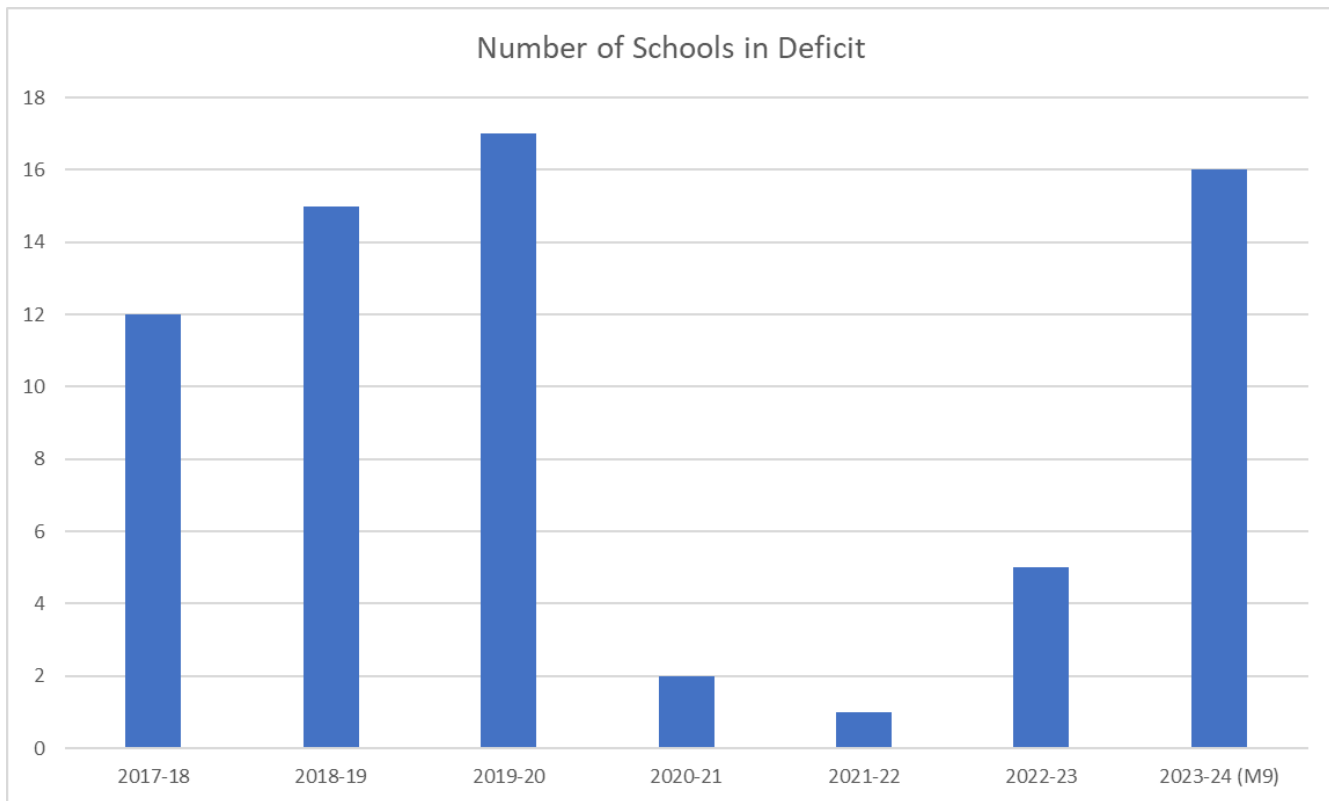
2.6. There is a significant movement in cumulative School balances forecast for the year, moving from a surplus of £4.25m to a forecast deficit of £1.35m at year-end. Sixteen schools are currently forecast to be in deficit by year-end.

2.7. There isn't a consistent picture of schools' balances. There has been a fluctuating trend for some time with some schools showing a continuing reduction in schools balances, which is of concern, and others a more stable trend.

- 2.8. Grants awarded to schools at 2020/21 and 2021/22 year-ends to manage the impact of the pandemic on education resulted in a large increase in overall school balances, which has somewhat masked inherent structural budget deficits across some schools.
- 2.9. The legacy impact of the pandemic continues within the school environment, particularly in respect of attendance, behaviours and increased additional learning needs. This has required increased staff and specialist resources to tackle the issues presenting and increased overall costs of provision. Higher than budgeted pay awards have also impacted upon budgets.
- 2.10. Finance teams will continue to support schools to closely monitor and manage expenditure through to the financial year-end in order to mitigate the impact on closing balances.
- 2.11. All schools that do register a deficit balance at the end of a financial year are required to bring forward budget recovery plans. These recovery plans will be confirmed with both the Local Education Authority and each School's Governing Body. Once finalised the schools with significant deficits will be monitored by the Cabinet member for both Children and Young People and Resources on a termly basis.

Financial Year-end	Net level of School Balances (Surplus) / Deficit in £000's
2014-15	(1,140)
2015-16	(1,156)
2016-17	(269)
2017-18	(175)
2018-19	232
2019-20	435
2020-21	(3,418)
2021-22	(6,956)
2022-23	(4,257)
2023-24 (forecast)	1,350

- 2.12. The increase in school balances during 2020/21 and 2021/22 resulted in a reduction in the number of schools in deficit, as illustrated in the following table. Unfortunately, the current projection is a return of sixteen schools into deficit balance by the end of the year:



3. Section 4 – Capital budget update

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

Select Portfolio	Slippage B/F	Original Budget	Budget Adjustments	Provisional Slippage	Revised Budget 2023/24	Forecast Outturn	Variance to Budget
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Expenditure							
Capitalisation Directive	0	3,008	0	0	3,008	4,008	1,000
Development Schemes Over £250k	12,042	603	1,027	(5,518)	8,155	5,769	(2,386)
Development Schemes Under £250k	2,527	360	(10)	(1,846)	1,031	1,031	0
Schools & Education	6,265	29,375	(63)	0	35,576	35,576	0
Infrastructure	2,455	6,823	0	(3,227)	6,050	6,050	0
ICT Schemes	866	413	0	(312)	966	736	(230)
Property Maintenance	2,027	2,190	122	(86)	4,254	4,254	0

Renovation Grants	0	900	158	0	1,058	1,058	0
Section 106	828	0	0	(732)	96	96	0
Specific Grant Funded	6,089	500	10,728	(172)	17,145	15,272	(1,873)
Total Expenditure	33,098	44,171	11,964	(11,893)	77,339	73,850	(3,489)
Financing							
Supported Borrowing	0	(2,430)	0	0	(2,430)	(2,430)	0
General Capital Grant	0	(2,495)	0	0	(2,495)	(2,495)	(0)
Grants and Contributions	(8,446)	(19,061)	(11,704)	1,789	(37,422)	(35,948)	1,474
S106 Contributions	(917)	0	0	732	(185)	(185)	(0)
Unsupported Borrowing	(20,864)	(15,787)	(70)	8,334	(28,386)	(25,601)	2,785
Earmarked Reserve & Revenue Funding	(305)	(103)	0	13	(395)	(395)	0
Capital Receipts	(2,565)	(4,295)	(191)	1,025	(6,026)	(6,796)	(770)
Total Financing	(33,098)	(44,171)	(11,964)	11,893	(77,339)	(73,850)	3,489

3.2 The capital expenditure at outturn demonstrating a net underspend £3.489m due to the following variances identified:

Scheme	Budget £000's	Over / (Under) spend £000's	Comment
Asset Investment Fund	2,200	(2,200)	Underspend due to Investment window expiring at end 2022/23 so no further investments proposed. This does not realise a usable budget for the Council as the budget was financed from borrowing that was to be met from service income.
Active Travel Schemes	7,560	(1,474)	Under spend due to delays in planning and the time restraints of the development window in Abergavenny. This does not realise a usable budget for the Council as the budget is grant funded.
Capitalisation directive	3,007	1,000	A call on a further £1m headroom that was built into the revenue budget to fund the cost of redundancy and associated pension costs upon reorganisation.
Grant –Match Funding Support Allocation	1,262	(400)	Underspend as no further match funded schemes currently in approved pipeline for 2023/24.
Safer Route to Schools Investment	185	(185)	Underspend as schemes have not been able to be developed in line with approved levels of funding.
ICT Desktop replacement budget	394	(230)	Laptops replacements have been lower than forecast in this financial year.

3.3 Capital Slippage

3.4 Capital slippage forecast at Month 9 is £11.893m. The principal schemes reporting slippage are:

Scheme Category	Scheme Name	Slippage £000's	Comment
Infrastructure	Wye Bridge Monmouth	2,170	Scheme delayed to 2024/25 because there are environmental constraints due to Licences / permits and working with NRW. Costs currently estimated to remain as budgeted.
Economic Development	Capital Region City Deal	1,948	Re-profiling of contributions required by the Cardiff Capital Region board
Children's Services	Property Acquisition for Children and Young People with Complex Needs	1,875	Delays to the acquisition of suitable properties identified
Housing	Housing Provision Borrowing Headroom	1,653	Delayed due to lead times on acquisition of suitable properties
Schools & Education	Archbishop Rowan Williams Nursery	640	In addition to this funding there is further S106 funding to improve / expand classrooms. The project is delayed so both projects can be completed at the same time to minimise the disruption to the school.
Schools & Education	Trellech Primary Nursery Childcare Scheme	620	Completion of Nursery scheme to be completed in 2024, additional funding has been requested from WG as the construction costs have increased and until confirmation has been received the project is unable to start.
Infrastructure	Reconstruction of Bridges and walls	480	Re-surfacing works delayed on Wye Bridge project. No compliant bids were received in the first tender process so have to go back out to tender and this will take us into the 2024/25 financial year.
Schools & Education	Welsh Medium School and Nursery	435	Project start has been delayed to Summer Term
Infrastructure	Wye Bridge Chepstow	375	Scheme delayed to 2024/25 – Investigatory works are being completed (traffic data etc), which have been commissioned to support the remedial decisions before the employment of a contractor.
Infrastructure	Ash Dieback/Dangerous Trees works	203	This 3 year scheme will be completed in 2024-25 as affected woodland is identified
IT Schemes	Network Estate replacement budget	150	Awaiting infrastructure implementation programme from our Network Provider

IT Schemes	SRS Data Hall Migration	149	Decommissioning costs will now arise in 24/25 as advised by our Network provider
Economic Development	Shire Hall/Monmouth Museum Move	148	This is a multi-year project that involves considerable planning and logistical complexities
Adult Services	Mardy Park Minor Works - ABUHB	94	Awaiting authorisation in regard to progressing the scheme with a partner organisation
Maintenance Schemes	Property Maintenance	86	Required for essential schemes delayed by contractor engagement
Economic Development	Grant –Match Funding Support Allocation	77	Progress dependent upon identifying suitable grant streams, so reliant upon third parties.
Economic Development	Fixed Asset disposal costs	45	Reflects slight delay in progressing some asset disposals
IT Schemes	Revenue Systems update	13	Delay in updating system as exact requirements have not yet been identified that enables an integrated solution
S106	S106 Schemes	732	Delays in planning / public consultations and contractor engagement, have led to delays on schemes at Abergavenny Velo Park; Off Road Cycling Feasibility Study; Goytre Recreational Play Facilities; Abergavenny Skate Park; Overmonnow Primary, Clydach Ironworks, Monmouth Allotments, Chippenham Mead Play Area, Rockfield Community Nature Spaces, Little Mill active travel and a small play scheme in Chepstow.

3.5 Useable Capital Receipts Available

3.6 The table below outlines the latest forecast of capital receipts balances available to meet future capital commitments. Whilst overall balances remain healthy, it should be noted that all banked capital receipts have been committed to funding the indicative forward capital programme. Therefore any further use will be dependent upon forecast capital receipts being realised.

Month 9 Capital receipts forecast	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Balance as at 1st April	12,446	8,785	7,004	6,700	5,835
Capital receipts used for financing	(2,788)	(1,815)	(460)	(460)	(460)
Capital receipts used to support capitalisation direction	(3,008)	(3,358)	(508)	(508)	(508)
Capital receipts for Redundancies	(1,000)				
Capital receipts Received	1,043				
Capital receipts Forecast	2,092	3,393	663	103	103
Forecast Balance as at 31st March	8,785	7,004	6,700	5,835	4,970

Appendix 2 - Service savings progress - Month 9 update

	Savings proposals by Directorate	Total Saving / Budget recovery	Month 9 Forecast	Variance to Budgeted	% Forecast to be met	
		£000	£000	£000		
	Social Care & Health	(3,495)	(2,526)	969	72.3%	
	Children & Young People	(2,241)	(2,134)	107	95.2%	
	Communities & Place	(3,396)	(2,887)	509	85.0%	
	Monlife	(1,292)	(1,216)	76	94.1%	
	Chief Executives Unit	(104)	(104)	0	100.0%	
	Law & Governance	(157)	(127)	30	80.9%	
	Resources	(1,178)	(1,003)	175	85.1%	
	Corporate Costs & Levies	(433)	(433)	0	100.0%	
	Totals	(12,296)	(10,430)	1,866	84.8%	

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Ref	Social Care & Health	Total Saving / Recovery	Month 9 Forecast	Variance		Comment
		£000	£000	£000		
SCH3	Children's Services - Placement and Practice Change - re-evaluating our current processes and systems post-covid in order to clearly define at what points we make essential decisions in regard to when a child is placed within a High-Cost Placement	(748)	(968)	(220)		Care planning for High Cost and Solo Placements is in place with HOS oversight and sign off. This is allowing children to progress to alternative placements where this is in keeping with their care and support needs and their longer term personal outcomes.
SCH5	Staffing reductions to Adult Services - The proposal is to create savings by reducing the core workforce across the statutory teams in adults' services.	(308)	(273)	35		A monitoring framework has been established and a "totaliser" set up to track, record and account for all the identified staff savings throughout the year.

SCH4	Children's Service Redesign/Staffing - (i) Family Time Service Development, (ii) Review of Structures and Service Operating costs	(421)	(72)	349	Additional Family Contact Sessional workers are in place providing cost avoidance activity where intensive family supervision is required (previously the service was reliant on commissioned services). Weekly Workforce Meeting of Children Service Leadership Team is overseeing the reduction of the use of agency social workers, which is progressing positively.
SCH5	Adults - Care hours, block commissioning, Mileage - Reduce amount of direct care in the region of 10% whilst rebalancing in house/external provision	(400)	(80)	320	Various workstreams underway to right size care packages but challenges associated with identifying the resource required to undertake the work. A Review pilot in Monmouth to right size packages and Nevill Hall to discharge people with minimal care requirements, and establishment of a weekly QALG (Quality Assurance Group) to right size care package and ensure cost efficiency. However current data tells us that overall, once care reductions and new demand has been accounted for, the impact is one of increasing spend in this area.
F&Cs	Fees and charges increases - in line with inflation for SCH directorate	(415)	(440)	(25)	All agreed Fees and Charges for 2023/24 have been implemented
SCH9	Practice and Process Change Adults - For people with high support needs	(250)	0	250	See SCH7

SCH7	Learning disabilities - Remodelling of learning disability and mental health teams that will involve a decrease in team management hours.	(300)	(171)	129	SCH7 and 9 are merged together as they are both looking into the same operational areas and are mainly focussing around practice change and the effective application of CHC around the Adult care spectrum. At present we have one LD cases which has entered into the final level 3 dispute stage and we continue to challenge ABuHB with estimate costs of £250K.
SCH8	Adult services - Direct payment saving	(200)	(200)	0	10% levy has been applied to all Direct Payment care packages
SCH2a Page 41	Staff restructuring within the Public protection service.	(103)	(28)	75	There was an inherent risk of moving forward on the proposal for removal of the Head for PP and we will look throughout the year at any mitigation where possible. At present an EHO post has been identified for deletion.
SCH12b	Transformation Team structure - reduction in core workforce	(61)	(58)	3	Saving met practically in full
SCH11	Reduction in Adult partnership arrangements for Gwent service delivery models - Shared lives, Emergency duty, Frailty, Regional partnership team	(60)	(7)	53	Savings to date represent a £7K reduction in the RPT contribution.
SCH13	Monmouthshire & Torfaen YOS – Accommodation Change, Reduction in Staffing, Reallocation of Duties	(44)	(44)	0	YOS partnership budget has been realigned accordingly so SCH achieved the saving in its partner in year contribution

SCH12a	Transformation Team structure - vacant and temporary posts	(39)	(39)	0	Savings met 100%. : Removal of counselling development fund (£8,000) Reduce commissioned training. (£6,729) Reduce professional accredited professional and leadership training commissioned (£10,000) Review business support functions - vacant post (£14,000) £2914.00 from S040 vacant post
SCHREC1	Hold identified vacancies Adult Services	(45)	(45)	0	Alternative savings have been identified as original target cannot be met
SCHREC2	10% reduction in workforce costs	(11)	(11)	0	Alternative savings have been identified as original target cannot be met
SCHREC3	Winter resilience funding	(60)	(60)	0	Saving met
SCHREC4	Hold identified vacancies Children's Services	(30)	(30)	0	Alternative savings have been identified as original target cannot be met
SCH Totals		(3,495)	(2,526)	969	

Ref	Children & Young People	Total Saving / Recovery	Month 9 Forecast	Variance	Comment
		£000	£000	£000	
CYP13	Schools - A reduction in the budget delegated to schools of 2.8% after making full provision for pay and energy increases.	(1,450)	(1,450)	0	This saving has been made in full. The ISB has been reduced to reflect this.

CYP8	Increase ALN recoupment income - additional places and increased charges to cover pay awards.	(100)	0	100	With the recent changes in the ALN formula for schools, all out of county recoupment for mainstream schools will be delegated to schools to support pupils. Therefore, any additional income generated through additional places will be delegated to the schools.
CYP12	Gwent Music - partial withdrawal of subsidy from the service.	(61)	(61)	0	This saving has been agreed with Gwent Music and will be made in full
CYP11	Grant funding to support Education Psychology staff budget	(81)	(81)	0	Grant funding in place to fund post so saving will be made without loss of post
CYP10	Reduce contribution to Education Achievement service - To reduce MCC's core contribution by 10%	(40)	(40)	0	This has been agreed with the EAS and the saving will be made in full
CYP6	Grant funding to support the Additional Learning Needs Admin Team	(30)	(30)	0	Grant funding in place to fund post so saving will be made without loss of post
CYP15	Support Services staff savings through restructure	(25)	(25)	0	Savings will be made through restructure
CYP43	Additional Learning Needs Equipment - To cease funding for ALN specialist equipment that is funded centrally for pupils placed in our schools.	(22)	(15)	7	Funding has been made available for a pupil in one of our mainstream schools
CYPREC1	To use grants to displace current salary costs, to be used in line with the current grant terms	(85)	(85)	0	Saving met
CYPREC2	Hold vacancy open	(5)	(5)	0	Saving met
CYPREC3	The reserve relates to income from the PV solar panels on some schools.	(150)	(150)	0	Saving met
CYPREC4	The reserve relates to income from the PV solar panels on some schools.	(120)	(120)	0	Saving met
CYPREC5	To use grants to displace current salary costs, to be used in line with the current grant terms	(53)	(53)	0	Saving met
CYPREC6	Vacancy in Support Services not being filled.	(19)	(19)	0	Saving met
	CYP Totals	(2,241)	(2,134)	107	

Ref	Communities & Place	Total Saving / Recovery	Month 9 Forecast	Variance		Comment
		£000	£000	£000		
DeCarb1	Decarbonisation - Reducing energy consumption across the Council's estate	(532)	(355)	177		Potential Risk - only estimating 2 thirds achievable at present - Decarbonisation team is not yet in place resulting in a delay in implementing the energy reduction strategies highlighted in the saving mandate. In addition April and May was colder than expected so we are expecting heating bills to be up.
DeCarb1	Commercial & Landlord Services - Solar farm export tariff income	(150)	(150)	0		Achievable - budget uplifted to reflect 22-23 activity, no indication that this will not be the case in 23-24 so saving should be achieved in full.
C&P	Highways Development & Car Parks - Increasing car park & permit charges.	(280)	(280)	0		Achievable - car park prices have been increased across authority, if activity remains the same as 22-23 then saving will be achieved in full.
22/23 Decision	Neighbourhood Services - Recycling & Waste - Increase garden waste charges to achieve a full cost recovery model and increase annual charge based on inflation	(250)	(250)	0		Achievable - Prices were uplifted as part of cabinet report in Jan - no notable reduction in uptake so assume saving will be made in full.

TRAN1+2	Fleet Maintenance - Reduction in operating fleet and corporate mileage reduction.	(160)	0	160	Fleet reduction of £60k - current M9 projection indicates that this will now not be achieved, the service is continually looking to reduce the number of vehicles but current service demand means the rationalisation is going slower than expected. Mileage - not achievable - roll-out of pool car scheme and other initiatives has been slower than anticipated so cannot forecast that any of this saving will be found in 23-24.
F&Cs	Uplift in fees & charges not covered by a standalone mandate	(155)	(155)	0	Achievable - Services have uplifted fees as per 23-24 MTFP - if activity remains the same then saving will be achieved across directorate.
C&P4	Highways Development & Car Parks - To increase the income target for road closures	(149)	(149)	0	Achievable - budget uplifted to reflect 22-23 activity - no indication that this will not be achieved in 23-24.
C&P4	Neighbourhood Services - To reduce the revenue budget for street lighting maintenance taking account of the reduction in energy usage and reduced maintenance requirements of recently renewed columns, LED lamps and traffic light renewals	(142)	(142)	0	Achievable - Energy and maintenance saving reflects actual reduction in 22-23, no indication that these savings will not re-occur in 23-24.
C&P8	Neighbourhood Services - Reduction of grounds maintenance services	(90)	(90)	0	Achievable - Mowing schedules have been reduced and sweeping structure changed so saving should be achieved in full.
C&P6	Neighbourhood Services - Grounds Maintenance and Cleansing - Uplift of charges for external contracts	(120)	(120)	0	Achievable - Pricing schedule has been updated to reflect new rates.

C&P3	Neighbourhood Services - Service savings and staff reduction.	(80)	(80)	0	Achievable - Re-use shop has increased opening hours so saving should be achieved, black bag sorting has been employed at sites so we should see a reduction in overall tipping costs.
C&P17,18,21+24	Highways & Flood Mgt - Reduction in staffing costs in the Highways and Flood Management service area	(74)	(74)	0	Achievable - Posts have been removed from structure so saving should be made in full.
PTU1 Page 46	Passenger Transport Commissioning - New acceptable routes are implemented to reduce transport requirements based on current transport policy	(70)	0	70	Unachievable - Our Road Safety Officers have advised that we do not have sufficient budget to make the changes necessary to improve the amber routes, this means we still have to provide transport and as a result the expected reduction in operator costs will not materialise. This will not fully impact on current M9 outturn as this over spend has been partially offset by other mitigating factors within the service.
C&P34+35	Planning, Policy & Building Control - To reduce revenue budget for the service area by reducing the professional and specialist fees, and photocopying and postage budget.	(59)	(59)	0	Achievable - budgets were reduced to reflect activity - no indication that this will change, achieved in full.
22/23 Decision	Housing - A proposed restructure of the Housing Sustainable Living Team	(50)	(50)	0	Achieved - Post has been removed from structure
22/23 Decision	Flexible Funding - Restructure Management Team to reduce core costs	(50)	(50)	0	Achieved - Post has been removed from structure
C&P7	Neighbourhood Services - Savings from Siltbuster recycling plant.	(30)	(30)	0	Achievable - recycling plant is operational and contracted rebate payments have been received, saving will be achieved in full.
PTU7	Passenger Transport - Terminate the Mission Software and revert back to CTX which is a lower cost	(30)	(30)	0	Achievable - Change has been made, savings should be achieved in full.

C&P12	Housing - to build on the foundations of the well-established Careline Service to ensure it continues to be fit for future purpose.	(25)	(25)	0	Month 9 projections are indicating that this will be fully achieved.
PTU4-6a	Schools & Community Transport - Changing the licensing arrangements	(17)	0	17	Unachievable - This will not materialise as we have not been able to proceed with the operators licence as we are only allowed to run 10 public bus / grass route vehicles on it and we have more than that.
C&PREC1	Use spare capital budget to fund qualifying spend sat within revenue budget	(188)	(188)	0	Achievable - Work is ongoing to identify costs and passport to capital funding.
C&PREC2	Passport qualifying maintenance spend to capital	(50)	(50)	0	Achievable - Work is ongoing to identify costs and passport to capital funding.
C&PREC3	Reduce the number of sweepers/vactors currently on hire	(50)	(50)	0	Achievable - contracts will be reviewed and rationalised.
C&PREC4	Pay for fuel tanks from Capital	(23)	(23)	0	Achieved - costs will be passported to available funding.
C&PREC5	Passport qualifying parts & maintenance spend to capital	(120)	(120)	0	Achieved - costs will be passported to available funding.
C&PREC6	Curtailment of non-essential spend	(29)	(29)	0	Achievable - all non essential spend will be stopped.
C&PREC7	Remove Council Car	(3)	(3)	0	Lease has been cancelled so saving will be found.
C&PREC8	Continue review of vehicle fleet (owned & hired) to drive out efficiencies.	(10)	0	10	Work ongoing to rationalise hire fleet but as per Month 9 outturn figure we are not expecting to now make this saving.
C&PREC9	Curtailment of non-essential spend (outside of above)	(4)	(4)	0	Achievable - all non essential spend will be stopped.
C&PREC10	Curtailment of non-essential spend	(5)	(5)	0	Achievable - all non essential spend will be stopped.
C&PREC11	Use of capitalisation direction	(8)	(8)	0	Achieved - costs will be passported to available funding.
C&PREC12	Freezing system development spend relating to the digitising of the Microfiche system.	(30)	(30)	0	Achieved - system development has been stopped

C&PREC13	Withdraw Free Xmas Parking	(20)	(20)	0	Achieved - free parking has been removed.
C&PREC14	Use of capitalisation direction	(18)	(18)	0	Achieved - costs will be passported to available funding.
C&PREC15	Explore opportunities to use grant funding to cover core costs	(66)	(66)	0	Achievable - core costs will be moved where applicable.
C&PREC16	Freezing of all Non-exempt posts	(259)	(184)	75	Part achieved - currently only on target to partially achieve this saving as since saving was set some posts have been unfrozen so full saving won't be found. This variance will have been reflected in the outturn position of services at M9.
		(3,396)	(2,887)	509	

Ref	Monlife	Total Saving / Recovery	Month 9 Forecast	Variance	Comment
		£000	£000	£000	
ML 3 & 4	Finance & Business Support Restructure	(104)	(104)	0	Restructure complete - Post deleted from structure savings will be fully achieved
ML22	Gilwern Outdoor Adventure Services Redesign - Increase income through new business, new ways of working and engaging further with Monmouthshire internal services to provide cost avoidance for CYP and Social Services.	(100)	(88)	12	Early indications of continued growth along with the services final outturn position indicates that this saving should be fully achievable in 23-24, there is still significant uncertainty around winter bookings and our re-engage program which are both essential in achieving the necessary income targets, we will continue to monitor this close and report any variances.
F&Cs	Uplift in fees & charges not covered by a standalone mandate	(83)	(83)	0	Fee's updated 01st April 2023 - Early indications this will be achievable.
ML 7,8,9 & 21	Attractions Service Redesign	(65)	(65)	0	Redesign is underway savings will be fully achieved in 23-24

ML1	Green Infrastructure Grants - To fully utilise Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), Local Places for Nature and related grants / project funding	(45)	(45)	0		The service has received notification of successful bids, these will allow this saving to be fully achieved in 23-24.
ML5	Removal of vacant Project Officer post	(45)	(45)	0		Post deleted savings will be fully achieved
ML14	Youth Services - Seeking to maintain service delivery at reduced core costs by increases reliance on external grants, an internal restructure of priorities, programmes and delivery.	(25)	0	25		A joined up approach to funding through the delivery of sports development youth and play should provide the necessary opportunities to maximise external income opportunities and deliver this saving in 23-24.
ML19	Old station Tintern Miniature Train Track - Complete the necessary repair and maintenance on the miniature train track through an initial one-off capital investment of £45k, this will allow us to re-open this much-loved attraction and increase our income generation.	(25)	(25)	0		Achieved
ML16	Collections Management - Remove 0.40 FTE from the Collections Management Post, currently vacant within the structure.	(21)	(21)	0		Post removed savings will be fully achieved
ML13	Sports Development - To increase income generation through external grants, seeking to maintain service delivery at reduced core costs but increase service reliance on alternative external grants.	(20)	(20)	0		This income will be fully achieved in 23-24
ML2	Countryside Access Grant Project cost recovery - To fully utilise the full cost recover model when recovering project management costs, ensuring our recovery rates maximise the rate allowed by grant providers.	(20)	(20)	0		In progress early indications indicate that the additional income will be fully achieved in 23-24.
ML11	Visitor charging at some heritage exhibitions/activities and events	(20)	(20)	0		Program is being developed, income should be fully achievable in 23-24.
ML18	Recharge Project Officers against Grant - Ensuring full cost recovery of officer's time against grants.	(20)	(20)	0		Additional grants awarded to MONLIFE will allow this income to be fully achieved in 23-24.

ML12	Sale of Caterpod	(10)	(5)	5		In the process of arranging the sale of the caterpod will be complete in 23-24.
ML15	Caldicot Fitness Equipment Maintenance - Reduce Caldicot LC maintenance contract to reflect the ageing equipment and seek a local accredited supplier to maintain	(10)	(10)	0		Contract negotiations underway, this saving should be fully achieved in 23-24.
ML17	Commercial contributions and Sponsorships	(10)	(10)	0		This will be achieved in 23-24.
ML6	Reducing the Marketing supplies and services budget	(5)	(5)	0		This saving will be fully achieved in 23-24
CEO1-5	Community Hubs - Reduce staffing levels at community hubs in order to reduce costs while keeping all hubs open with reduced service levels.	(135)	(135)	0		Achievable - improvement from M2, an updated assessment has been made and it is now predicted that this saving will be fully found within the available budget.
CEO08	Community Hubs & Libraries - Reduce the budget for library books by 50% from £90,000 to £45,000,	(45)	(45)	0		Achievable - budget removed, purchases will be limited to new figure.
CEO3	Community Education - Increase income by growing learner base	(10)	(10)	0		Achievable - Early indication is that this will be achieved.
CEO11&13	Contact Centre - To reduce staffing levels in the contact centre by 2.5 FTE	(112)	(90)	22		Full year saving won't be achieved due to timing of redundancies.
MonLifeREC1	Secondment Theatre Manager to SPF Project	(30)	(22)	8		Saving reduced due to delayed start to project.
MonLifeREC2	Creative Cultures Grant	(8)	(8)	0		Achieved
MonLifeREC3	Event Budget	(2)	(2)	0		Achieved
MonLifeREC4	Reserve - Funding core staff	(30)	(30)	0		Achieved
MonLifeREC5	Business Support	(8)	(8)	0		Achieved
MonLifeREC6	Reduce Enhancements and Overtime	(5)	(5)	0		Achieved
MonLifeREC7	Freeze Markets Manager Post	(19)	(19)	0		Achieved
MonLifeREC8	Secondment of Head of Communications	(29)	(25)	4		Saving reduced due to honorarium to cover some additional duties
MonLifeREC9	Pause spending on Museums signage	(4)	(4)	0		Achieved
MonLifeREC10	Reduce spending on clothing and Uniform	(4)	(4)	0		Achieved
MonLifeREC11	Reduce Chepstow Café Opening Hours	(5)	(5)	0		Achieved
MonLifeREC12	Sell surplus equipment	(10)	(10)	0		Should be achieved action still to be held
MonLifeREC13	Freeze implementation of destination management plan	(15)	(15)	0		Achieved
MonLifeREC14	Reducing all non essential service spend	(15)	(15)	0		Achieved

MonLifeREC15	Freeze GGGP Business Support Post	(17)	(17)	0	Achieved
MonLifeREC16	GGGP - Simplified Costs	(21)	(21)	0	Achieved
MonLifeREC17	Rights of way	(15)	(15)	0	Achieved
MonLifeREC18	Officer Recharge PS	(70)	(70)	0	Achieved
MonLifeREC19	Freeze Community Learning Lead Tutor Post	(45)	(45)	0	Achieved
MonLifeREC20	Reduction in rates across hubs	(10)	(10)	0	Achieved
		(1,292)	(1,216)	76	

Ref	Chief Executive's Unit	Total Saving / Recovery	Month 9 Forecast	Variance	Comment
		£000	£000	£000	
CEO14	Performance & Data - Remove data scientist post	(39)	(39)	0	Achievable - Post removed from structure
GEOREC1	Reduce training spend	(3)	(3)	0	Currently on target to be achieved.
GEOREC2	Use of capitalisation direction	(40)	(40)	0	Achieved - costs will be passported to available funding.
GEOREC3	Learning Management System Implementation	(5)	(5)	0	Currently on target to be achieved.
GEOREC4	Removal of discretionary counselling sessions for staff	(0)	(0)	0	Currently on target to be achieved.
GEOREC5	Freezing of all Non-exempt posts	(17)	(17)	0	Currently on target to be achieved.
	CEO Totals	(104)	(104)	0	

Ref	Law & Governance	Total Saving / Recovery	Month 9 Forecast	Variance	Comment
		£000	£000	£000	

PG2	P&G income - The below proposals seek to increase income in Comms and Land Charges and a small software cost reduction in payroll.	(80)	(50)	30	Part achieved - Land charges income has been hit by the downturn in the economy so the original £20k saving will now not be achieved - although this has been part offset by other mitigating factors within the service. The payroll saving of £10k won't be fully found this year as the implementation of the new system is ongoing and not all savings will be realised.
F&Cs	Uplift in fees & charges not covered by a standalone mandate	(6)	(6)	0	Achievable - Services have uplifted fees as per 23-24 MTFP - if activity remains the same then saving will be achieved across directorate.
PGREC1	Use of capitalisation direction	(8)	(8)	0	Achieved - costs will be passported to available funding.
PGREC2	Reduce training spend	(3)	(3)	0	Currently on target to be achieved.
PGREC3	Freezing of all Non-exempt posts	(60)	(60)	0	Currently on target to be achieved.
	LG Totals	(157)	(127)	30	

Ref	Resources	Total Saving / Recovery	Month 9 Forecast	Variance	Comment
		£000	£000	£000	
RES8	Landlord services - Reduce Corporate Building (Reactive and Planned) Maintenance revenue budget	(300)	(300)	0	Achievable - budget will be monitored to ensure all qualifying repairs will be charged to the capital programme (where funding has been made available) - assume saving will be made in full.

RES24	Landlord services - To review the property estate and to explore options for further rationalisation	(215)	(50)	165	Latest projection is that as a consequence of the delay in asset closure/re-use decisions only £50k will be achievable this financial year. There have been mitigating savings in other parts of the service so it will not impact further on the outturn position at M9.
RES12	ICT - Mobile Phone Contract Saving	(149)	(149)	0	Budget has been distributed to services
RES19	Revenues, Systems & Exchequer - Remove budget earmarked for a discretionary business rate relief scheme	(126)	(126)	0	Achievable - budget has been removed.
RES2	Landlord services - Vacant development surveyor post being held - or funded by capital programme as required	(45)	(45)	0	Achievable - Post has been removed from structure.
RES14	SRS Contribution & PSBA Line Savings	(62)	(62)	0	Achievable - SRS contribution has been reduced in line with SRS figures, assume achievable.
F&C Page 53	Uplift in fees & charges not covered by a standalone mandate	(19)	(19)	0	Achievable - Services have uplifted fees as per 23-24 MTFP - if activity remains the same then saving will be achieved across directorate.
RES7	Landlord services - Explore alternative reception solutions at County Hall to remove front of house staffing needs	(19)	(19)	0	Achievable - Staffing reduction to kick in from July, saving should be achieved in full.
RES11	Digital Design & Innovation - Automate Starters & Leavers Process	(13)	(13)	0	Achievable - Awaiting SRS but assume it will be made in full.
RES23	ICT - Restructure of the Information Security and Technology Team	(13)	(13)	0	Achievable - adjustments to team structure have been made.
RES20	Revenues, Systems & Exchequer - Increase use of purchase cards to increase e-payment rebate	(10)	(10)	0	Achievable - The rebate for 2022/23 has been confirmed as £10,164.44.
RES21	Revenues, Systems & Exchequer - Reduce budget allocated for finance system upgrades	(10)	(10)	0	Achievable - System development costs will be managed in line with budget. Therefore barring any emergencies or unexpected costs, expect to achieve this saving.

RES22	Revenues, Systems & Exchequer - Shared Revenues & Benefits service potential savings through automation and increased use of self service facilities (Citizens Access).	(10)	(10)	0	Achievable - Expect to achieve this saving following changes to operating practices within the Shared Service
RESREC1	Curtail training spend	(4)	(4)	0	Achievable - all non essential spend will be stopped.
RESREC2	Curtail system development spend	(29)	(29)	0	Achievable - all non essential spend will be stopped.
RESREC3	Use of capitalisation direction	(9)	(9)	0	Achieved - costs will be passported to available funding.
RESREC4	Vacancy Freeze	(9)	(9)	0	Achievable - vacancy has been frozen.
RESREC5	Curtail Non-pay spend	(7)	(7)	0	Achievable - all non essential spend will be stopped.
RESREC6	One off Admin Grant & Ukraine grant	(40)	(40)	0	Achieved - grant has been received and used to offset core costs
RESREC7	Freezing of all Non-exempt posts	(46)	(46)	0	Achievable - vacancies have been frozen.
RESREC8	Agency support freeze	(8)	(8)	0	Achievable - Any further agency cover has been frozen.
RESREC9	Increase in income from commercial and community assets	(20)	(10)	10	Current M9 forecast figures only predict half of this will be found - although this could improve through to year end.
RESREC10	Investment Assets - Castlegate Business Park	(2)	(2)	0	Achievable
RESREC11	Investment Assets - Castlegate Business Park - Potential for Housing to relocate the storage for homelessness belongings from external supplier to units in Castlegate	(13)	(13)	0	Achievable - potential risk - discussions ongoing.
Resources Totals		(1,178)	(1,003)	175	

Ref	Corporate Costs & Levies	Total Saving / Recovery	Month 9 Forecast	Variance	Comment
		£000	£000	£000	

Capex1	Extend capitalisation direction	(358)	(358)	0	Additional qualifying expenditure identified and will be funded via capital receipts as per budget
CORP2	Insurance - reduction in self insured costs and professional fees/ICT costs	(75)	(75)	0	<p>Saving in professional fees/ICT costs to be achieved in full (£25k).</p> <p>Self insured costs (£50k saving) - This budget covers insurance excesses payable on claims or costs agreed outside of insurance and not met from the service (i.e. where costs in total fall below any excess). This is a highly volatile budget based on claims incidence and operating environment (i.e. adverse weather conditions). However long term trends have seen some modest reduction in costs payable and this trend is expected to continue through 2023/24.</p>
Corporate Costs & Levies Totals		(433)	(433)	0	

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SUBJECT: KEY STAGE 4 OUTCOMES 2023**MEETING: Performance and Overview Committee****DATE: 20 February 2024****DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All****1. PURPOSE:**

- 1.1. This report provides members with final outcome data for Secondary schools within the Local Authority for 2022-2023 (Summer 2023).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1. Receive the report for information.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 This year, for the first time since 2019, the Welsh Government are producing Key Stage 4 All Wales Core Data Sets (AWCDS) at individual school level. Each of the last 4 years used essentially different methods for determining grades, so none are directly comparable. In 2023 national outcomes are lower than 2022, 2021 and 2020, but not as low as 2019.
- 3.2 Provisional outcomes were available to schools, LAs and consortia in Provisional form in mid-November 2023 (via Data Exchange Wales (DEWi)). These were then used to contribute to a school level checking process, so any errors could be addressed, before final versions were published on 20 December 2023. This report uses the final versions.
- 3.3 Please note that whilst this final set of data has just become available, both LA and EAS colleagues have used provisional data and data provided by the school, from the start of Autumn Term 2023, to prioritise support at individual school level.

Welsh Government published measures for 2023

- 3.4 These include the following points-based measures:
- The Capped 9 measure
 - Literacy measure (best of Language / Literature)
 - Numeracy measure (best of mathematics / numeracy)
 - Science measure (best of science)
 - Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate measure
 -
- 3.5 In addition to the above 'points based' measures the percentage of learners achieving 5 or more A*-A and percentage of learners achieving No Qualifications are also included.

- 3.6 As well as comparisons of All Pupils, comparisons are also made Male / Female and FSM / non-FSM for each of the indicators, but only Capped 9 comparisons are included in this report at LA level.
- 3.7 In terms of analysis the two main comparisons are the Welsh Government line of modelled outcomes, and a comparison with a 'family' of similar schools.

Families

- 3.8 Schools face different challenges based on their context. The AWCDs contains comparative outcomes against similar schools – known as 'Families'. Families (of 9-10 schools) have been created by grouping on size and linguistic delivery and then ordering schools according to the values of an index of 'challenge', calculated as follows:
- 50% x the proportion of pupils of statutory school age eligible for Free School Meals (FSM)
 - 30% x the proportion of pupils of statutory school age who live in an area classed as in the 20% most deprived parts of Wales using the 2019 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)
 - 10% x the proportion of pupils of statutory school age subject to an Individual Development Plan (IDP) or with a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN)
 - 10% x the proportion of pupils of statutory school age who are either new to the English language (or Welsh where relevant), at an early acquisition stage or developing competence.
- 3.9 A three-year average of data from PLASC 2021-2023 is used.
- 3.10 For 2023 there are 6 Welsh medium families, numbered from 1 (the most disadvantaged) to 5 (the least disadvantaged). There are 15 English medium families numbered from 7 (the most disadvantaged) to 21 (the least disadvantaged).

Families with Monmouthshire Schools (2023)

Moved to a MORE disadvantaged Family (2 Schools)		
Moved to a LESS disadvantaged Family (1 School)		
14 English Medium families (7-21)		
School Name	Family	Position
Prestatyn High School	017	1
Eirias High School		2
Queen Elizabeth High School		3
Afon Taf High School		4
Risca Community Comprehensive		5
King Henry VIII Comprehensive		6
Elfed High School		7
Pontarddulais Comprehensive School		8
St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High		9
PENCOED COMPREHENSIVE		10
Penglais School	019	1
Bryncelynnog Comprehensive School		2
Darland High School		3
LLANTWIT MAJOR SCHOOL		4

Hawarden High School		5
Caldicot School		6
Alun School		7
OLCHFA SCHOOL		8
PORTHCAWL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL		9
Bryntirion Comprehensive.		10
BRECON HIGH SCHOOL	020	1
LLANIDLOES HIGH SCHOOL		2
St Brigid's School		3
Y Pant Comprehensive		4
Ysgol Bro Gwaun		5
Dyffryn Taf		6
Castell Alun High School		7
Ysgol Penrhyn Dewi		8
Chepstow Comprehensive School		9
Monmouth Comprehensive School		10

3.11 For 2023 Monmouthshire secondary schools are in the 2nd, 3rd and 5th least disadvantaged families.

Capped 9 – all pupils – compared with the family average

3.12 The table below shows the Capped 9 performance of all learners in each school compared with their individual family. Two schools are above their family, one significantly so, and two below, but both by small margins.

School Name	FSM	Capped 9	Family Capped 9	Capped 9 - School-Family difference
Caldicot School	21.7%	376.6	377.7	-1.1
Chepstow Comprehensive School	15.7%	412.3	383.4	28.8
King Henry VIII Comprehensive	23.3%	367.5	362.4	5.1
Monmouth Comprehensive School	15.2%	379.4	383.4	-4.1

3.13 For all GCSE subjects the points difference between every grade is 6 points. So, for example a B is worth 6 more points than a C.

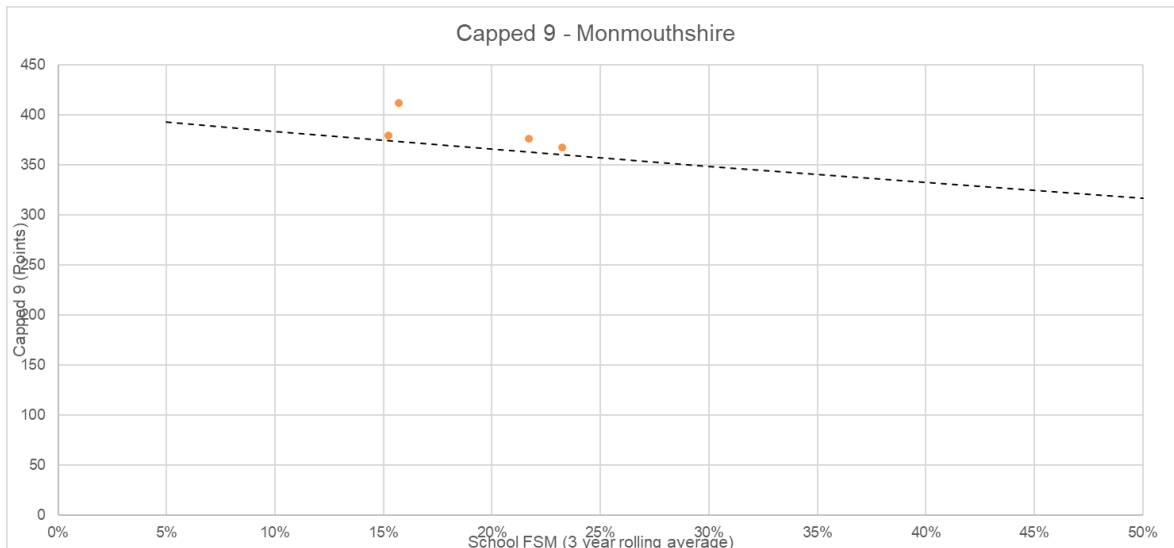
3.14 This means that for the Capped 9, a difference of 54 points indicates that on average, every learner in a school is performing above or below the family by a whole GCSE grade in every subject. (6 points x 9 subjects=54 points).

3.15 Chepstow school learners on average perform approximately half a grade better in every subject compared with their peers in the family.

3.16 Please note that the indicative bars on the right for this table and all below are adjusted to the minimum (negative) and maximum (positive) values for each table individually and automatically. Therefore a bar '28.8 points' long will not be consistent across each chart.

Capped 9 – all pupils – compared with WG 'Modelled Outcome' line

3.17 The chart below does not compare with the family, but rather the Welsh Government 'Modelled outcome'.



3.18 All schools in Monmouthshire are above the modelled outcome line.

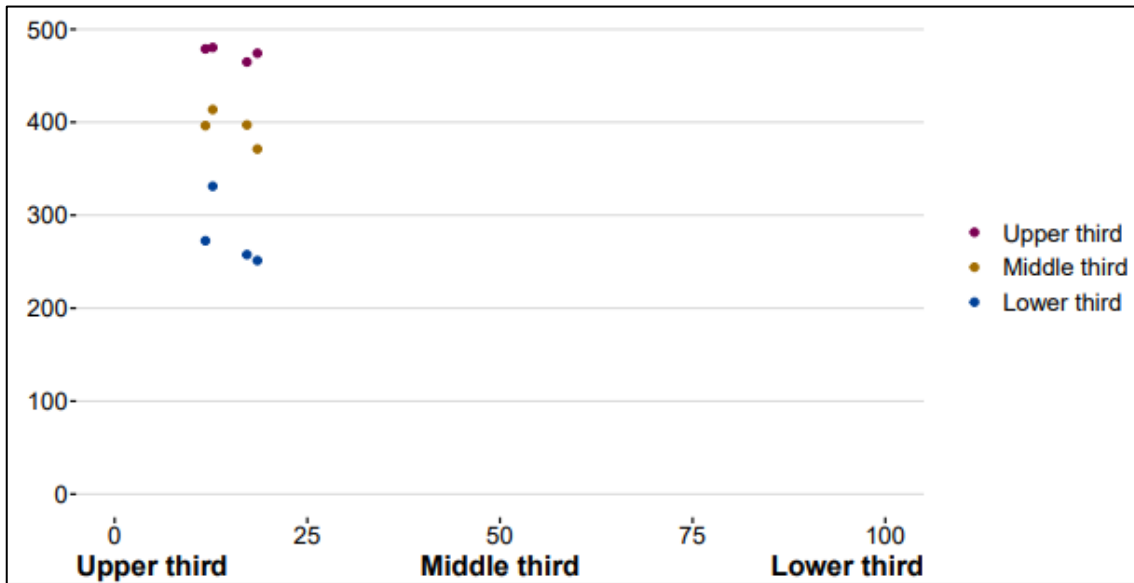
Capped 9 – Comparison by 'Thirds' with WG 'Modelled Outcome' line

3.19 The chart below groups learners in each individual school into 'thirds'. For example, if 120 learners in a cohort, they would be split into three groups of 40 by their Capped 9 scores. Three averages would then be calculated for each of these groups. The table below gives the average of each third. The differences are in effect contextualised.

School Name	Upper Third			Middle Third			Lower Third		
	Achieved	Modelled	+/-	Achieved	Modelled	+/-	Achieved	Modelled	+/-
Caldicot School	465	461	4	397	385	12	258	263	-6
Chepstow Comprehensive School	480	467	13	414	391	23	331	274	57
King Henry VIII Comprehensive	474	459	15	371	384	-12	251	260	-9
Monmouth Comprehensive School	479	468	10	396	392	4	273	276	-4

3.20 For the highest achieving third, all schools are above expectation. For the middle third three schools are above and one below. In the lowest third three schools are slightly below but one significantly (1 GCSE grade per learner, per subject) above.

3.21 The same data represented by three dots (one per third) in each school. 3 regression lines based on eligibility. This shows the relatively low level of variance for Monmouthshire schools, in each third, with the exception of Chepstow which is well above expectation for the lowest third in particular.



Literacy Measure – compared with the Family average

3.22 To put all these charts in perspective a difference of +/- 6 points is the equivalent of a GCSE grade difference for every learner. +/- 3 points would therefore be a half a grade difference.

School Name	FSM	Literacy Measure	Literacy Measure - Family	Literacy Measure - Difference
Caldicot School	21.7%	41.3	42.1	-0.8
Chepstow Comprehensive School	15.7%	44.8	42.6	2.2
King Henry VIII Comprehensive	23.3%	40.7	40.1	0.6
Monmouth Comprehensive School	15.2%	43.2	42.6	0.6

3.23 Three schools are above the family average for the literacy measure, but one school is slightly below by approximately 1/6th of a GCSE grade per learner.

3.24 The table below gives the individual contribution of each of the GCSEs that contribute to this measure.

School Name	FSM	English Language	English Literature
Caldicot School	21.7%	39.4	42.4
Chepstow Comprehensive School	15.7%	43.7	41.4
King Henry VIII Comprehensive	23.3%	39.9	42.6
Monmouth Comprehensive School	15.2%	40.1	42.7

3.25 Three schools have a higher contribution made by literature rather than language.

Numeracy Measure – compared with the Family average

School Name	FSM	Numeracy Measure	Numeracy Measure - Family	Numeracy Measure - Difference
Caldicot School	21.7%	34.4	38.7	-4.3
Chepstow Comprehensive School	15.7%	41.5	38.6	2.9
King Henry VIII Comprehensive	23.3%	39.3	36.3	3.0
Monmouth Comprehensive School	15.2%	41.0	38.6	2.4

3.26 For the numeracy measure three schools are above the family average, above (by approximately half a grade per learner), but one significantly below the family average, by over half a grade per learner.

3.27 The differences between the individual numeracy GCSE and mathematics GCSE are relatively small for each school, except one where the difference is approximately half a grade per learner.

School Name	FSM	Numeracy	Mathematics
Caldicot School	21.7%	34.4	37.9
Chepstow Comprehensive School	15.7%	41.5	43.2
King Henry VIII Comprehensive	23.3%	39.3	40.0
Monmouth Comprehensive School	15.2%	41.0	41.1

Science Measure – compared with the Family average

School Name	FSM	Science Measure	Science Measure - Family	Science Measure - Difference
Caldicot School	21.7%	37.1	41.2	-4.1
Chepstow Comprehensive School	15.7%	42.0	41.2	0.8
King Henry VIII Comprehensive	23.3%	38.8	38.3	0.4
Monmouth Comprehensive School	15.2%	41.5	41.2	0.4

3.28 For the science measure three schools are above their respective families, with one below, by over half a GCSE grade per learner.

Welsh Baccalaureate Measure – compared with the Family average

3.29 Three schools are significantly above their family averages, but one is slightly below. All families' averages are relatively high.

School Name	FSM	Welsh Bacc. Measure	Welsh Bacc. Measure - Family	Welsh Bacc. Measure - Difference
Caldicot School	21.7%	42.1	38.6	3.4
Chepstow Comprehensive School	15.7%	46.4	40.8	5.7
King Henry VIII Comprehensive	23.3%	41.0	37.8	3.2
Monmouth Comprehensive School	15.2%	40.4	40.8	-0.4

No Qualifications – compared with the Family average

- 3.30 Please note the reversed colour coding on the bars to indicate that a negative difference from the family is positive.

School Name	FSM	No Qualifications (%)	No Qualificaitons (%) Family	No Qualificaitons (%) Difference
Caldicot School	21.7%	0.0	0.3	-0.3
Chepstow Comprehensive School	15.7%	0.0	0.4	-0.4
King Henry VIII Comprehensive	23.3%	0.0	0.6	-0.6
Monmouth Comprehensive School	15.2%	1.2	0.4	0.8

- 3.31 Three schools have no learners leaving without a qualification. One school however has 1.2% of learners not achieving a qualification which is three times their family average.

5+ A*-A – compared with the Family average

School Name	FSM	5+ A*-A (%)	5+ A*-A (%) Family	5+ A*-A (%) Difference
Caldicot School	21.7%	22.3	26.1	-3.7
Chepstow Comprehensive School	15.7%	33.0	25.9	7.1
King Henry VIII Comprehensive	23.3%	22.9	21.2	1.8
Monmouth Comprehensive School	15.2%	29.6	25.9	3.7

- 3.32 Three schools 5+ A*-A percentage are above the family average, one significantly so. One school's rate is less than the family average, but still remains relatively high compared with Wales at 22.3%.

Local Authority Aggregate Data

Key measures – Compared with Wales

- 3.33 Please note that these measures are not contextualised but compare with the Wales average. Please also note that it is not possible for the Wales average for No Qualifications to be 0.0

Title	2023 - Monmouthshire	2023 - Wales
Capped 9 points score (interim)	374.7	358.1
WBacc Skills Challenge Certificate indicator – points score	41.1	31.6
Literacy indicator – points score	41.9	39.7
Numeracy indicator – points score	41.2	37.1
Science indicator – points score	38.9	36.9
No qualifications - % of pupils	0.8	1.4
5+ A*-A or equivalent	26.0	20.3

- 3.34 For all measures Monmouthshire is above the Wales average, except No qualifications (where lower is desirable).

Key measures – Compared with 'Modelled' by FSM

- 3.35 Modelled expectations for each indicator are all above expectation indicated by Free School Meals. Please note that each table number is from the original data pack, not this report.

Title	2023 - Capped 9 points score (interim)	2023 - Modelled score	2023 - Difference
Monmouthshire	380.7	375.8	4.9

3.36 The Capped 9 score 4.9 points above below the modelled expectation. This is the equivalent of approximately 1/10th of a GCSE grade per learner.

Title	2023 - WBacc Skills Challenge Certificate indicator – points score	2023 - Modelled score	2023 - Difference
Monmouthshire	41.9	36.6	5.2

3.37 The Skills Challenge Certificate score is above expectation, by the equivalent of almost a whole GCSE (equivalent) grade per learner.

Title	2023 - Literacy indicator – points score	2023 - Modelled score	2023 - Difference
Monmouthshire	42.3	42.3	0

3.38 The literacy score is exactly in line with expectation.

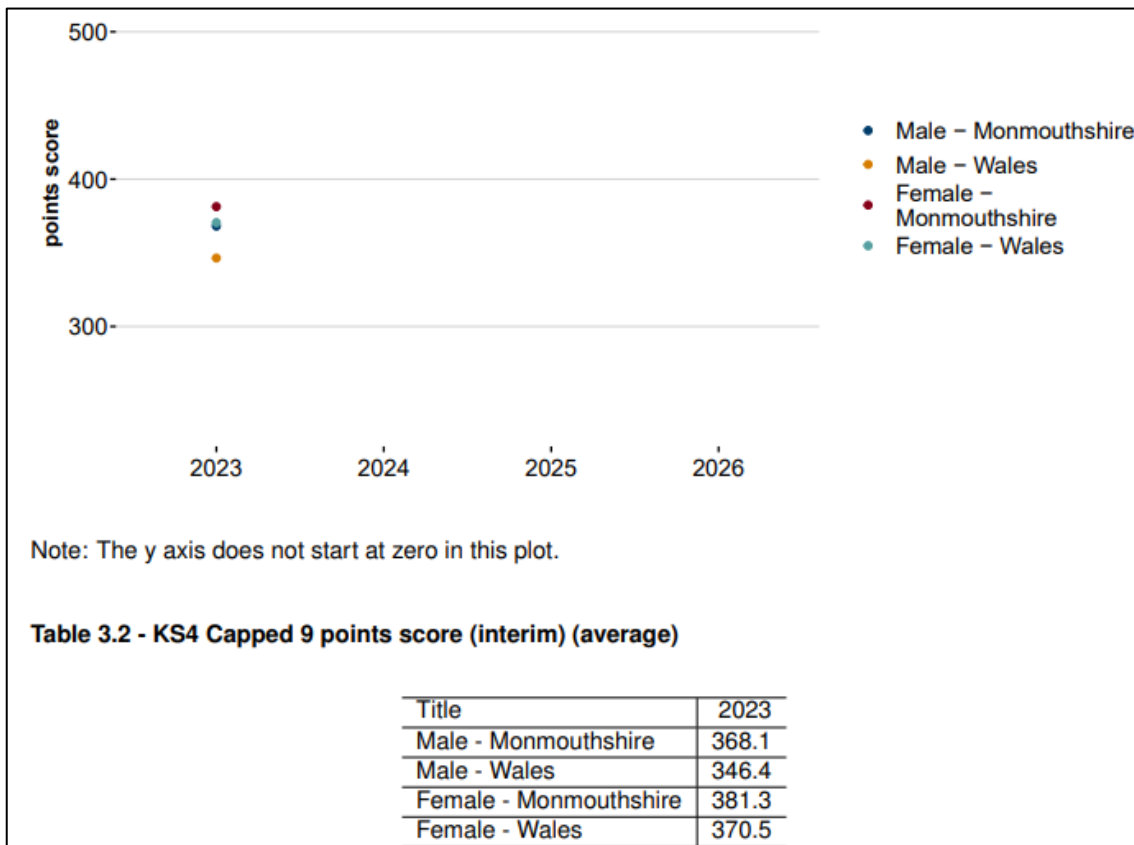
Title	2023 - Numeracy indicator – points score	2023 - Modelled score	2023 - Difference
Monmouthshire	41.6	39.2	2.4

3.39 The numeracy score is above expectation, by the equivalent of half a GCSE grade per learner.

Title	2023 - Science indicator – points score	2023 - Modelled score	2023 - Difference
Monmouthshire	39.7	39.8	-0.1

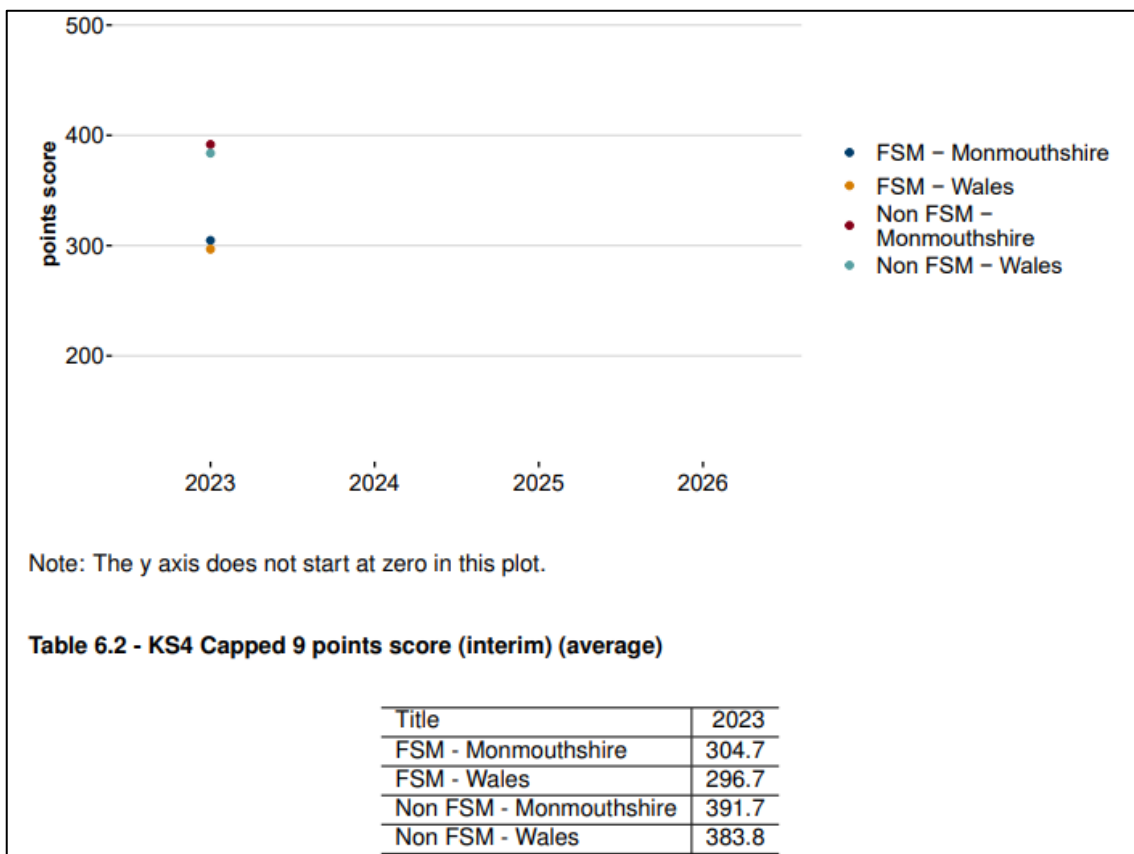
3.40 The science score is very slightly below expectation, the equivalent of 1/60th of a GCSE grade per learner.

Capped 9 – Males and Females



3.41 Both Males and Females in Monmouthshire have higher scores than their peers in Wales, however the difference is approximately double for males as it is for males.

Capped 9 FSM – non-FSM



3.42 Both FSM and non-FSM learners in Monmouthshire have higher Capped 9 scores than their peers in Wales.

4. REASONS:

4.1. The Local Authority has a statutory responsibility for monitoring educational outcomes within its schools.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

5.1. There are no specific financial implications.

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

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

7. CONSULTEES:

7.1. The Business Plan consultees are noted below:

- Director of Education
-

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

There are no additional background papers.

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

Presenting: Edward Pryce (Assistant Director, EAS)
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SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF ATTENDANCE IN ALL SCHOOLS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2022 2023

MEETING: PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

DATE: 20 FEBRUARY 2024

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1.1 To provide Members with information about the role and impact of the Education Welfare Service (EWS) in work directly contributing to improve school attendance and exclusion which removes barriers to learning.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1. Members receive the report for information.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The last academic year, 2022/23, is the first year since 2018/19 when schools operated without closures and restrictions due to Covid-19. As a result, levels of attendance in the intervening years cannot be compared with attendance data in 2018/19 and 2022/23.
- 3.2 Whilst schools remained open during the last full academic year, the impact of Covid-19 continues to have an impact on attendance and is likely to do so for some time to come, particularly in secondary schools where levels of anxiety and mental health are much higher than before and while there is an increased demand on services providing support and intervention in these areas.
- 3.3 Overall attendance in Monmouthshire primary schools has recovered well after the pandemic, with nearly all schools reaching or exceeding pre-pandemic levels by the end of the Autumn term 2023. The attendance of FSM pupils is at least 90% in many primary schools and only in a very few schools is it below 85%. Where this occurs, the number of FSM pupils is very small, and the percentage is variable.
- 3.4 Although positive improvements are noted in two of our secondary schools, attendance at the end of the autumn term 2023 remains well below pre-pandemic levels across Monmouthshire as a whole. Generally, attendance in secondary schools, has been slower to recover, particularly in relation to vulnerable groups such as FSM pupils. The picture in Monmouthshire reflects the trend across Wales which shows an increase in the number of

pupil related absence in years 7 to 11, particularly in relation to anxiety and mental health.

- 3.5 In November 2023, Welsh Government published 'Belonging, engaging and participating' guidance to improve pupil engagement and attendance. As part of this guidance, the level for persistent absence (PA) in Wales has been raised from 80% to 90%, to align with the PA level in England. This means that there is likely be more PA pupils across Wales and within Monmouthshire going forward.
- 3.6 Monmouthshire's EWS service offers a holistic supportive/wellbeing approach to improve attendance. As a result, it is very rare that prosecution processes are used as a measure of attendance improvement. The work of the EWS team focuses on finding the underlying root cause of non-attendance or engagement, building relationships between home and school, and establishing links with other agencies where appropriate.
- 3.7 Welsh Government Grant funding has been allocated to local authorities for Education Welfare Service (EWS) to enhance capacity to manage additional pressures arising from the pandemic and to increase support to schools, pupils, and families and to improve attendance and engagement. This has enabled us to employ an additional full time Education Welfare Officer (0.6 EWO/0.2 EHE Support) to increase the capacity of the EWS team.

4. REASONS:

- 4.1. The local authority has a duty to support schools, pupils, and parents to secure regular attendance, address issues relating to absenteeism and improve engagement in education.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1. None.

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

- 6.1. Attendance and engagement in education is a right for all pupils and key to improving life chances for all, particularly for those from vulnerable groups. The Local Authority has a role to play in working with pupils, parents and schools to identify and address barriers that limit attendance and prevent engagement and participation in education.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Belonging, engaging, and participating Guidance on improving learner engagement and attendance 2023

[Belonging, engaging and participating: Guidance on improving learner engagement and attendance \(gov.wales\)](#)

8. AUTHORS:

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Monmouthshire LA Monitoring and Evaluation Report

Focus: Education Welfare Service (EWS) - Attendance

Date of Monitoring Report: November 2023

Purpose of report

- To provide Members with information about progress in our area of work directly contributing to improved school attendance and exclusion which removes barriers to learning for vulnerable pupils.
- Consider recently published comparative performance against other Local Authorities in Wales.
- Assess effectiveness of LA intervention to sustain (where attendance is high) or improve attendance rates across primary and secondary schools.

1. How do the EWS LA provide support to schools to improve attendance?

The EWS provides support to schools, pupils, and parents to ensure regular attendance, and address issues relating to absenteeism. The Service liaises with other agencies and provides an important link between home and school to help parents and teachers to work in partnership so that pupils benefit from the educational opportunities available locally.

The EWS acts on behalf of the local authority in enforcing a parent's duty to provide access to an appropriate education. The main function of the EWS is to improve overall attendance and reduce persistent absence in all schools and alternative education provision. However, the EWS also has a role to undertake other related duties, which include:

- Attending MARAC (Multi-agency risk assessment conferences) due to domestic abuse issues
- MIRAF liaison- ensuring that when pupils are missing relevant information is forwarded to schools and return to Gwent Missing Children's Team
- Elective home Education- Ensuring that visits are undertaken in line with WG Guidance and LA Policy
- Processing of Entertainment Licenses- Processing of applications
- Processing of Chaperone Applications- Facilitating training and Processing of application
- Processing of Work Permits- Processing of applications
- Tracking of Children Missing Education- Ensuring that any potential missing children are uploaded to national data base and viewing national data base to ascertain if any children at risk of missing education have moved in to be resident in Monmouthshire.
- Data- tracking of attendance data for all schools

The current staffing position of the EWS is as follows:

Post	Full time/Part time
Head of Service: Achievement & Extended Attainment and Achievement	Full time
Senior Education Welfare Officer	Full time – Secondment to March 2025
Education Welfare Officers (EWO's) x 5	3 Full time 1 part time (0.6) 1 full time split role 0.8 EWS – EHE/CME (Welsh Government Grant funded to March 2024)
Elective Home Education Support Officer	Full time – (Welsh Government Grant funded) Temporary 1 x 0.2 EHE support (Welsh Government Grant funded to March 2024)

Monmouthshire's EWS service offers a holistic supportive/wellbeing approach to improve attendance. As a result, it is very rare that prosecution processes are used as a measure of attendance improvement. Cases are managed by Education Welfare Officers (EWO's) on a Primary & Secondary cluster basis. The work of the EWO team focuses on finding the underlying root cause of non-attendance or engagement, building relationships between home and school, and establishing links with other agencies where appropriate. The EWS has a well-established referral process and schools can make referrals to the EWS through a panel discussion every two weeks. The panel is made up of Head of Service, Senior EWO lead, EWOs and a legal representative.

The EWO's meet regularly with schools to discuss attendance and maintain a detailed record of consultation. Schools provide information to the EWS about their school procedures for tracking, monitoring, and early intervention strategies for pupils they follow where there is a drop of attendance. Using strategic and robust monitoring systems, schools identify pupils who require early intervention support within school and those where support may be required from external agencies. The EWS provide advice and guidance to schools on support services available that could be beneficial.

Following the global pandemic there has been a decline in attendance throughout Wales. Welsh Government produced an independent report providing an analysis of the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for school attendance. (Attendance review – implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for school attendance - Meilyr Rowlands – February 2022). This review identified a wide range of reasons for non-attendance and suggested many different educational interventions that could contribute to improving pupil attendance. It concluded that will not be easy to estimate how long the process of Improving attendance in schools would take following the pandemic.

In October 2023, Welsh Government released new guidance 'Belonging, Engaging and Participating' on improving learner engagement and attendance. The EWS team are updating the Monmouthshire policy for attendance following the release of this guidance and providing training for governors and school leaders. The team will continue to support schools in implementing their own school-based strategies/plans to improve learner engagement and attendance during the implementation of the guidance and framework. There is a strong focus on community focused and trauma informed approaches within the guidance. This enables schools to adopt a range of strategies effectively to support learners prior to the involvement of the EWS.

As part of the new guidance the level of persistent absentee (PA) in Wales has been brought in line with England by amending it to 90%, from the existing 80%. This higher threshold will increase the number of PA pupils in all schools and will have an impact on the capacity of school staff and local authority officers in supporting the number of pupils below this threshold.

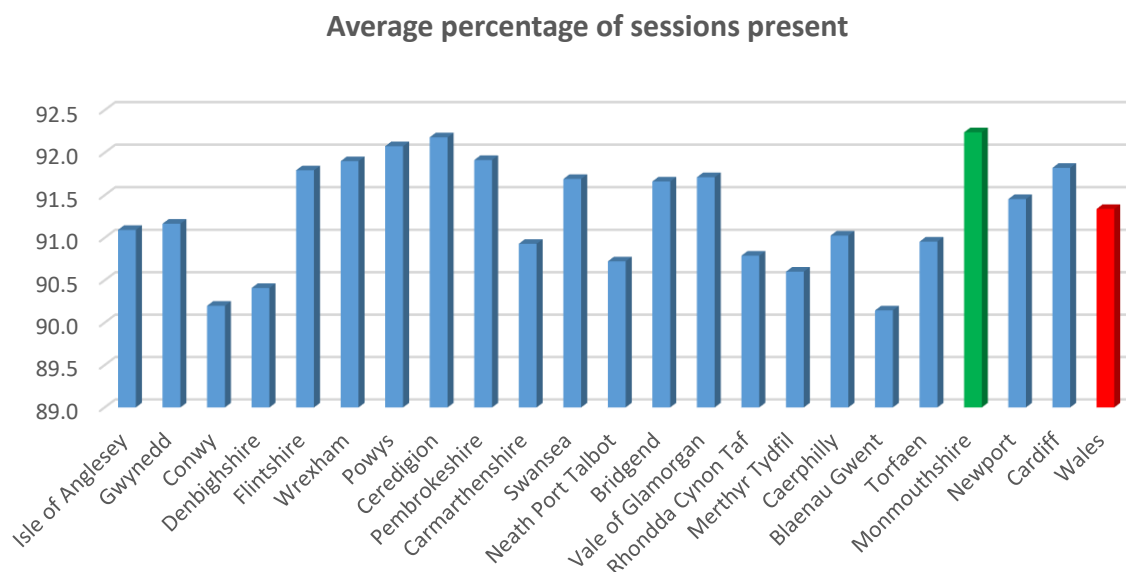
Welsh Government Grant funding has been allocated to local authorities for Education Welfare Service (EWS) to enhance capacity to manage additional pressures arising from the pandemic and to increase support to schools, pupils, and families and to improve attendance and engagement. This year, this grant enabled Monmouthshire to appoint an additional full time Education Welfare Officer (0.6 EWO/0.2 EHE Support) which has increased the capacity of the EWS team and provided additional time for the Senior EWO to implement the new guidance.

As part of this work the Senior EWO has engaged with the SIMS development team to develop a more efficient data recording system within SIMS using PowerBi. This programme gathers attendance data in real time and be customised to create reports that the service use in data analysis. Initially this appeared to be successful in giving easy EWO access to all schools, individual schools, and pupil dashboards for attendance data. However, the system has experienced some issues that needed to be rectified and this is having an impact on workload.

2. What is the current attendance in Monmouthshire (Academic year 2022-23) and how does it compare the national picture?

Attendance in Monmouthshire shows an improving trend in both primary and secondary schools post pandemic. The improvement in our primary schools is strong and is moving well towards pre-pandemic levels. However, school attendance in secondary schools is much slower to recover and as a result the gap between pre-pandemic and current levels is not closing as quickly. This can be accounted to a higher-than-expected increase in pupil related absence for varying reasons in years 7 to 11 post-pandemic. For example, anxiety and mental health of young people has shown to have had an impact and this has increased the demand for supporting services e.g., CAMHS, Health and Educational Psychology.

Table 2: Current position - Attendance of pupils in maintained schools in Wales, pupils aged 5 to 15, by day, 4 September 2023 to 10th November 2023



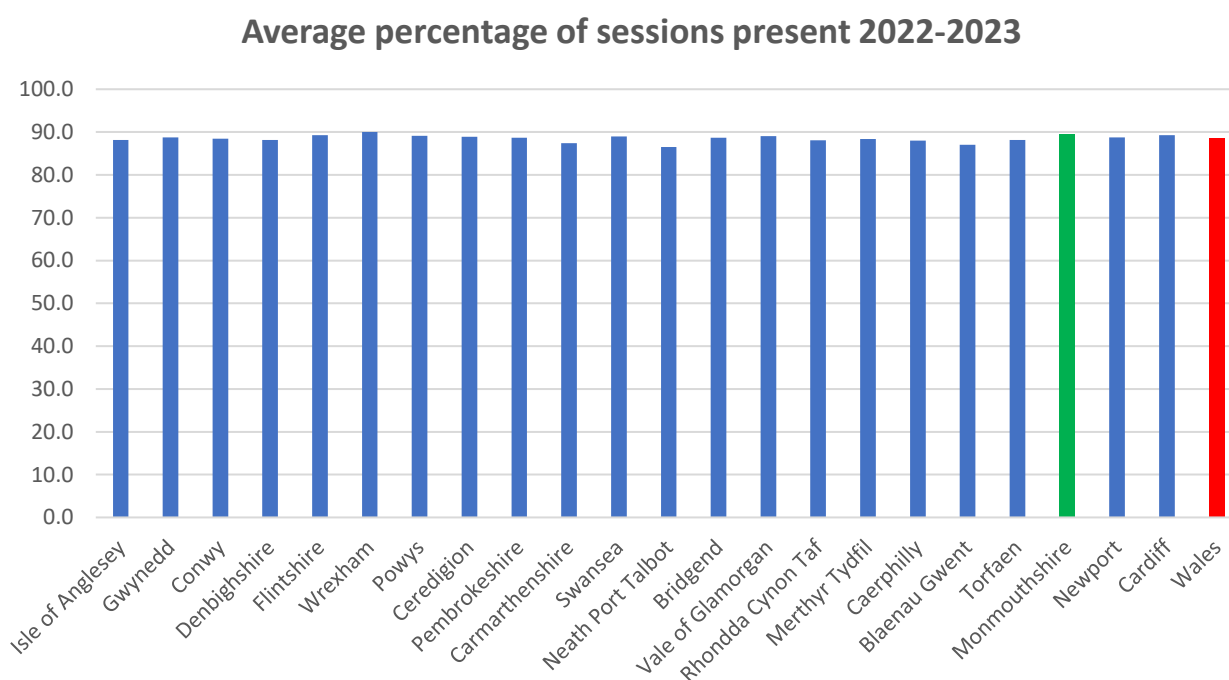
Welsh Government Attendance Data for 2022-2023

Across Wales, the average attendance for the academic year 2022-2023 was 88.5%. During this period, attendance in Monmouthshire was second in Wales at 89.5% and above all Wales average.

In the academic year 2022-23, the attendance rate for pupils not eligible for free school meals is 90.4% compared to eFSM pupils at 83.1%, a difference of 7.3pp. Attendance of eFSM pupils during the same period was 85.4% in Monmouthshire.

Across Wales the most common reason for absence for the academic year was illness, with 42.7% of sessions missed for this reason and this was reflected in Monmouthshire's attendance figures.

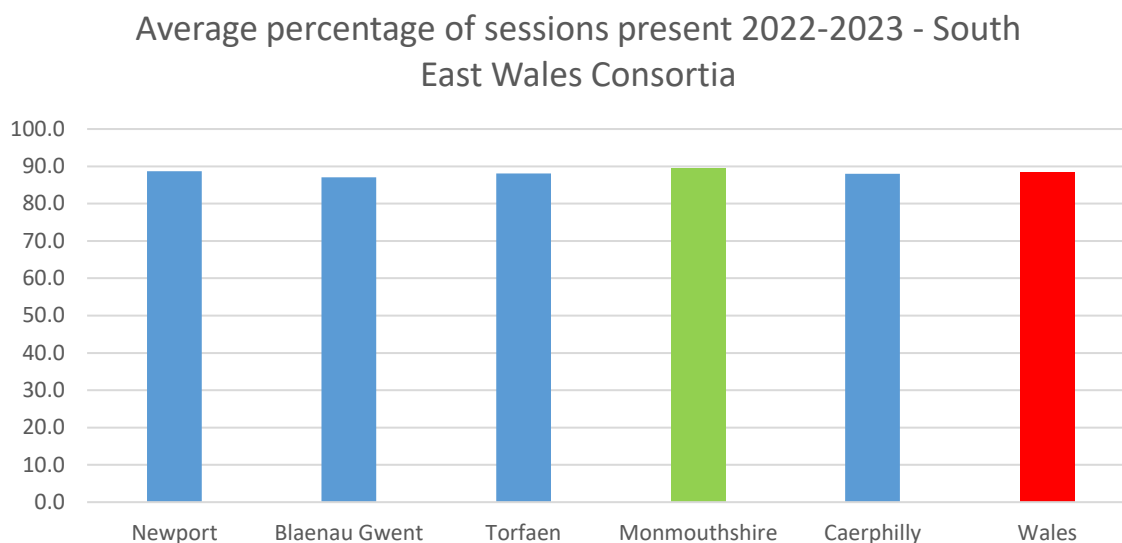
Table 3: Attendance of pupils in maintained schools in Wales, pupils aged 5 to 15, by local authority, for the 2022/23 academic year 05.09.22 – 24.07.23.



SEWC Region Attendance Data for 2022-2023

Overall, attendance in Monmouthshire is the highest compared to other local authorities in the SEWC region, continuing the pre-pandemic trend.

Table 4: Monmouthshire in relation to East Wales Consortia school attendance from WG data 2022-2023:



Despite the drop in overall attendance levels during the pandemic, attendance in Monmouthshire has remained amongst the highest in Wales, significantly above the region and the average across Wales as a whole.

Monmouthshire Primary & Secondary Attendance data to the end of the academic year 2022 – 2023

Table 6: Monmouthshire – 2022-2023 - Primary & Secondary Schools: Data Source PowerBi

Primary & Secondary (Years 1 - 11)	
Attendance	FSM
91.00%	85.40%

Primary (Years 1-6)			
Attendance	FSM	EAL	LAC
92.90%	89.30%	85.50%	92.00%

Secondary (Years 7-11)			
Attendance	FSM	EAL	LAC
88.10%	78.70%	87.29%	80.70%

Within the four Secondary Schools, one school has developed good processes in place to secure high levels of pupil attendance, two schools are working towards implementing additional strategies to improve tracking, monitoring, and supporting pupil attendance and one

school is receiving support to develop consistent processes to improve pupil attendance. Two of the Secondary schools have had ESTYN visits 2022 – 2023. Attendance in Monmouth School was noted as good overall, but the attendance of pupils eligible for free school meals (eFSM) was identified as in need of improvement and in King Henry VIII School one of the recommendations identifies * FSM and punctuality & Lateness of Pupils.

Whilst there is a small improvement in eFSM attendance data, the rate of recovery for this group is slower than for non eFSM pupils, particularly in secondary schools, and it is not where we would like it to be across all schools in Monmouthshire. However, we recognise that there are other underlying factors, particularly in secondary schools, which can impact on this vulnerable group where they are more likely to fall into a wider area of need and support. For example, EOTAS provision, Dalen Newydd In-reach school support, reintegration timetables, or pastoral support plans (PSPs) for supporting ALN/Health needs.

Attendance of Primary & Secondary from 2018 to Autumn Term 2023

Table 5 below shows the attendance across schools in Monmouthshire pre-pandemic and in relation to targets in our Corporate and Community Plan.

Primary schools collectively have improved attendance more rapidly than expected and as a result, are at the 26/27 target. However, whilst there has been improvement in the attendance for eFSM pupils remains 3.1pp below target at the end of the Autumn Term 2023.

Whilst the picture in secondary schools shows some improvement in the attendance of all pupils, it remains 4.8pp below the 26/27 target at the end of the Autumn term 2023. However, attendance of eFSM pupils is not signs of recovering and remains 10.0pp below pre-pandemic levels and 15.0pp below the 26/27 target.

Table 5: Corporate and Community Plan Targets

Measure	2018-2019	2022-2023	(Autumn Half term 27.10.23)	Autumn end of term 23.12.23	26/27 Target
Percentage pupil attendance at Primary level (figure for those eligible for free school meals shown in brackets)	95.4% (FSM 95%)	92.9% (FSM 89.3%)	94.5% (FSM 91.6%)	94.0% (FSM 90.9%)	94 % (FSM cohort to be within 2%)
Percentage pupil attendance at Secondary level (figure those eligible for free school meals shown in brackets)	95.1% (FSM 90.8%)	88.1% (FSM 78.7%)	89.2% (FSM 80.8%)	88.4% (FSM 79.0%)	94% (FSM cohort to be within 2%)
Overall attendance Primary & Secondary		91.0% (FSM 85.4%)	92.2% (FSM 86.8%)	91.6% (FSM 85.7%)	94% (FSM cohort to be within 2%)

Welsh Government have not reintroduced statutory attendance targets since the pandemic. However, for the academic year 2023-3024, schools are encouraged to be working towards

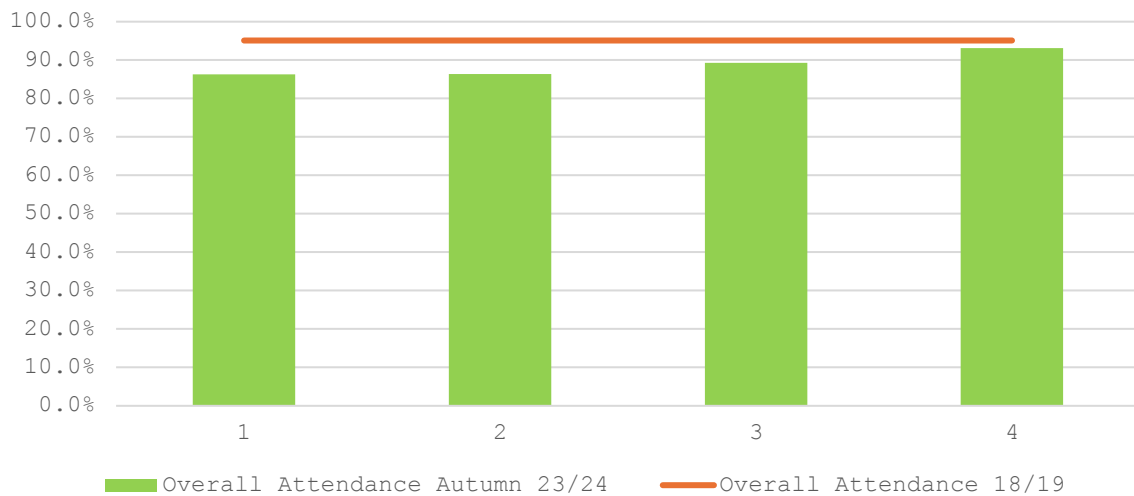
aspirational individual school targets to ensure attendance of all groups of pupils returns to pre-pandemic levels.

Monmouthshire School Attendance Data Autumn Term 2023.

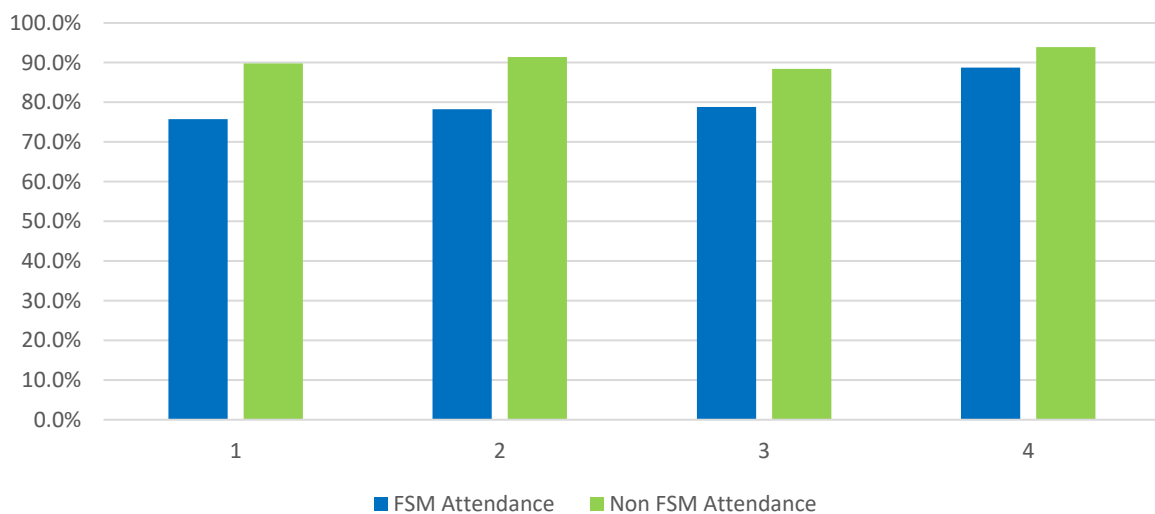
The following data is based only on recorded attendance during the Autumn term 2023 and whilst it gives an indication of school attendance trends, it does not guarantee that attendance will remain at this level throughout the year.

Secondary School Attendance

Secondary Attendance by School Autumn 2023



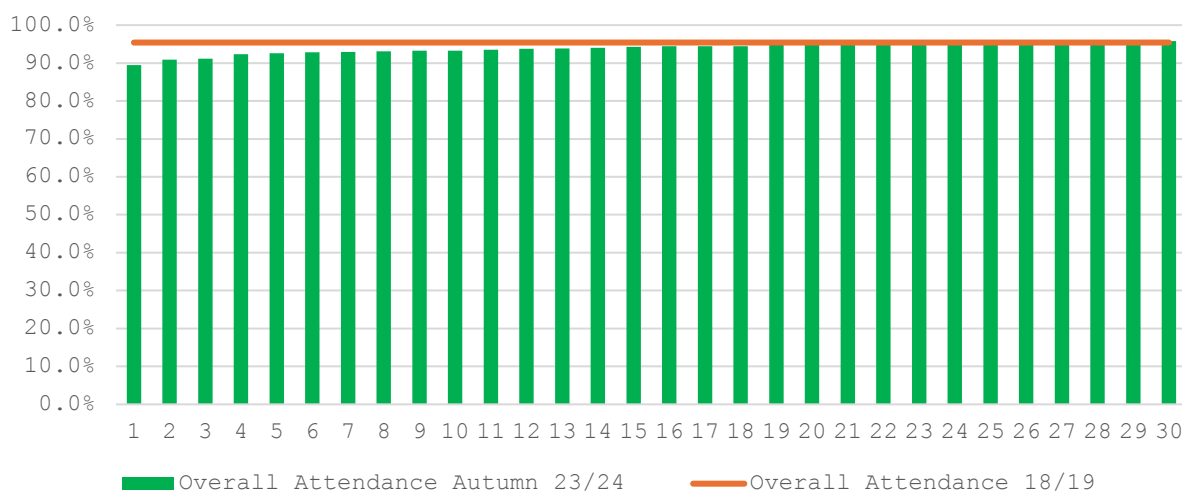
Secondary Attendance by School Autumn 2023 FSM/Non-FSM



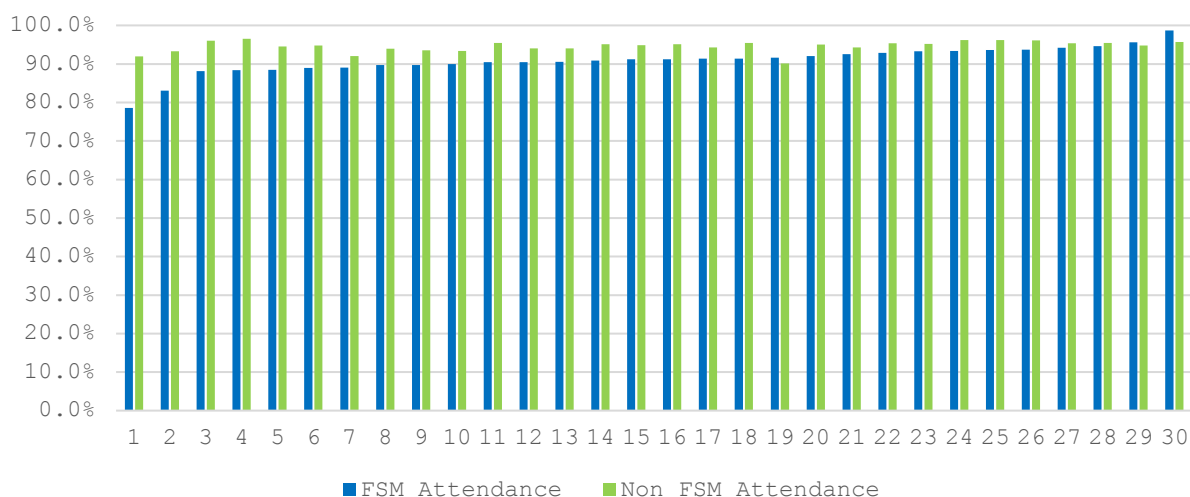
Although positive improvements are noted in two of our secondary schools, attendance at the end of the autumn term 2023 remains well below pre-pandemic levels overall. Generally, attendance in secondary schools, has been slower to recover, particularly in relation to vulnerable groups such as FSM pupils. Consequently, the gap between pre-pandemic and current attendance for FSM pupils has almost doubled to 9.4pp at the end of the autumn term 2023, and the gap is not closing quickly enough. The picture in Monmouthshire reflects the trend across Wales which shows an increase in the number of pupil related absence in years 7 to 11, particularly in relation to anxiety and mental health.

Primary School Attendance

Primary Attendance by School Autumn Term 2023



Primary Attendance by School Autumn 2023 FSM/Non-FSM



Attendance of all pupils during the Autumn term 2023, has returned to pre-pandemic levels in a third of primary schools. FSM attendance is at or over 90% in 21 primary schools and above 85% in 7 primary schools. In the remaining schools, the number of FSM pupils is small and therefore the overall percentage is subject to variation.

3. Professional learning and practice worth sharing

Training sessions have been attended by the EWS team on Trauma informed Schools (TIS) and Community Focused Schools in 2023.

Continued professional development of the EWS team is a key part of developing the teams own professional and specialist knowledge. The training opportunities which have been attended this year by team members in 2022-2023 include:

- National Educational Show, Cardiff
- Suicide Awareness
- Domestic Violence
- All Wales General Meetings
- All Wales CME Meetings
- All Wales EHE Meetings
- EWS/EWO Good practice sharing Day run by RCT Local Authority (July 2023)
- ILM Level 5 Business Management Apprenticeship – Senior Lead

The senior lead for the EWS team was a member of the Welsh Government consultation group who developed the new Belonging, Engaging & Participating guidance. They are also involved in consultations with relating to update the All-Wales Attendance Framework.

Up to date training for the team is essential to the EWS role to ensure a robust approach to safeguarding and Level 2 Safeguarding training is obtained by team members. All EWOs ensure that have up to date knowledge to ensure they signpost the most appropriate services available to pupils and their families.

Children Missing in Education

Welsh Government are developing a database in each local authority to record Children Missing Education (CME) This will include those pupils where they are missing education due to:

- Movement in/out of area
- EHE – where the LA is not satisfied that there is a suitable full-time education in place.
- Pupils who have returned to their home country.
- Pupil who may have eloped.
- Pupils who may be CLA
- Pupils who may not have a suitable school placement.

Monmouthshire have agreed to work with Welsh Government on the CME Pilot to develop the database. The first meeting took place in November 2023 with the Senior Lead and Lead Education Welfare Officer for CME. In preparation, the Senior Lead completed an Audit of the LA's current processes and outlined areas that require development in meeting the needs of the pilot. Welsh Government will begin consultation on this project in December 2023 for a period for 12 weeks. Monmouthshire will continue to work with WG over the next academic year on strengthening processes and implementing any changes required before the pilot commences in 2025 ready for implementation in 2027.

4. Finance – Value for Money

Staffing Costs	Outcomes
Senior Education Welfare Officer Welsh Government Grant Funding Central team	Temporary Secondment until March 2023. Demands of the role have shown that the role needs to be expanded to a management-based role at a more strategic level. Welsh Government Grant funding has been used to appoint a full time EWO to increase EWO capacity in the team and support Welsh Government priorities EHE and CME EWS team member has returned from maternity on a 0.6 contract which is now a permanent change after 4 years of previous agreed flexible working.
EHE Support Worker Welsh Government Grant Funded	The post is currently in place with WG funding, and this is an essential role required by the EWS to continue due to rising numbers and EHE caseload. Post dependant at present on WG funding which is in place until March 2024. Welsh Government funding grant has also enabled part cost of an EWO post of 0.2 to support in this area due to increasing numbers.

5. Effectiveness:

Education Welfare Officers within Monmouthshire work using a holistic approach to address underlying issues, which may prove a barrier to learning and impact upon attendance. This ensures that their work is multi-disciplinary and emphasises a solution-focussed approach to re-engage families and young people, rather than use a punitive approach based upon imposition of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) and Prosecution. Consequently, Education Welfare Officers work closely with School Health Nurses, GPs, Police Liaison Officers, Llamau Mediation, Children's Services colleagues, Drug and Alcohol Support Services, CAMHS, Monmouthshire Housing, COMPASS etc.

Working proactively in a multi-disciplinary approach, enables the Education Welfare Service to forge effective multi-agency partnerships. This enables the root causes of non-attendance and non-engagement to be addressed via attendance at, CP or core group meetings of vulnerable pupils and meetings with parents and schools.

Actions arising from the above:

- Ascertain parent and pupil views and reasons for absence.
- Continue to work together with agencies to provide support to action plans in place with Children's Services
- Provide advice and support to schools on strategies to support pupils back into school.
- Continue to provide clarity to Headteachers about the use of register codes.
- Continue to provide support and challenge to schools as appropriate.

6. Estyn 2022-2023

Judgements made by Estyn linked to attendance.

School	Date	ESTYN Commentary - Attendance	Local Authority Support
Dewstow	May 2022	Nearly all pupils feel safe at the school and understand the importance of regular attendance.	EWO attendance data meeting half-termly. Additional EWO allocation to review systems and processes.
St Mary's	June 2022	Leaders monitor pupils' attendance appropriately and have sound strategies in place to ensure good rates of pupil attendance. These include rewards for pupils, regular monitoring of individual pupils' attendance and close communication with parents.	EWO attendance data meeting half-termly. Contact with families where attendance is a concern. Support with attendance systems and processes as required.
The Dell	June 2022	The school monitors pupils' attendance closely. It works well with external partners such as the Educational Welfare Officer to engage with pupils and their families to support good rates of attendance. This is robustly monitored.	EWO attendance data meeting half-termly. Contact with families where attendance is a concern. Support with attendance systems and processes as required.
Gilwern	October 2022	Arrangements to monitor patterns of attendance in pupils with additional learning needs are effective. This is a strength of the school, and, as a result, further support has been put in place to raise the attendance of individuals. Arrangements to analyse and support the attendance of all pupils are effective	EWO attendance data meeting half-termly. Contact with families where attendance is a concern. Support with attendance systems and processes as required.
King Henry VIII	November 2022	R4 Strengthen approaches to promoting positive behaviour, punctuality, and attendance	Senior EWO support to strengthen approaches to attendance (PIAP)
Castle Park	December 2022	Processes to promote positive rates of pupils' attendance are effective.	EWO attendance data meeting half-termly. Contact with families where attendance is a concern. Support with attendance systems and processes as required.
Llanfoist	January 2023	The school robustly monitors attendance, including the attendance of vulnerable	EWO attendance data meeting half-termly.

		groups. There are well-established procedures in place to promote good levels of attendance.	Contact with families where attendance is a concern. Support with attendance systems and processes as required.
Llanvihangel	January 2023	The school robustly monitors attendance, including the attendance of vulnerable groups. There are well-established procedures in place to promote good levels of attendance.	
Monmouth	February 2023	R1 Strengthen processes to raise attendance of pupils eligible for FSM.	Additional support from Senior EWO to review and embed effective systems and processes.
Cantref	April 2023	The school monitors pupils' attendance effectively and, as a result, pupils' attendance rates are good.	EWO attendance data meeting half-termly. Contact with families where attendance is a concern. Support with attendance systems and processes as required.
Undy	May 2023	The school monitors pupils' attendance robustly. This has a positive impact on improving attendance rates for pupils.	EWO attendance data meeting half-termly. Contact with families where attendance is a concern. Support with attendance systems and processes as required.

7. Self-Evaluation: Good

Considering the above evaluative evidence, the above judgement applies:

Self-evaluation judgement:	<p>EWS work to support attendance is good overall.</p> <p>The strong features of practice include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cluster working EWO's. • Holistic approach to supporting pupils, families, and schools to improve attendance. • Good engagement with schools • Team commitment • Robust use of data recording and analysis in school consultations • Effective partnerships exist with primary schools, Access/Admissions, Children's Services, Police, School Health Nurse Team, Housing, and other LA's. • Recording and reporting of information is effective and informs support well.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracking of vulnerable pupils and persistent absentees is effective. • Effective EWS panel meetings supported by legal representation ensure fair access to enhance support. • Lead areas are managed well, particularly given the increased workload
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8. Follow Up Actions

- To increase the EWS team to manage the increase in pressure on the service using WG grant funding and Community Focused Schools funding. Funding currently only until March 2024 and this is impacting on the recruitment process.
- Continue to robustly monitor attendance in all schools and prioritise schools who may have a post inspection plan where attendance has been raised.
- EWS to revise MCC Attendance Policy and EHE Policy due to new EHE Guidance and, new Belonging, Engaging & Participating guidance (Nov 23).
- To look at continuity of support for schools by rotating EWO's to different cluster areas.
- To support secondary schools in improving attendance to bring back in line with pre-pandemic attendance levels.
- To set up electronic systems to process Chaperone Licenses applications and deliver safeguarding training to comply with regulations. Evaluate the suitability of NSPCC Chaperone and entertainment training for applicants as part of the application process. This will decrease team time spent in issuing of the licences by MCC.
- MCC to work with Welsh Government on CME Pilot work.

Report completed by: Michelle Kear – Senior Education Welfare Officer

Date: November 2023

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2022-23

Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
20 th February 2024	Month 9 Budget Monitoring	To scrutinise the budgetary position (revenue and capital) for services falling within the committee's remit at Month 9.	Jonathan Davies Peter Davies Cllr Callard	Budget Monitoring
	Exam Performance	Scrutiny of the latest exam performance data.	Will McLean Ed Pryce (EAS) Alexis Edwards (PSIP) Cllr Groucott	Performance Monitoring
	School Attendance	Scrutiny of the latest school attendance data.	Will McLean Ed Pryce Alexis Edwards Sharon Randall-Smith Cllr Groucott	Performance Monitoring
19 th March 2024	Covid learning and pandemic preparedness	To discuss learning following the impact of the pandemic and how we prepare for a future one, following publication of the revised Outbreak Control Plan Wales.	David Jones Louise Driscoll (ABUHB) Cllr Brocklesby?	Performance Monitoring
14 th May 2024	WESP (Welsh in Education Strategic Plan)	To scrutinise performance against the plans.	Sharon Randall Smith Will McLean Cllr Groucott	Performance Monitoring

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2022-23

Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
	Alternative Learning Provision/Specialist Resource Bases	Scrutiny of MCC Alternative Learning Provision/Specialist Resource Bases.	Morwenna Wagstaff Will McLean Cllr Groucott	Performance Monitoring
	Supporting Vulnerable Learners	Scrutiny of and Vulnerable Learners' Support (trauma-informed approaches, Emotional Literacy Assistant programme, MCC specialist teaching service).	Morwenna Wagstaff Will McLean Cllr Groucott	Performance Monitoring
18th June 2024	Public Protection Performance 23/24	To review the performance of the service area.	David Jones Cllr Griffiths	Performance Monitoring
	Registration Services Annual Report 21/22	To review the performance of the service area.	David Jones Cllr Sandles?	Performance Monitoring
	Poverty Action Plan	To scrutinise performance against the action plan.	Lucinda Boyland Cllr Sandles	Performance Monitoring
16th July 2024				
15th October 2024	<i>Socially Responsible Procurement strategy</i>	<i>Review progress of the strategy.</i>	<i>Scott James Steve Robinson</i>	<i>Performance Monitoring</i>
To be confirmed	Month 12 Budget Monitoring	To scrutinise the budgetary position (revenue and capital) for services falling within the committee's remit at Month 12.	Jonathan Davies Peter Davies Cllr Callard	Budget Monitoring

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2022-23

Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
To be confirmed	Financial Strategy	Pre-decision Scrutiny ahead of full Council.	Peter Davies Jonathan Davies Cllr Callard	Pre-decision Scrutiny
To be confirmed	Recruitment and retention	Effect on the Council's performance and ability to deliver.		
To be confirmed	Use of Reserves	Future proofing and resilience planning as well as supporting long-term strategic priorities.		

Other items in the Community and Corporate Plan which the Committee might want to scrutinise:

- Social Justice Strategy progress and Tackling Poverty and Inequality Plan progress
- Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy Delivery
- Business Monmouthshire project monitoring/updates
- Undertake a 'learning led' review of educational provision in Chepstow
- Chief Officer for Education's Monitoring Report 2024
- Review of property assets
- Data strategy
- Digital strategy
- Food strategy (School meals and deforestation? [Place Committee?])

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Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee

Action List

30th January 2024

Minute Item:	Subject	Officer / Member	Outcome
4.	Find a date to scrutinise the recruitment and retention of social care workers	Robert McGowan	This will be covered by the Care Inspectorate Report which is due to be scrutinised by People committee
5.	Written response about plans to address concerns in Monmouth – active travel routes leading to less parking, lower footfall and higher business rates leading to businesses struggling	Matt Gatehouse / Paul Sullivan	Initial response on active travel sent to members 9 th Feb
5.	Provide an explanation as to why there is no target for 23/24 for the number of affordable homes granted planning permission in year (p.20)	Matt Gatehouse	Response sent to Cllr Howells 2 nd Feb

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Committee / Decision Maker	Meeting date / Decision due	Report Title	Responsible Cabinet Member	Purpose	Author	Date item added to the planner
Council	01-Jul-25	RLDP for Adoption	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the RLDP following receipt of the Inspector's report, making it the County's Development Plan as defined by S38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	23-Aug-22
Cabinet	02-Oct-24	Adoption of Abergavenny Placemaking Plan	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the Abergavenny Placemaking Plan, co-produced with Abergavenny Town Council, to inform future regeneration priorities and grant bids	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22
Cabinet	02-Oct-24	Adoption of Magor Placemaking Plan	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22
Cabinet	02-Oct-24	Adoption of Monmouth Placemaking Plan	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the Monmouth Placemaking Plan, co-produced with Monmouth Town Council, to inform future regeneration priorities and grant bids	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22
Cabinet	02-Oct-24	Road Safety Strategy	Catrin Maby	To adopt the Road Safety Strategy	Mark Hand / Paul Keeble	4-Oct-22
Cabinet	04-Sep-24	Pavement Café Policy	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the pavement café policy as the basis for making decisions on applications for licences	Mark Hand / Paul Keeble	4-Oct-22
Council	19-Sep-24	RLDP submission for examination	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To endorse the submission of the Deposit RLDP to the Welsh Government for examination by an independent Inspector. By agreeing, Council will be saying it wants this document to be the adopted RLDP for Monmouthshire.	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	23-Aug-22
Council	20-Jun-24	RLDP Deposit Plan endorsement for consultation	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To endorse the Deposit RLDP for public consultation and engagement.	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	5-Jan-23
Council	16-May-24	Political Balance Report	Angela Sandles - Engagement		James Williams	
	16-May-24	Appointments to Committees	Angela Sandles - Engagement		James Williams	

Council	16-May-24	Outside Bodies	Angela Sandles - Engagement		James Williams	
Council	16-May-24	Financial Strategy	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	
Cabinet	15-May-24	Local Housing Market Assessment	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	The LHMA provides a review of the need for affordable and market housing across Monmouthshire and an overview of the current housing market.	Sally Meyrick	8-Jan-24
Cabinet	15-May-24	Local Flood Strategy	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Mark Hand	9-Oct-23
Council	18-Apr-24	CJC Transition Arrangements	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy	To update the Council regarding transition arrangements from CJC to CCR	Paul Matthews	12-Jan-24
ICMD	17-Apr-24	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 4 held on 7th March 2024	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Dave Jarrett	30-Mar-23
Cabinet	10-Apr-24	Primary School catchment areas consultation feedback	Martyn Groucutt - Education	For Members to receive feedback on the consultation relating to a review of Primary School catchments areas and determine whether to implement proposals	Matthew Jones	20-Nov-23
Cabinet	10-Apr-24	NEET Reduction Strategy			Hannah Jones	4-Sep-23
Cabinet	10-Apr-24	Climate and Nature Emergency		To receive an update on progress made towards the Climate and Nature Emergency Strategy and to agree the new overarching Climate and Nature Emergency Strategy and action plan format	Hazel Clatworthy	19-Oct-23
Cabinet	10-Apr-24	Local Transport Plan	Catrin Maby	To adopt the Local Transport Plan	Debra Hill-Howells / Christian Schmidt	4-Oct-22

ICMD	13-Mar-24	Increase in building control charges	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Craig O'Connor	
Council	29-Feb-24	Agree the name of the new Welsh-medium Primary School in Monmouth	Martyn Groucutt - Education	Agree the name of the new Welsh-medium Primary School in Monmouth	Debbie Graves	15-Nov-23
Council	29-Feb-24	Standards Committee Appointment			James Williams	6-Feb-24
Council	29-Feb-24	Strategic Equality Plan 2024		To seek approval of a new Strategic Equality Plan for the period 2024-28, incorporating MCCs contribution to national action plans on race equality, LGBTQ and other protected characteristics	Matthew Gatehouse	15-Nov-23
Council	29-Feb-24	Appointment of Monmouthshire Local Access Forum		To secure the appointment of members to the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum for its next 3 year period.	Matthew Lewis	18-Jan-23
Council	29-Feb-24	Final Budget Proposals	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	
Council	29-Feb-24	Capital and Treasury Strategy	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	
Council	29-Feb-24	Council Diary	Angela Sandles - Engagement		John Pearson	
Council	29-Feb-24	Placement Development Strategy	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding	development of in-county residential and supported accommodation placements for children who are looked after. To make recommendations about i) changing the use of 3 existing properties in order to support the strategy	Jane Rodgers / Diane Corrister	8-Jan-24
ICMD	28-Feb-24	WCF/Trust Treasury Fund Investment	Ben Callard - Resources			

Cabinet	28-Feb-24	2023/24 Revenue and Capital Monitoring - Month 9	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	27-Apr-23
Cabinet	28-Feb-24	2023/24 Final Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	
Cabinet	28-Feb-24	Sustainable Communities for Learning Strategic Outline Programme update	Martyn Groucutt - Education	To provide members with details of the revisions to the Strategic Outline Programme for the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme which will inform the development of projects within the rolling programme of	Debbie Graves	12-Sep-23
Cabinet	07-Feb-24	Economic Development Strategy		REFRESHING THE MONMOUTHSHIRE BUSINESS GROWTH & ENTERPRISE STRATEGY and action plan in setting the economic ambition for the county and providing a strategic framework that guides future economic	Hannah Jones	9-Jan-23
ICMD	24-Jan-24	Amendment to Street Naming and Numbering Policy regarding Replacement or additional Street nameplate signs for Existing Streets	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Mark Hand	2-Jan-24
ICMD	24-Jan-24	Community Council & Police Precepts - Determination	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	
Council	18-Jan-24	Introduction of Council Tax Premiums for Second homes from 1 st April 2024	Ben Callard - Resources	Council to re affirm their decision on the Second Home Premium	Ruth Donovan	5-Dec-23
Council	18-Jan-24	Council Tax Reduction Scheme	Ben Callard - Resources		Ruth Donovan	
Council	18-Jan-24	Asset Management Strategy			Nick Keyse	28-Sep-23
Cabinet	17-Jan-24	Community & Corporate Plan performance update	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy	To provide cabinet with the latest performance report of commitments in the Community and Corporate Plan	Richard Jones	5-Sep-23

Cabinet	17-Jan-24	REPURPOSING OF ACCOMMODATION IN THE COUNTY FARMS PORTFOLIO TO SUPPORT HOMELESSNESS AND OTHER POLICY OBJECTIVES		To seek approval for the repurposing of vacant cottages held within the County Farms Portfolio to support policy objectives such as alleviating pressures with homelessness and to address the reliance on unsuitable temporary accommodation.	Nick Keyse	4-Dec-23
Cabinet	17-Jan-24	consultation on the relocation of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni	Martyn Groucutt - Education		Matthew Jones	23-Aug-23
Cabinet	17-Jan-24	Approval of the revised MCC Counter Fraud, Corruption & Bribery Policy	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Jan Furtek	2-Nov-23
Cabinet	17-Jan-24	Draft Budget Proposals	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	29-Sep-23
ICMD	03-Jan-24	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 3 held on 7th December 2023 Meeting didn't happen	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Dave Jarrett	30-Mar-23
ICMD	20-Dec-23	Community Council & Police Precepts - Proposed payment schedule	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	
ICMD	20-Dec-23	Additional resources for the Revenues and Benefits Shared Service'	Ben Callard - Resources		Ruth Donovan	
ICMD	20-Dec-23	Council Tax Base Report	Ben Callard - Resources		Ruth Donovan	
ICMD	20-Dec-23	LDP Annual Monitoring Report	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To endorse the LDP Annual Monitoring Report for submission to WG	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	16-Jan-23
Cabinet	13-Dec-23	King Henry VIII 3 – 19 School Funding Formula	Martyn Groucutt - Education	To update Cabinet with the consultation feedback regarding the proposed fair funding formula for King Henry 3 – 19 School in Abergavenny.	Nikki Wellington	23-Nov-23

Cabinet	13-Dec-23	Children's Services: Foster Carer Recruitment and Retention – Foster Friendly Policy	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding	The purpose of the report is to outline a proposal to create a policy that supports MCC employees who are existing foster carers or wish to become foster carers through offering an appropriate leave entitlement.	Dr Charlotte Drury	9-Nov-23
Cabinet	13-Dec-23	Primary catchment review			Matthew Jones	23-Jun-23
Cabinet	13-Dec-23	Whole Authority Strategic Risk Assessment	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy	To provide Cabinet with an overview of the current strategic risks facing the authority and to seek approval of the strategic risk assessment	Richard Jones	5-Sep-23
Cabinet	13-Dec-23	2023/24 Revenue and Capital Monitoring - Month 6	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Jon Davies	27-Apr-23
Council	07-Dec-23	Relocation of PRS in South Monmouthshire	Martyn Groucutt - Education	Relocation of South Monmouthshire PRS	Morwenna Wagstaff	13-Nov-23
Council	07-Dec-23	DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT		to provide Council with an overview of SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH directorate with a focus on year 2022 – 2023.	Jane Rodgers	31-Jul-23
Council	07-Dec-23	SAFEGUARDING ANNUAL EVALUTION REPORT		To provide Council with the annual self-evaluation of safeguarding from a whole authority perspective.	Jane Rodgers / Diane Corrister	31-Jul-23
ICMD	29-Nov-23	Whole Authority Safeguarding Policy	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Naomi Lovesay	3-Nov-23
ICMD	29-Nov-23	Museums - Accredited			Rachael Rogers	12-Oct-23
ICMD	29-Nov-23	A013 Highway Traffic Regulation Amendment Order	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Speed limit changes at Caerwent Brook/Dewstow Road	Mark Hand	18-Sep-23

ICMD	29-Nov-23	A012 Highway Traffic Regulation Amendment Order	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Mark Hand	18-Sep-23
ICMD	15-Nov-23	'Planning Annual Performance Report	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	Double yellows at Main Road, Portskewett, leading to S To endorse the Planning Department Annual Performance Report for submission to WG	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	16-Jan-23
ICMD	15-Nov-23	A012 Highway Traffic Regulation Amendment Order MOVED TO 29TH NOV		Double yellows at Main Road, Portskewett, leading to S	Mark Hand	18-Sep-23
ICMD	15-Nov-23	A013 Highway Traffic Regulation Amendment Order MOVED TO 29TH NOV		Speed limit changes at Caerwent Brook/Dewstow Road	Mark Hand	18-Sep-23
Cabinet	15-Nov-23	DEVELOPING THE FUTURE MY DAY MY LIFE BASES	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding	This report presents the findings of the final options appraisal for the proposed future My Day, My Life bases in Abergavenny, and to seek approval of the recommended base.	Jane Rodgers	7-Nov-23
Cabinet	15-Nov-23	Budget Process and timetable	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Jon Davies	
Cabinet	08-Nov-23	Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual letter 2022-23 to Monmouthshire County Council		The purpose is to fulfil the expectation of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales that their report is brought to the attention of Cabinet.	Annette Evans/Matthew Gatehouse	17-Oct-23
Cabinet	08-Nov-23	RIPA Review		To review RIPA strategy and arrangements	Geraint Edwards	25-Sep-23
Cabinet	08-Nov-23	2023/24 Revenue and Capital Monitoring - Month 5	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Jon Davies	
Council	26-Oct-23	Monmouthshire County Council Self- assessment 2022/23		to seek Council approval of the Self-Assessment report 2022/23 in line with requirements outlined in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and to ensure that members have a clear and transparent assessment of the Council's	Richard Jones	4-Jul-23

Council	26-Oct-23	RPB Area Plan			Jane Rodgers	4-Jul-23
Council	26-Oct-23	RLDP Preferred Strategy consultation report	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To endorse the RLDP Preferred Strategy including any proposed changes arising from the public consultation.	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	3-Oct-22
ICMD	25-Oct-23	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 2 held on 21st September 2023	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Dave Jarrett	30-Mar-23
Cabinet	11-Oct-23	Disposal of Land at Natgavenny Lane	Rachel Garrick - Resources	To seek Cabinet approval for the disposal of a parcel of land adjacent to the Nantgavenny Lane Busines Park, Mardy, Abergavenny	Nick Keyse	
Cabinet	11-Oct-23	Developing a base for My Day My Life in Monmouth and Abergavenny	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding	Further to the recommendations from the Practice Solutions review, the report sets out the criteria and decision making in respect of which bases to develop for the My Day My Life in both Monmouth and Abergavenny, and makes a recommendation on the	Ceri York	25-Sep-23
ICMD	11-Oct-23	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – TCBC AND MCC HERITAGE SERVICES IN RELATION TO MAMHILAD NYLON SPINNERS LISTED BUILDING.	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	The purpose of this report is to propose that MCC join into an MoU in relation to the provision of Heritage Advice to consider the ongoing management of the Nylon Spinners listed building at Mamhilad.	Amy Longford	22-Sep-23
Cabinet	04-Oct-23	Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Consultation			Cath Fallon	4-Sep-23
ICMD	27-Sep-23	Extending Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPOs) to tackle Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)		To seek approval to extend three Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) in respect of Bailey Park, Abergavenny; Lower Abergavenny (including Castle Meadows) and Monmouth Town (including Chippenhams)	Andrew Mason	31-Aug-23
Council	21-Sep-23	REPORT ON JOINT SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS FOR CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEES			Hazel Ilett	4-Sep-23
Council	21-Sep-23	Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report 2022/23	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To inform Council of the work and conclusions of the Governance and Audit Committee from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023	Chair of Governance and Audit Committee, Andrew Blackmore	27th July 2023

Council	21-Sep-23	Standards Committee Annual Report		This report is the first annual report from the Standards Committee to Council as required by the change in law set out in the Local Government and Elections Act 2021 . It has to report on the discharge of the Committee's functions for the	Matt Phillips	10-Oct-22
ICMD	13-Sep-23	Highway Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 12 MOVED TO 25TH OCTOBER 2023	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	'Agreement to make the traffic order - parking/waiting restrictions at Justins Hill and Wyesham Avenue, Wyesham; Main Road and Castle Way, Portskewett; lane leading to Sugarloaf Llanwenarth car park; and Wonastow	Mark Hand	
ICMD	13-Sep-23	Proposed Changes to the Membership of the School Budget Funding Forum	Martyn Groucutt - Education		Nikki Wellington	
ICMD	13-Sep-23	'Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 12 deferred to September 13th		Agreement to make the traffic order - parking/waiting restrictions at Justins Hill and Wyesham Avenue, Wyesham; Main Road and Castle Way, Portskewett; lane leading to Sugarloaf Llanwenarth car park; and Wonastow	Mark Hand	24-May-23
Cabinet	06-Sep-23	Respite review for people with learning disabilities			Jane Rodgers	31-Jul-23
Cabinet	06-Sep-23	Home to School Transport Policy 2024/25		To consider the adoption of the proposed Home to School Transport Policy for the academic year 2024/25	Deh Hill Howells	
Cabinet	06-Sep-23	Proposal to establish a Welsh medium seedling school in Monmouth		Cabinet to consider objection report and make final determination on how to proceed.	Debbie Graves	27-Mar-23
ICMD	16-Aug-23	Castle Wood Usk Low Cost Home Ownership Future Use	Sara Burch - Inclusive and Active Communities			
ICMD	16-Aug-23	electric vehicle charging rate for public and staff at EV	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Deb Hill Howells	20-Jul-23
ICMD	16-Aug-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 11	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - Exception Orders to identify those restricted roads that will remain 30mph in September 2023 instead of defaulting to 20mph	Mark Hand	

ICMD	16-Aug-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 10	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - prohibition of driving Pwll Du, Llanelly Hill and Belmont Close/Belmont Road Abergavenny	Mark Hand	
ICMD	02-Aug-23	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 1 held on 22nd June 2023	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Dave Jarrett	
ICMD	02-Aug-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 10 deferred to August 16th	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - Exception Orders to identify those restricted roads that will remain 30mph in September 2023 instead of defaulting to 20mph	Mark Hand	3-Oct-22
Cabinet	26-Jul-23	Implementation of the My Day My Life review recommendations			Ceri York	
Cabinet	26-Jul-23	Gypsy and Traveller Site Identification			Ian Bakewell	12-Jul-23
Cabinet	26-Jul-23	•Review of the Respite Opportunities Service			Ceri York	14-Mar-23
Cabinet	26-Jul-23	2023/24 Revenue budget progress – early update			Jon Davies	8-Jun-23
Cabinet	26-Jul-23	S016 Funding Castle Park and Arch Bishop Rowan Williams Schools.			Cath Saunders	13-Jun-23
Council	20-Jul-23	Gifts & Hospitality Report			Matt Phillips	12-Jun-23
Council	20-Jul-23	Freedom of the Borough Presentation			Joe Skidmore	5-May-23

Council	20-Jul-23	Recruitment of Local Access Forum		To agree arrangements for the recruitment of the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum for the next 3 year period of appointment	Matthew Lewis	21-Jun-23
ICMD	12-Jul-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 10 DEFERRED TO 16TH AUG	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - prohibition of driving Pwll Du, Llanelly Hill	Mark Hand	19-May-23
ICMD	12-Jul-23	transfer the school balances for both Deri View and King Henry VIII School to the new King Henry VIII 3 – 19 School.	Rachel Garrick - Resources	Both King Henry VIII school and Deri View Primary school are closing on 31 st August 2023 and the new King Henry VIII 3 – 19 School will open on 1 st September 2023, under a statutory closure of schools the financial balances transfer to the Local Authority,	Nikki Wellington	4-Apr-23
	05-Jul-23	Reopen Monmouth Cemetery for new burials			Rhian Jackson	
Cabinet	05-Jul-23	RESERVATION OF GRAVE PLOTS		To seek cabinet approval to cease the provision of reserving grave spaces (not incl cremated remains plots) in Llanfoist Cemetery	Rhian Jackson	7-Nov-22
Cabinet	05-Jul-23	2022/23 Revenue and Capital Monitoring - Outturn Report	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Jon Davies	27-Apr-23
ICMD	28-Jun-23	Highway Traffic Regulation Order	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - making permanent the part-time prohibition of driving on Cross Street and Market Street Abergavenny	Mark Hand	6-Jun-23
Council	22-Jun-23	Gwent Public Services Board Well-being plan		To approve the Public Services Board's Well-being Plan that sets out the steps being taken collaboratively by public services to improve wellbeing in Gwent ahead of approval by the Gwent Public Services Board.	Richard Jones	20-Jan-23
Council	22-Jun-23	Chief Officer Children and Young People's Report 2023			Will McLean	14-Feb-23
Cabinet	07-Jun-23	Adoption of Transforming Chepstow Masterplan	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the Transforming Chepstow Masterplan, co-produced with Chepstow Town Council, to inform future regeneration priorities and grant bids	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22

Cabinet	07-Jun-23	Transforming Towns Strategic Grant regeneration priorities and LUF3 bid	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To agree the priority projects for bids for WG Strategic grant funding to 24/25 and the submission for round 3 of Levelling Up Funding	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22
Cabinet	07-Jun-23	Proposal to establish a Welsh medium seedling school in Monmouth		Cabinet to consider the results of the consultation, recommendations and decide whether to publish statutory notices.	Debbie Graves	27-Mar-23
Cabinet	07-Jun-23	Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy	Rachel Garrick - Resources	To endorse the Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy	Scott James	22-Aug-22
ICMD	24-May-23	Highway Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 9	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - including Llantrisant 20mph village lane, 40mph through road, possibly Llantrisant (Usk to Wentwood) 50mph; 20mph Gilwern and surrounding villages	Mark Hand	14-Apr-23
Council	18-May-23	Political Balance Report		The Council is required to review at, or as soon as practicable after, the Council's annual meeting, the representation of different political groups on the bodies to which the Council makes appointments.	Matt Phillips	2-Feb-23
Council	18-May-23	Outside Bodies Report		To appoint representatives to serve on outside	Matt Phillips	2-Feb-23
Council	18-May-23	Appointments to Committees		To appoint committees together with their membership and terms of reference in accordance with the Council's Constitution.	Nicola Perry	2-Feb-23
Council	18-May-23	Constitution update		For the Monitoring Officer to bring proposed amendments and highlight changes made over the previous 12 months	Matt Phillips	2-Feb-23
Council	18-May-23	Corporate Parenting Strategy			Diane Corrister	24-Aug-22
Cabinet	17-May-23	Review of Home to School Transport Policy 24/25.	Martyn Groucutt - Education	The purpose: Is to seek approval to commence consultation on proposed amendments to the Home to School Transport Policy for the academic year 2024/25.	Deb Hill Howells	12-Apr-23

Cabinet	17-May-23	Monnow Street public realm improvements	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To agree how we proceed with proposals for Monnow Street public realm following consultation	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	6-Mar-23
ICMD	10-May-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 9 MOVED TO 24TH MAY	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - including Llantrisant 20mph village lane, 40mph through road, possibly Llantrisant (Usk to Wentwood) 50mph; 20mph Gilwern and surrounding villages	Mark Hand	3-Oct-22
Council	20-Apr-23	Motion for the Rivers and Oceans update		Deferred - new date to be advised	Hazel Clatworthy	10-Jan-23
Council	20-Apr-23	Community and Corporate Plan		To seek approval of a new Community and Corporate Plan that sets the direction for the council and county of Monmouthshire, articulating the authority's purpose and priorities alongside the steps we will take to deliver these, the	Matt Gatehouse	6-Feb-23
ICMD	12-Apr-23	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 4 held on 9th March 2023	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Dave Jarrett	
Cabinet	05-Apr-23	Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan	Sara Burch - Inclusive and Active Communities	To agree a plan to transition the delivery of homelessness that minimises the use of and the time homeless applicants spend in temporary accommodation	Rebecca Cresswell / Ian Bakewell	24-Jan-23
ICMD	22-Mar-23	Non Domestic Rates application for Hardship Relief - RESTRICTED	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Ruth Donovan	
ICMD	22-Mar-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 8	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - including Monmouth Road, Raglan no right turn onto A40; resi permit parking at Exmouth Place, Chepstow and Ross Road, Abergavenny; 3T weight restriction on Old Wye Bridge Chepstow; waiting	Mark Hand	
Council	09-Mar-23	Pay Policy		To approve the publication of Monmouthshire County Council's Pay Policy, in compliance with the Localism Act."	Sally Thomas	1-Feb-23
Council	09-Mar-23	Council Tax Premiums			Peter Davies	18-Jan-23

Council	09-Mar-23	Capital Strategy & Treasury Strategy			Jon Davies	17-May-22
Council	09-Mar-23	Youth Council			Jade Atkins	7-Dec-22
ICMD	08-Mar-23	Proposed amendment to primary school catchment area – Llandenny Village	Martyn Groucutt - Education		Debbie Graves	10-Jan-23
ICMD	08-Mar-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 8 DEFERRED TO 22 MARCH	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - including Monmouth Road, Raglan no right turn onto A40; resi permit parking at Exmouth Place, Chepstow and Ross Road, Abergavenny; 3T weight restriction on Old Wye Bridge Chepstow; waiting	Mark Hand	
Council	02-Mar-23	Final Budget Sign Off including Council Tax Resolution			Jon Davies	
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
Cabinet	01-Mar-23	Month 9 budget monitoring report			Jon Davies	6-Feb-23
Cabinet	01-Mar-23	Monmouthshire ECO Flex 'Joint Statement of Intent' and Memorandum of Understanding"			Steve Griffiths	16-Nov-22
Cabinet	01-Feb-23	Tudor Street				9-Jan-23

ICMD	25-Jan-23	Highway Traffic Regulation Amendment Order No 7	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order	Mark Hand	15-Dec-22
ICMD	25-Jan-23	Community Council and Police Precepts - final	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Jon Davies	17-May-22
Council	19-Jan-23	'To determine the name for the new 3-19 School in Abergavenny		'To determine the name for the new 3-19 School in Abergavenny	Cath Saunders	28-Nov-22
Council	19-Jan-23	Council Diary		To confirm the Council Diary 23/24	John Pearson	14-Dec-22
Council	19-Jan-23	Appointments		A report for Council to appoint or ratify a number of appointments to bodies and positions	Matt Phillips	
Council	19-Jan-23	Community and Corporate Plan				
Council	19-Jan-23	Tudor Road Call-In			Nicola Perry	3-Jan-23
Council	19-Jan-23	Council Tax Reduction Scheme			Ruth Donovan	31-May-22
Cabinet	18-Jan-23	Garden Waste			Carl Touhig	21-Dec-22
Cabinet	18-Jan-23	Draft Revenue & Capital Proposals			Jon Davies	

Cabinet	18-Jan-23	Council Tax Premiums Consultation - Long Term Empty Properties and Second Homes			Ruth Donovan	
Cabinet	18-Jan-23	Proposal to establish a Welsh Medium Seedling school in Monmouth		To seek cabinet approval to commence statutory consultation processes to establish a Welsh Medium seedling provision in Monmouth.	Debbie Graves	23-Sep-22
ICMD	11-Jan-23	Clydach Ironworks Enhancement	Sara Burch - Inclusive and Active Communities	To seek approval for the transfer of land associated with the Clydach Ironworks Enhancement Scheme	Matthew Lewis	8-Dec-23
ICMD	11-Jan-23	Welsh Church Fund Working Group			Dave Jarrett	17-May-22
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
Cabinet	07-Dec-22	Regional Integration Fund		To consider the financial liabilities and implications of the Regional Integration Fund and its tapered funding model.	Jane Rodgers	21-Nov-22
Cabinet	07-Dec-22	National Adoption Services and Foster Wales Joint Committee			Jane Rodgers	9-Nov-22
Cabinet	07-Dec-22	2022/23 Revenue and Capital Monitoring report - Month 6			Jon Davies	17-May-22
Council	01-Dec-22	Corporate Safeguarding Policy.		For Council to endorse the revised Corporate Safeguarding Policy.	Jane Rodgers	10-Nov-22
Council	01-Dec-22	Governance & Audit Committee Annual Report 2021/22			Andrew Wathan	18-Oct-22
Council	01-Dec-22	RLDP Preferred Strategy	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To seek Council endorsement of the new Preferred Strategy for eight week consultation	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	25-Jul-22
ICMD	30-Nov-22	TUDOR STREET		To seek a decision regarding the Council's forward use of the property located in Tudor Street ahead of the outcomes of the wider review of My Day My Life.	Jane Rodgers	14-Nov-22
ICMD	30-Nov-22	Govilon Section 106 Funding for Recreation & Play	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Mike Moran	8-Nov-22
ICMD	30-Nov-22	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 5	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Mark Hand	3-Oct-22

ICMD	30-Nov-22	Planning Annual Performance Report (APR) Deferred to 30-Nov-22	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Mark Hand Phil Thomas	3-Oct-22
ICMD	30-Nov-22	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 6	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order	Mark Hand	23-Aug-22
Cabinet	09-Nov-22	Implementing Sharepoint online		To secure funding to implement the project	Sian Hayward	13-Oct-22
Cabinet	09-Nov-22	A County of Sanctuary		To set out the reasons why an earlier decision is required due to time restrictions associated with TAN 15	Matt Gatehouse	20-Sep-22
Cabinet	09-Nov-22	SPF Update Report			Hannah Jones	12-Sep-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)		DEFERRED	Matthew Lewis	10-Feb-22
Council	27-Oct-22	RESPONSE TO URGENT NEED FOR HOUSING ACCOMMODATION		To present a proposal to enable Council to respond flexibly and promptly to the urgent need for housing accommodation, to address the	Cath Fallon	10-Oct-22
Council	27-Oct-22	Community and Corporate Plan		To seek endorsement of the new Community and Corporate Plan setting out the purpose, values	Matt Gatehouse / Paul Matthews	3-Oct-22
Council	27-Oct-22	Outside Bodies Appointment			John Pearson	3-Oct-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	Welsh Church Fund Working Group			Dave Jarrett	14/7/22
Cabinet	19-Oct-22	PSOW annual letter		Present the Public Services Ombudsman For Wales' annual report as required by the letter	Matt Phillips	28-Sep-22
Cabinet	19-Oct-22	Regional Partnership Board - Gwent Market Position Statement		To provide a Market Stability Report produced by the Regional Partnership Board setting out a high	Phil Diamond Head of Regional Partnership Team	22-Sep-22
Cabinet	19-Oct-22	Community and Corporate Plan		To seek endorsement of the new Community and Corporate Plan setting out the purpose, values	Gatehouse / Paul Matt	20-Sep-22
Cabinet	19-Oct-22	22/23 Revenue and Capital Monitoring report - Month 4			Jon Davies	17-May-22
Cabinet	19-Oct-22	Land adjacent to Caldicot Comprehensive School - Housing Development Opportunity		To seek approval of the disposal of land at Caldicot Comprehensive School for the	Nick Keyse	
ICMD	12-Oct-22	Local Development Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)		DEFERRED TO 26 OCT	Rachel Lewis/Cllr Paul Griffiths	23/08/22
ICMD	12-Oct-22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group		DEFERRED TO 26 OCT	Dave Jarrett	14/07/22
ICMD	12-Oct-22	Ending Library Fines		enabling more people to enjoy reading without the worry of incurring a fine if they are unable to return	Cheryl Haskell/Fookes?	20-Sep-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	27-Sep-22				Nick John	24-Aug-22
Council	27-Sep-22	RLDP Options Report			Rachel Lewis	25-Jul-22
Council	27-Sep-22	Rivers and Ocean			Hazel Clatworthy	9-Jun-22
Council	27-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 -			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	MY DAY, MY LIFE SERVICE EVALUTATION			Ceri York	15-Aug-22
ICMD	31-Aug-22	Homesearch Policy & Procedure - Amendments & Welsh Translation Requirement			Ian Bakewell	
ICMD	03-Aug-22	Additional Resources in Educations Strategy		Resources required to develop and maintain schools education systems and the implementatin	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	
Cabinet					

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Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

Meeting of Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee held at Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr USK on Tuesday, 30th January, 2024 at 10.00 am

Councillors Present

County Councillor Alistair Neill, (Chairman)
County Councillor Laura Wright, (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: Jill Bond, Alistair Neill, Paul Pavia, Peter Strong, Meirion Howells, Rachel Buckler, Catherine Fookes, Laura Wright, Mary Ann Brocklesby, Fay Bromfield, Ben Callard, Ian Chandler, Simon Howarth and Sue Riley

Also in attendance County Councillors: Mary Ann Brocklesby, Leader, Fay Bromfield substituting for Ann Webb, Ben Callard, Cabinet Member for Resources, Ian Chandler, Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Accessible Health Services, Simon Howarth and Sue Riley

Officers in Attendance

Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager
Robert McGowan, Policy and Scrutiny Officer
Peter Davies, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer, Resources
Frances O'Brien, Chief Officer, Communities and Place
Will McLean, Chief Officer for Children and Young People
Jane Rodgers, Chief Officer for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health
Matthew Gatehouse, Chief Officer People, Performance and Partnerships.
Jonathan Davies, Head of Finance
Ian Saunders, Chief Officer Customer, Culture and Wellbeing.
Hannah Carter, Performance Analyst
James Williams, Chief Officer Law & Governance
Stacey Jones, Senior Accountant
Tyrone Stokes, Accountant
Nikki Wellington, Finance Manager

APOLOGIES: County Councillors Ann Webb, and Cabinet Member Martyn Groucott.

1. Declarations of Interest

The Chair declared a non-prejudicial interest as chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee for the Education Achievement Service.

2. Public Open Forum

None.

3. Scrutiny of the Budget Proposals

Cabinet Member Ben Callard delivered a presentation, introduced the report and answered the members' questions with Peter Davies, Cabinet Member Ian Chandler, Jane Rodgers, Tyrone Stokes, Frances O'Brien, Will Mclean, Ian Saunders, Jonathan Davies and Matthew Gatehouse.

Key Questions from Members:

- What are the connotations of using £2.8m of capital receipts to cover revenue costs?
- How have the lower than average Welsh Government settlement and the uncertain nature of grants been factored into the proposals?
- Business rate relief reduction is very important for town centres: will we have less footfall and reduced income if there are fewer businesses? How is that addressed in the budget?
- Does £2.8m of capital receipts being used mean there will be a shortfall in the capital budget, and we have less expenditure for which that capital would otherwise be used or will it increase our borrowing?
- Regarding the shortfall from the Welsh average settlement, a difference of 0.8% equates to around £600k?
- For clarity, anything coming out of an award to England would flow naturally into a split across all authorities, and wouldn't require lobbying?
- Is the plan to reduce borrowing costs by £1.8m compatible with taking out capital receipts?
- Savings being asked of the Social Care Directorate are a concern – how they are expected to do more with less?
- Will there be costs associated with making transitional changes?
- There are concerns about the assumption that the cap on non-residential care in the community will be lifted. What is the potential impact if the £570k savings are not realised?
- What will be the impact of the social services workforce grant and realignment of vacancies on the frontline workforce?
- Social Care: how does our meeting statutory requirements marry with there being 853 hours of unmet need? What effect will these savings have on those hours of unmet need?
- For complete clarity, there is no assessed need not met for any individual, it's sometimes delayed 853 hours, and therefore we're meeting our statutory obligations?
- What reassurance can be given about savings when the most recent indication showed an increase in the forecast overspend from the previous month?
- Under 5.8, waste collections remain the same but given that there are fortnightly black bag collections, have we examined the case for fortnightly collections for the other bags?
- Slide 3 of the presentation, is the difference between the figures for the cost pressures a rounding error?
- Regarding the reduction in Gwent Music funding, have the implications been considered given the strong correlation between learning music and learning in other subjects?
- Could Gwent music be helped in other ways, such as a reduction in hiring rooms in schools?
- Museums and Tintern Station one-day closure – will that lead to confusion to visitors? Will it be monitored in some way?
- Opening on bank holidays – what about school holidays e.g. the Easter and summer holiday?
- Do reduced hours at Tintern and leisure centres take us to a position that will reduce footfall following the confusion, then next year we will see reduced revenue leading to reducing the hours further? Where do we go looking out further than one year?
- Regarding Gwent Music, do we have information from other councils about the impact on the take-up of music? How much will lesson costs go up?
- How many pupils do we estimate will be able to benefit from the hardship fund, and how will they apply?

- Are there any figures on how many users access leisure centres in the last hour/half hour?
- What is being done to closely track the cost of consultants and professional fees? How closely monitored are they? Is there potential for savings?
- Is there a possibility of using alternative approaches e.g. Monlife is using internal resource to project manage some of their schemes, saving money and developing people?
- Are we fully considering the resource that we have left? There are concerns about the stress and pressure on those remaining staff taking on more responsibility and wider roles.
- Cutting the budget in real terms last year, this year and next year – where does that take us after three years? Is a more substantial rethink needed of how we deliver our services in the future? Does it not require a Transformation Plan for the next three years?
- It would be good to see when and how we will learn about the effects of these cuts e.g. what will the reduced social care support mean for families who have someone who needs social care? What will be the impact beyond just the numbers?
- Last year, £3.5m was taken from reserves, with a further £2.6m this year and now there's no further scope to take from reserves. If that money is used up what fund will be drawn on to make the significant changes that are needed? Would a Change Programme Board be needed to drive all of this?

Chair's Summary:

We all understand that this is a very difficult period and that a lot of work is going into this. The committee thanks everyone, not just here but behind the scenes, for doing their best in this situation. The questions we've asked are to try to see if there is a better or different way of doing things and to understand what the consequences are.

The recommendations were approved and the report moved.

4. Community & Corporate Plan Q2 Update

Leader Mary Ann Brocklesby introduced the report and answered the members' questions with Will Mclean and Matthew Gatehouse.

Key Questions from Members:

- Are more pupils from deprived families being encouraged to take up universal free school meals? Is the council subsidising families with better incomes?
- How do we prioritise the needs of those children not in school? What support is being provided to children who have dropped out of formal education due to anxiety and mental ill health? Do we have a comprehensive suite of datasets for those pupils before dropping out of formal education setting?
- For clarity, the report identifies the latest position of secondary schools is 1 in 10 pupils not attending? For FSM pupils it's 1 in 5?
- The committee would like to remind pupils, parents and guardians that the best place for children is at school.
- Other than food schemes and community fridges what else is being done to tackle inequalities in our communities? Are you expecting the budget proposals to exacerbate inequalities?
- Are we signposting residents to services or resources to help them back into work?
- What is being done to help homeless people to live independently e.g. return to education or employment?

- Is it correct that children from age 5-11 are being given the same sized portions at lunch, are not allowed seconds if they are still hungry, but at the end of lunch leftovers are thrown away?
- There are concerns about the impact of placemaking plans on small businesses in Monmouth, particularly in relation to active travel routes, parking costs, and lower footfall. How does the council plan to address these issues? – **ACTION (written response about plans to address concerns in Monmouth)**
- Isolation in rural areas, and the stress and poverty faced by rural dwellers, particularly in relation to increased costs and poor incomes, is a big concern. Can we see something in the Community & Corporate Plan to help to reach these people?
- How does MCC compare to other authorities across Wales in terms of reporting outcomes and budget impacts?
- Some pupils are not choosing to have school meals – does that mean they aren't having anything? Do we know what they're having, and should we enlist supervisors?
- When will the completed VAWDASV strategy be shared with members, and how?
- With reference to active travel funds for quick and effective changes, how easy is it to get small projects done such as pavement repairs and dropped curbs?
- How far are we able to influence Aneurin Bevan Health Board on partnership issues?
- Is any work being done with schools to make them more sustainable, e.g. installing solar panels, future-proofing them on their energy costs?
- Regarding the Benthgy cafes, is there a risk of volunteer burnout? Will recruitment of secondary economy project officers come through the shared prosperity fund, how is that progressing, and how long will they be in post for?
- On page 20, why is there no target for 23/24 for the number of affordable homes granted planning permission in year? – **ACTION (provide written response with details)**
- Given that the proposed council tax increases are 3 times the forecast inflation rate for 24/25, can we afford this plan?
- Do you think residents, service users and businesses would agree with us scoring our assessments? Could we not hand over scoring to them?

Chair's Summary:

Thank you to the Leader and officers for this report. A lot of work goes into the daily activities of the Council and the committee celebrates improvements where they have been made, and congratulates the employees who have achieved them. The report was moved.

5. Performance and Overview Scrutiny Forward Work Programme and Action List

Councillor Strong requested that a date be sought for scrutinising the recruitment and retention of Social Care workers – **ACTION**

Members will be emailed with proposed changes to meeting dates in March and June.

6. Cabinet and Council Work Planner

7. To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on:

- 22nd November 2023
- 15th January 2024 (Special)

The minutes were confirmed, proposed by Councillor Strong and seconded by Councillor Howells.

8. Next Meeting: 20th February 2024

The meeting ended at **12.53 pm**

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