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County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Wednesday, 6 March 2024

Notice of meeting :

Place Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 14th March, 2024 at 10.00 am,
Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr USK and Remote Attendance

AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
3.	Public Open Forum	
	Scrutiny Committee Public Open Forum ~ Guidance	
	<p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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)</p> <p>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.</p>	

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.	Local Toilet Strategy	1 - 48
	To scrutinise the strategy's progress	
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7.	Minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2024	75 - 80
8.	Next Meeting: 10th April 2024	

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Louise Brown	Shirenewton;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Emma Bryn	Wyesham;	Independent Group
County Councillor Tomos Dafydd Davies	Llanfoist & Govilon;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Lisa Dymock	Portskewett;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Jane Lucas	Osbaston;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Maria Stevens	Severn;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jackie Strong	Caldicot Cross;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Laura Wright	Grofield;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Tudor Thomas	Park;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru

Public Information

Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

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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.

Monmouthshire Scrutiny Question Guide

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

	<p>objectives, as defined in our corporate plan? Does it adhere to our Welsh Language Standards?</p> <p>8. Have all relevant sustainable development, equalities and safeguarding implications</p> <p>9. been taken into consideration? For example, what are the procedures that need to be in place to protect children?</p> <p>10.</p> <p>11. How much will this cost to implement and what funding source has been identified?</p> <p>12.</p> <p>13. How will performance of the policy be measured and the impact evaluated</p>
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General Questions:

<p><u>Empowering Communities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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? <p><u>Service Demands</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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? <p><u>Financial Planning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:	MONMOUTHSHIRE LOCAL TOILETS STRATEGY – review of current strategy and progress report
MEETING:	Place Scrutiny Committee
DATE:	14th March 2024
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To scrutinise progress on implementing the actions identified in Monmouthshire County Council's Local Toilets Strategy, prior to updating the Cabinet Member and Welsh Government.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To comment on progress against actions identified in this Authority's Local Toilets Strategy provided in **Appendix Two**, (amendments to the last version presented to this Committee in January 2023 are provided in red text).
- 2.2 Any Member comments or amendments are incorporated into the updated strategy prior to submission for Individual Cabinet Member Decision. After receipt of Cabinet Member approval, the report author to advise Welsh Government of amendments to the original strategy and publishes the updated Local Toilet Strategy 2024.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Part 8 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 'Provision of Toilets' came into force on 31st May 2018. It placed a duty on each local authority in Wales to prepare and publish a local toilet strategy for its area by 31st May 2019. Welsh Government (WG) also require a 'progress update' report to be submitted to them to ensure actions are progressed. Progress has been reported to scrutiny committees since April 2021 and now a formal review needs to be submitted to WG. This Authority needs to advise WG of actions taken, any outstanding matters and report any future planning on local toilet provision.
- 3.2 Local authorities in Wales have the responsibility to –
 - Assess the need for toilet provision for their communities
 - Plan to meet those needs
 - Produce a local toilets strategy, and
 - Review, update and publicise revisions to the strategy.

- 3.3 The duty to prepare a local toilets strategy does not require local authorities to provide and maintain public toilets directly. Indeed, further to the work of the 'Public Convenience Working Group' in 2009, many public toilet blocks were successfully transferred to Town and Community Councils to manage. It is for the County Council to take a strategic view on how publicly accessible toilets can be provided and accessed across the county.
- 3.4 The draft strategy came to the Strong Communities Select Committee on 21st May 2019 for pre-decision scrutiny. The final draft incorporated opinions expressed via (1) a public survey, that ran between 19th December 2018 and 11th January 2019, and (2) a public consultation open from 22nd February to 3rd May 2019. Also referenced were comments from Gwent Police and Abergavenny Town Council's own survey from the summer of 2018.
- 3.5 Monmouthshire's Local Toilet Strategy was approved by Individual Cabinet Member Decision on 12th June 2019, and subsequently published. This has been updated to reflect changes over the last (close to) five years and lists all the current public toilet blocks, (18), half of which are owned by Town and Community Councils, with the other half still owned by this Authority. This provision is supplemented by publicly accessible toilets in other buildings, including leisure centres, libraries and museums.
- 3.6 At the January 2023 Place Scrutiny Committee Members asked for responses on a number of matters. The Head of Public Protection, in consultation with various other MCC Officers, provided responses to each query in a written reply, shared with committee members, on 6th April 2023. This is provided as **Appendix One**. This attachment also provides updates on activity and progress since April 2023, as provided in red text.
- 3.7 Landlord Services, since the last published Toilet Strategy in 2019, have undertaken repair works in 12 toilet blocks, improving those facilities structurally to ensure customer safety and health. This year 2023/24 five blocks were repaired, 2 in Abergavenny, 2 in Chepstow and one in Tintern.
- 3.8 Our cleaning staff should be commended for continuing to provide clean facilities across the publicly available toilet blocks where they provide this service. This assists in maintaining footfall in our towns, open spaces and villages by providing safe, clean and free to use public toilets.
- 3.9 Since the April 2023 update, Members at Full Council in December 2023 wanted to pursue the provision of sanitary bins in male toilets, noting the need for those with incontinence or other health needs to assist in safe and dignified disposal. To this end, (and noting the request covered 'all MCC workplaces' which falls outside of the scope of this public toilet strategy), MCC will need to review existing sanitary bin provision in all toilets – female and disabled provision – and determine what is needed in addition to this to cater for men. All Town and Community Councils with responsibility for public toilets have been contacted to support the 'Boys Need Bins' national campaign.
- 3.10 Wales Seniors Forum (WSF) contacted all Welsh Local Authorities in February 2024 regarding on-going strategy reviews. WSF are of the view that public toilets are essential

for any local authority that would like to be truly age friendly. A reply was provided by the Head of Public Protection advising of the annual scrutiny of the strategy's key actions, and on-going Member engagement. Reference was also made to this Authority's ambition to achieve 'Age Friendly Community' status, (a public consultation is currently in place). One of the criteria for this World Health Organisation's status refers to 'outdoor spaces and buildings meet the needs of older people'. The provision of free, accessible public toilets would contribute to this element. Any feedback regarding public toilet provision can be fed back to inform our Local Toilet Strategy.

4. INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT, (includes equality, future generations, social justice, safeguarding and corporate parenting):

4.1 An updated 'Integrated Impact Assessment' (IIA) form is provided as **Appendix Three**, attached.

4.2 The process of compiling this Authority's Local Toilet Strategy provided an assessment of the current toilet provision and had regard to the input from the public survey, Gwent Police and other partners. Key actions have been undertaken, and the strategy will continue to be monitored and reviewed with partners. Overall, with actions implemented, the strategy will have a very positive impact on our residents and visitors to the county. Public provision has been maintained or improved, access information provided, encouraging people to take exercise and stay more physically active. The IIA was updated further to Member comments in January 2023, for example, to include reference to 'Changing Places' facilities.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL:

5.1 Producing a Local Toilet Strategy is a statutory duty, as required under Part 8 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017. This Authority must advise WG of progress against actions highlighted in its' local toilet strategy and publish any significant changes to the content. After pre-decision comments and approval by the Cabinet Member, the strategy will be refreshed and published as an updated version. This will then be shared on our website bilingually.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA:

6.1 A progress report setting out the steps taken as a consequence of the strategy will be produced annually and will be scrutinised by this Committee. An evaluation of cleanliness, overall provision, mapping of locations, etc. will be regularly carried out with facility providers, including Town and Community Councils.

6.2 The key actions are provided in Section 15 of the strategy and progress will be monitored against the actions specified to ensure the strategy is effective.

7. REASONS:

- 7.1 The preparation and publication of an up-to-date Local Toilet Strategy is a legal requirement, as outlined in Section 3 of the strategy.
- 7.2 It is important to incorporate any further comments by Members prior to approval of the updated 2024 strategy.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 Providing the strategy and reviewing progress has involved significant Officer time. As per 6.1 of the strategy – Appendix Two – Officers from Public Protection, Facilities, Landlord Services, Finance, MonLife, Policy & Development, Communications and Shared Resources Service have all contributed. Landlord Services have an annual repair programme to ensure standards are maintained in the traditional toilet blocks across the county. Environmental Health undertake annual inspections of all the publicly accessible blocks.
- 8.2 The one-off Welsh Government grant of £17,200 was transferred to Landlord Services in 2023/24.

9. CONSULTEES:

Chief Officer – Social Care & Health
Landlord Services
Facilities Supervisor

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Monmouthshire County Council's initial Local Toilet Strategy, June 2019

9. AUTHOR:

David H Jones, Head of Public Protection

10. CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: 01633 644100

E-mail: davidjones3@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix One – Summary of actions taken, further to those identified by Members at last Place Scrutiny in January 2023 & the ten original actions with associated progress.

Appendix Two – Monmouthshire CC's Local Toilets Strategy, (original June 2019), updated March 2024

Appendix Three – Integrated Impact Assessment, March 2024

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Monmouthshire County Council



Local Toilets Strategy

First published June 2019
Latest version March 2024
Page 7

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Public toilets are essential to equitable access to public outdoor spaces. They allow for the space to become a destination for extended periods of socialising, exercise, commuting and accessing community and commercial services.
- 1.2 This Council continues to play a key role in providing safe, accessible and clean public toilets, together with its' Town and Community Council partners that also own and manage public toilet facilities across the county.
- 1.3 A substantial review of public conveniences was undertaken by a working group of the Strong Communities Select committee in 2009. Their findings were reported to Cabinet in July 2010, with recommendations for Town and Community Councils (T & CC's) to take over the management and funding of most of the public toilets at that time. The response from those Councils was generally favourable, with the consequence of sustaining toilets in the county, (that would have otherwise been closed), and reducing the County Council's costs.
- 1.4 The strategy, in draft forms, was discussed and further developed through Strong Communities Select committees in February and May 2019. Noting the previous work, Members wanted assurances that there is a mechanism to ensure recommendations are implemented.
- 1.5 The public survey conducted during December 2018 to January 2019 showed a mixed picture of satisfaction/dissatisfaction with the current publicly available toilet provision. For example, 46% were satisfied with cleanliness, 41% disagreed. Strong messages included people stating there were too few facilities (80%); they wanted more information on location (69%); believed they should be free to use (79%) and they were not comfortable using private toilets where they weren't also a customer (78%).
- 1.6 The strategy also identifies negative aspects of providing public toilets over longer periods, as reported by Gwent Police. Drug taking has increased in recent times, and so closure times need consideration with our Town & Community Council colleagues.
- 1.7 The public reported they would like better information on opening times and locations. This will be assisted by promoting the Wales Public Toilet Map, helping people to find a public toilet where and when they need it. **This will be linked to Monmouthshire CC's website, so anyone can find a public toilet spatially and see times of opening and facilities provided.**
- 1.8 The strategy recognises the contribution of the private sector, and indeed many major retailers recognise their public service role,

including larger supermarkets and public houses. Further encouragement of private providers will be taken forward.

- 1.9 This Authority will continue to provide specialist advice and support to event organisers, to ensure adequate toilet provision at our regular large events, such as the Abergavenny Food Festival, agricultural, music and sporting events.
- 1.10 This Authority welcomes, and was successful in securing, a one off Welsh Government grant of £17,200 'in partial recompense for the additional work required to develop and publish local toilet strategies'. **This grant was transferred to Landlord Services 23/24.**
- 1.11 The strategy was available for public consultation between 22nd February and 3rd May 2019. Some points of accuracy were picked up, eg. opening hours, and recommendations generally supported.
- 1.12 **The strategy has been reviewed annually, with the exception of 2020 due to the pandemic, by Scrutiny Committees. Reviews have assessed progress against the recommendations in the 2019 published strategy.**
- 1.13 **The actions detailed in Section 15 of this strategy were largely implemented and reviewed with progress reported in Section 15. There have since been other identified actions since the original strategy was produced. The main additional actions are as follows -**
- **More emphasis needed on 'Changing Places' provision, for use of more profoundly disabled persons. All four MCC Leisure Centres now have 'Changing Places' status and there are two others in the county – Bridges Centre, Monmouth and Mencap, Chepstow.**
 - **MCC to work towards 'stoma-friendly' status in the public toilets it owns and manages and encourage other providers to do the same.**
 - **This Authority supports the national 'Bins for Boys' campaign and through 2024/25 will review current provision in our public toilets. Other providers, eg. Town & Community Councils, have been contacted to also support this initiative.**
 - **Unisex provision will be considered as and when alterations are made to existing facilities, in full consultation with stakeholders.**
- 1.14 **Annual hygiene inspections are now conducted by MCC Environmental Health with findings fed back to providers – MCC and Town & Community Councils.**

2. Introduction

2.1 The provision of publicly available toilets improves local amenity and supports activity in public open spaces throughout the county. There are 18 dedicated public toilets in Monmouthshire, 9 owned by this Authority and 9 owned by Town and Community Councils. This is supplemented by a number of toilets on Council property, such as Leisure Centres, that the public can access. The public also utilise toilets on private property, for example at supermarkets and public houses. Although most of the public provision is now run by Community and Town Councils, (of the 9 MCC owned, 5 are T&CC managed), it is a duty on Monmouthshire County Council to prepare and publish a local toilet strategy.

2.2 A public toilet can be defined as a toilet that is freely available for the general public to use. They can also be temporary facilities provided for a specific one-off purpose, for example a music festival. Public toilets can be provided on private property as long as they are freely available for general use. The importance of public provision is more important to certain groups in society, including older people, those with disabilities and parents/carers with young children.

2.3 The key outcomes of the strategy are to:-

- Provide direction on the appropriate location of public toilets throughout the county
- Ensure the maintenance and cleaning of public toilets, including those managed by others, occurs to an appropriate standard
- Ensure the community, including visitors, has good information on the public toilet availability and location
- Provide direction on where the Council should focus advocacy and encouragement of other organisations to provide public toilet facilities
- Provide an action plan for the improvement of public toilets throughout the county

3. Need for a strategy for providing toilet facilities

3.1 Part 8 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017, 'Provision of Toilets' came into force on 31st May 2018 and places a duty on each local authority in Wales to prepare and publish a local toilet strategy for its area. Monmouthshire has the responsibility to –

- Assess the need for toilet provision for their communities
- Plan to meet those needs
- Produce a local toilet strategy, and
- Review the strategy, update and publicise revisions

3.2 This Authority, under the Act, must prepare and publish their strategy by 31st May 2019. **Monmouthshire County Council published their first Local Toilet Strategy in June 2019.** It should be noted that the duty to prepare a local toilet strategy does not require local authorities to provide and maintain public toilets directly. The Local Authority must take a strategic view on how facilities can be provided and accessed by their local population. Upon review of the strategy, Monmouthshire CC is required to publish a statement of progress. **It is intended to republish an updated Local Toilet Strategy after latest Member comments in March 2024 are incorporated, prior to approval by the Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement.**

3.3 The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 puts in place a 'sustainable development principle' which advises public bodies how to go about meeting their duty under that Act. The principle is made up of five ways of working that public bodies should follow when carrying out sustainable development. These are:-

- Looking to the long term so we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- Taking an integrated approach
- Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions
- Involving a diversity of the population in the decisions affecting them
- Acting to prevent problems from occurring or getting worse.

These five ways of working were utilised during the preparation, review, consultation and publication of the strategy.

4. Aims of the Strategy

4.1 The overall aim of this strategy is to review the quality and quantity of local toilets throughout the county. The public toilet provision is typically not directly via the Council, but the Authority seeks to ensure the provision of clean, safe, accessible and sustainable toilets. This is important for residents whilst out and about, visitors and businesses who will want attractive local environments in which to successfully operate. To achieve this aim, the Authority has –

- Identified the current level of public toilet provision.
- Analysed the findings of (i) the questionnaire sent to gauge opinion, (ii) the public consultation, (iii) Abergavenny Town Council's own survey.
- Considered the requirements of the general population and particular user groups.
- Surveyed the condition and usage of existing facilities.
- Identified any gaps in current provision.

- Increased awareness of local toilet locations, including use of new technologies and communications
- Advised organisers on the provision of adequate temporary toilets for events in the county.
- Reported progress to a scrutiny committee every year, and included new actions not previously raised.

5. Reviewing the strategy

- 5.1 Monmouthshire CC will prepare a progress report setting out the steps taken as a consequence of this strategy every two years. **This Authority's Place Scrutiny Committee receive a progress report annually. This year (2024) the updated strategy will go for Cabinet Member approval and be shared with Welsh Government.**
- 5.2 The Authority may review its strategy at any time, for example where there is a change in local provision through a partner organisation and will consult and publish any reviews accordingly. **After MCC approval, the revised March 2024 strategy will be published and shared bilingually on our website.**

6. Development of the strategy

- 6.1 Noting the role of Town and Community Councils managing the majority of public toilets in the county, they continue to be engaged for their input into current provision and adequacy. Abergavenny Town Council carried out their own review of provision in their town, and their input is reflected accordingly. From the Council's perspective Facilities Management (Cleansing), Public Protection, Landlord Services and MonLife were engaged, together with colleagues in Policy & Partnerships, Communications and GIS mapping, (Shared Resources Service).
- 6.2 Engagement with national retailers was undertaken once across the Welsh Local Authorities, to avoid them needing to answer similar questions 22 times.
- 6.3 A public consultation was undertaken from 19th December 2018 to 11th January 2019 to assess the needs of residents, visitors and workers within the county. Key engagement mechanisms included:-
- Press release to local papers 19th December, providing information on how to complete the survey.
 - Provided to all Town and Community Councillors, and County Councillors.
 - social media, including Facebook and Twitter.
 - Via our FB and Twitter feeds, 'Access to All' forums notified, together with Monmouthshire Local Service Board Engagement Group, including the voluntary sector, housing associations and Police & Crime Commissioner.

- Paper questionnaires, when requested. So, for example, 40 hard copy versions were provided to the Abergavenny 50+ group.

6.4 Although the response to the survey was quite low, it highlighted certain concerns from those that completed it. These are summarised in Section 14.1.

6.5 This Authority undertook a comprehensive review of public toilet provision in 2009. That previous work is referenced in this 2019 strategy and three Members also revisited all the tradition 'public toilet blocks', both those provided by MCC and Town & Community Councils. This is referenced in Section 14.2.

6.6 A public consultation exercise, seeking views on the draft Local Toilet Strategy, was conducted between 22nd February and 3rd May 2019. Points of accuracy were picked up – since corrected – with overall support for the recommendations. Comments are summarised in Section 14.3.

6.7 Abergavenny Town Council conducted their own survey and reported their findings in September 2018. Their findings are summarised in Section 14.5.

7. Linkage to other priorities – national and local

MCC Community and Corporate Plan 2022/2028

7.1.1 Our overarching strategic plan for MCC refers to supporting well-being, health and dignity for all. The provision of suitable public toilets supports well-being and health by encouraging people to be out and about in our towns and villages. It also provides dignity to older persons as they are never far away from a public facility in our main towns.

7.1.2 Keeping populations healthy, using open spaces, etc. is supported by suitable public toilet provision. The latest plan refers to our objective of providing 'a fair place to live', including 'all residents have access to the services and support they need to live a healthy life'. There is also reference to 'a thriving and ambitious place' and 'connected place'. Suitable public toilet provision contributes to these Council priorities by supporting socialisation and encouraging visitors where there are vibrant town centres.

7.2 **Older People's Commissioner for Wales (OPCW)** - the OPCW has previously reported that Council decisions to close public toilets were 'short sighted'. An OPCW telephone survey was conducted in 2023 of persons aged 60+ and one observation was 'Older people regularly tell me that a lack of public toilets in their area can discourage or even prevent them from getting out and about and doing the things that matter to them, leaving people feeling excluded and 'trapped' in their

homes'. This emphasises the importance of retaining traditional public toilets.

7.3 **Age Friendly Communities (World Health Organisation status)**

7.3.1 This Council has the ambition to achieve 'Age Friendly Communities' status, as defined by the WHO. A consultation is currently taking place to gauge opinions. One of the criteria that must be considered refers to 'outdoor spaces and buildings' and states – Accessible communities enable people to stay connected, participate in social activities and access local services and facilities. Well-maintained and well-lit streets, clear signposting, green spaces and public toilets all support older people to stay active and lead independent lives.

7.4 Council's **Local Development Plan**

7.4.1 There is reference to 'community facilities' in the adopted LDP -

Policy S5 – Community and Recreation Facilities
Development proposals that provide and/or enhance community and recreation facilities will be permitted within or adjoining town and village development boundaries subject to detailed planning considerations. Development proposals that result in the unjustified loss of community and recreation facilities will not be permitted.

7.4.2 A toilet block in Linda Vista Gardens, Abergavenny, was refurbished with S.106 funding. The proprietor of the adjoining café opens and cleans the toilets which are free for public use.

8. **Provision of local public toilets**

8.1. Noting the earlier work of the 'Public Convenience Working Group', including of three County Councillors in 2009, it is useful to reflect on the current provision compared to 15 years ago.

8.2 The total MCC expenditure in 2009/10 was £306,038 compared to £119,258 in 2017/18, a drop of 61%. This does not correlate with a 61% drop in the number of public toilets provided, as majority are now financed and managed by Town & Community Councils. The total MCC expenditure in 2021/22 was £65,803. This was significantly less than a typical year due to (a) business rates not currently being charged, and (b) public toilets were shut for periods during 21/22 due to national Covid restrictions. This resulted in less maintenance costs, electric and water usage. The MCC 23/24 spend on public toilets (cleaning, water, electric, reactive maintenance) was £67,140.

8.3 The 2009 review recommended certain closures. Seven were closed, namely Raglan; Main Road, Tintern; Mathern Road, Bulwark; Healthmatic Unit, Bulwark; Linda Vista, Abergavenny; Llandegfedd reservoir and Llanthony Abbey car park.

8.4 Current provision (2024) is listed at the end of this document –

- MCC owned public toilets – entries 1 to 10, though 1 to 5 are managed and part funded by Abergavenny Town Council. Only 4 public toilet blocks are both owned and managed by MCC outright. **Whitehorse Lane (WHL) has been closed since mid-2020 and would have significant costs to reopen. One block is added, Linda Vista Gardens. So the overall number of blocks in Abergavenny (and the county), assuming WHL continues to be closed or repurposed, remains the same.**
- Town & Community Council public toilets – entries 11 to 20 (nine in total), wholly owned, as a direct consequence of the 2009 review work, and managed by T&CC's.
- Public toilets in other MCC buildings – entries 20 to 35 (16 in total), includes provision in leisure centres, libraries, etc.
- Other publicly accessible toilets – entries 36 to 38 (3 in total). These are provided by others, namely CADW, a chapel group, and a 'Changing Place' in a community centre. **The A40 block, near Mitchel Troy, has been closed by Welsh Government.**
- **Linda Vista Gardens block in Abergavenny has since reopened. Section 106 Planning funding was used to fully refurbish the facility and are now maintained by the nearby tearooms. The block is opened and closed by the proprietors of the café, to coincide with their hours of opening, and are available for anyone to use.**

- 8.5 This Authority considers it hugely positive that the Town and Community Councils have typically taken up responsibility for local public toilet provision in our towns and villages. The harsh reality is, noting financial pressures on the County Council (in 2009 and ever since), that the majority of our public toilets would have been closed had our T&CC's not stepped in and taken responsibility.
- 8.6 An innovative solution was found to retain the public toilets provided at Usk Island, as part of the earlier Working Group review. Responsibility for managing the toilets was incorporated into the MCC contract issued to the hot food outlet at this location. This has proved a successful arrangement and has ensured the public facility remains open. **This arrangement is replicated for the Linda Vista toilet block, (as stated in 8.4).**
- 8.7 Public toilets, by arrangement with event organisers, will often be open for longer periods when required. So, for example, public toilets in Abergavenny will remain open throughout the weekend of the Abergavenny Food Festival. This demonstrates a willingness, by both the Town and County Council, to work with the private sector to make the visitor experience more enjoyable.
- 8.8 **Reviews on social media, etc. can be helpful in identifying good and poorer facilities. MCC can act on any feedback accordingly and/or provide praise when appropriate. One example of positive feedback -**

Abergavenny Bus Station - Dec 22 – “As a disabled person these toilets are a godsend when we are travelling in the area. We sometimes go to the West of England and Abergavenny makes a great resting point for a cup of tea etc. The toilets are clean and tidy and well maintained”.

9. Changing Places

- 9.1 Persons with limited mobility may need specific equipment, eg. a hoist and changing bed and be aided by carers. This Authority recognises the need to cater for those with more profound disabilities and therefore has four ‘Changing Places’ (CP) facilities, one in each of our Leisure Centres, (LC’s). As at March 2024, Monmouth LC is fully CP compliant and will be entered onto the national Changing Places website. When nationally approved, a Press release will announce its’ availability. Chepstow LC has works being undertaken March 2024 to also make it fully CP compliant, (8m2 etc.). Abergavenny and Caldicot LC’s have good CP provision but cannot currently fully comply. They are categorised as ‘Other Facility’ on the CP national website. Pictures and more details are to be provided to update their website in 2024.
- 9.2 There are two other CP facilities in the county, at Bridges Centre in Monmouth and Mencap in Chepstow.

10. Stoma-friendly public toilets

- 10.1 This was raised as an important issue at Place Scrutiny in January 2023. As a consequence Landlord Services in 23/24 have ensured (where previously missing) mirrors, hooks and shelving is provided in 12 disabled toilet blocks in the county. A few have no separate disabled toilets, so these have been put into male and female toilets. To be ‘stoma-friendly’ a toilet needs a mirror, hooks, shelving, disposal bins and signage. Sanitary bin provision is being reviewed in 24/25 to establish where these are needed, and stickers have been obtained from Colostomy UK. Stickers will be put up as and when toilets are deemed stoma-friendly.
- 10.2 Guidance provided here –
www.colostomyuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Stoma-Friendly-Toilets-Guidelines.pdf

11. Sanitary bins for male use

- 11.1 At Full Council in December 2023, a motion was put forward to support the national ‘Boys Need Bins’ campaign. Guidance provided here -
[Working with parliament | Prostate Cancer UK](https://www.prostatecancer.org.uk/working-with-parliament/)
- 11.2 This seeks to provide sanitary bins in male toilets and this Authority will progress this ambition in 24/25, noting initially MCC agrees the principles and then starts the journey of improving facilities for men

with health issues that require such disposal facilities. This will be a new action to be monitored via scrutiny of this updated 2024 strategy.

12. Provision of toilets in private sector

- 12.1 **15** years ago, during the time of the Working Group review, there was Welsh Government funding comprising an annual grant of up to £17,500. Only two premises took up the offer of making their toilets available to the public, ie. people could use without being paying customers, for which they received £500 p.a. However, WG funding was subsequently withdrawn and therefore the grant payment was also withdrawn to the two participating businesses.
- 12.2 Whether there is an appetite to revisit seeking local businesses to open their toilet facilities to public use will depend, in a large part, to whether any funding is re-established. Public Protection staff regularly visit all local public houses, retail providers, restaurants, etc. and would be ideally placed to promote any future scheme.
- 12.3 Large national retailers were contacted once for a response in relation to their premises throughout Wales, to avoid duplication and effort. They recognised that the general public did use their toilet facilities when not necessarily making a purchase. This was accepted, noting many will be regular or future customers to their store or eating/entertainment venue. The retailers contacted did not wish to have the national toilet logo on display at their entrances.
- 12.4 Environmental Health Officers will conduct checks of toilets provided for the public as part of their inspection regime. Members of the public can complain to them, **or via our local Hubs**, should they have any concerns regarding cleaning, facilities and overall hygiene.
- 12.5 Monmouthshire is fortunate to host a number of highly successful events throughout the county, including food and music festivals, sporting events, agricultural shows, etc. Monmouthshire Event Safety Advisory Group (ESAG) provides advice and guidance on toilet provision, including numbers, types of facilities, access and overall suitability.

13. Mapping locations of publicly accessible toilets

- 13.1 One element of the strategy is to accurately map information on location of public toilets, together with facilities available and opening times. Locations will be promoted via a 'mapping app' specifically designed for mobile technology. Participating premises will display a nationally agreed sticker in a prominent place. The design, stipulated by Welsh Government, is as follows –



Toiled Toilet

- 13.2 The Monmouthshire public toilet information has been shared with Welsh Government to enable a national spatial map of public toilets throughout Wales to be created. **The link to the national site is as follows –**

[New map | DataMapWales \(gov.wales\)](#)

- 13.3 The dataset is available in both English and Welsh. The public are able to search the data as it appears on this site, to see the whole of Wales or focus on particular areas. Monmouthshire CC will embed the locally configured map onto its website, and provide a link to the national toilet map, assisting anyone searching data for other areas they might be visiting. The map is also available here –

[Public access to toilets in Monmouthshire - Monmouthshire](#)

- 13.4 **This Authority will soon be able to input and edit data ourselves and, in so doing, be able to keep all information up-to-date, ie. locations, opening hours and facilities provided at each site.**

14. FINDINGS of public survey/other

14.1 MCC survey – 19th December 2018 to 11th January 2019

- 14.1.1. The survey to gauge public opinion ran between 19th December and 11th January 2019. The low response rate, at 132 completed surveys, could be in part due to no announcement of any public toilet closures.

- 14.1.2 The majority of the responses were from people from Abergavenny, at 61% of the total. Responses by area were as follows –

Abergavenny – 61%

Monmouth - 12%

Chepstow - 8%

Caldicot - 5%

Other - 14%

- 14.1.3 People were asked what they thought about the current provision, in the area they most frequent, in terms of adequacy, accessibility, cleanliness, etc. and responses are provided below –

Table One

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
There are too few facilities	39 (32%)	41(34%)	21 (17%)	2 (2%)	19 (15%)
The location of facilities is not convenient	27(21%)	40(31%)	36(28%)	1(1%)	25 (19%)
The location of the facilities does not feel safe	4 (4%)	32 (37%)	45 (47%)	3 (3%)	11 (9%)
There is not enough information on where facilities are located	37 (32%)	43 (37%)	13 (11%)	1 (1%)	22 (19%)
The lack of facilities has stopped me from visiting certain locations	14 (9%)	33 (22%)	38 (26%)	37 (25%)	26 (18%)
Facilities are not open at the times I need them	12 (10%)	32 (27%)	39 (33%)	4 (4%)	31 (26%)
The cleanliness of facilities is generally good	4 (2%)	52 (44%)	31 (26%)	18 (15%)	16 (13%)
Toilets should be free to use	61 (51%)	34 (28%)	8 (7%)	1 (1%)	16 (13%)
I don't like using toilets in shops or restaurants because I feel like I need to buy something	59 (50%)	33 (28%)	11 (8%)	1 (1%)	15 (13%)

14.1.4 In summary, of those responding –

- 80% thought there were too few facilities
- 52% stated locations not convenient
- 41% not feeling safe, (50% safe)
- 69% wanted more information on location
- 31% lack of adequate facilities, (51% satisfied)
- 37% believed not open at times needed, (36% satisfied)
- 46% satisfied with cleanliness, (41% disagreed)
- 79% believed toilets should be free to use, (only 8% disagreed)

- 78% weren't comfortable using private toilets where they weren't a customer

14.1.5 Further pertinent points captured were as follows –

- 55% reporting using Council public toilets, 39% private, 6% those in other MCC property, such as Leisure Centres
- 73% thought provision adequate between 9am and 6pm
- Baby changing facilities, across public and private toilets, inadequate 48%, adequate 42%, with people reporting private provision better (81%) than public (21%)
- 67% considered disabled provision in public and private toilets inadequate
- When asked about good facilities, Brewery Yard, Abergavenny got some praise, and many in private sector, notably major supermarkets
- When asked about poor facilities, Whitehorse Lane, Abergavenny came in for most criticism. **Shut since March 2020 and decision needed (Landlord Services) as to its' future.**
- Some thought there was no toilet in Bailey Park, although there is with limited opening times.
- 64% would like to see a sticker or poster to show where public toilet facilities are available, with 27% saying an App would be helpful.

14.1.6 Most frequent comments referred to –

- Cleanliness
- Lack of information on opening hours
- Ideally there is investment to improve existing public blocks
- Not enough baby changing facilities
- More toilets desirable

14.1.7 When asked for thoughts for the future, 40% suggested private providers should encourage non-customers to use their toilets; 36% suggested closing certain public blocks to utilise funding to better maintain those that continue; and 23% suggested MCC seek further investment to improve existing provision across the county.

14.1.8 The information gathered can be utilised in forthcoming conversations with T&CC's, Gwent Police and others when planning future provision.

14.2 Member comments, February 2019

14.2.1 Three Councillors, together with our Facilities Supervisor, undertook a survey of the public toilet blocks on 7th February 2019. 18 were visited, both those owned by this Authority and those owned and managed by Town & Community Councils. Their overall summation referred to (1) standards of cleaning generally satisfactory when MCC providing the service, (2) condition of fabric requires attention in a number of blocks,

both MCC and T&CC managed, (3) emergency alarms in disabled toilets not working in 17 of the 18 visited, (4) signage often missing or inadequate. Members asked for a full 'condition survey' of all toilet blocks by the Council's Property Services section. This was undertaken in April 2019, see 14.4 below.

14.2.2

The initial draft strategy was presented to a Special Strong Communities Select committee on 13th February 2019. As well as Members confirming the poor condition of some of the blocks, (eg. Caldicot Country Park), other comments were made as follows –

- Both reactive (broken panels, etc.) and proactive spending needed to provide facilities of a suitable and safe standard. Property Services to prioritise maintenance work in MCC toilet blocks
- Like to see the £17,200 one-off WG grant put towards repair costs
- Need to research the effectiveness of 'blue lights' in public toilets, eg. drug users could revert to using mobile phone lighting to locate veins
- Helpful if, on receipt of all the Welsh toilet strategies, Welsh Government gave guidance on recommended numbers relating to average footfall in towns and other areas of public use
- Further to this, could some 'grading system' be introduced to ensure suitable standards are maintained? If nothing nationally, potentially MCC could introduce their own rating system.
- Strategy needs to be brought to attention of other organisations, namely **Bannau Brycheiniog** National Park and Welsh Government, (WG). WG have a vested interest as providers of trunk roads, including the heads of the valleys A465, and their historic environment service, CADW. The Road Haulers Association have raised the difficulty of inadequate toilet provision across the trunk road network, which should be an important issue for WG.
- Noting drug paraphernalia (14.6.3), concerns expressed re MCC cleaning staff exposed to this, plus issue that staff work on their own increasing risk.
- A strategy to 'audit progress' over time helpful, particularly noting Monmouthshire is a major tourist destination.
- Pre-decision scrutiny on 21st May reaffirmed these points. Of particular note was the desire to ensure the recommendations of this strategy are effectively implemented. The Officer/Member group – two Members were nominated by the Strong Communities Select committee – will be charged in overseeing the recommendations. **Noting our new Administration, since May 2022, Members to consider whether they want to form a small Officer/Member working group.**

14.2.3

A Member of the Committee asked 'Access for All', local disability group, for their view on emergency alarms in disabled toilets. This request was made further to deficiencies noted during site visits on 7th February. A representative commented on common faults concerning emergency alarms, (pull cords too high, incorrect location of cords, missing toggles), and installations not checked regularly. Reference

was also made to Approved Document M, Section 5 'Sanitary accommodation in buildings other than dwellings', which providers need to have regard to when providing disabled accessible public toilets.

14.2.4 The Chair of the Committee and Head of Public Protection met with the 'Access For All' representative on 22nd March 2019 to capture their observations. Two visits to public toilets were undertaken to use a proforma used for disabled facilities. This proved very useful and will be taken forward when regular, routine inspections are undertaken by MCC.

14.3 Public consultation comments

14.3.1 Further to the public survey, another opportunity to comment was afforded via public consultation. This ran from 22 February to 3 May 2019. The Cabinet Member for Public Protection was informed of progress of the draft strategy, noting it going to Individual Cabinet Member Decision for approval prior to adoption.

14.3.2 Most comments, from Town and Community Councils, related to points of accuracy, eg. opening times, and a couple being unclear on the £1,200 annual grant from MCC towards running costs. These were referred to **Communities & Place** Finance section. It is assumed most satisfied with the recommendations noting no adverse comments recorded.

14.3.3 Abergavenny Town Council provided the most detailed comments, including –

- MCC will need to determine a mechanism to ensure improvements to those public blocks owned by Town & Community Councils or others
- Further regard is needed towards families and those with more profound disabilities
- Noting problems with anti-social behaviour in Abergavenny, Town Council happy to assist in seeking solutions with partners
- The strategy is light on coping with future demand, noting aging population
- Supports some form of grading system for the county

14.4 MCC Property Services condition survey, April 2019 & subsequent surveys by Environmental Health

14.4.1 At Strong Communities Select Committee on 13th February 2019, Members asked for a condition survey to be undertaken. The Authority's Property Services section was notified accordingly and a survey of 18 public toilet blocks was undertaken in April 2019.

14.4.2 A 77 page report was received on 3rd May 2019, outlining their findings. Going forward, the recommended small Officer/Member working group

can analyse the detail and share specific findings with the owners of these facilities, noting many are owned by Town and Community Councils or other bodies.

- 14.4.3 A summary of the Property Services assessment in 2019 is provided in **Table Two**, column 1. **The financial year when the toilets were refurbished by Property Services is provided in column 2.** **Environmental Health subsequently visited the blocks again in 2020, 2022 and 2023, columns 3, 4 and 5 -**

Table Two

	Apr '19 Property Services	Property Services Refurbishment Year	Feb '20 Environmental Health	Aug '22 Env Health	Sept '23 Env Health
A. MCC owned public toilets					
1. Abergavenny Bus Station	C	20/21	Good	Fair	Good
2. Abergavenny – Castle Street	B	22/23	Good	Good	Excellent
3. Abergavenny – Brewery Yard	A	23/24	Excellent	Good	Excellent
4. Abergavenny – Bailey Park	B	23/24	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
5. Abergavenny- Linda Vista Gardens	/		/	/	Excellent
6. Caldicot – Caldicot Country Park	C	19/20	Excellent	Excellent	Good
7. Monmouth – Cattle Market	B	17/18	Good	Good	Fair
8. Usk – Maryport Street	B	21/22	Good	Good	Excellent
9. Usk – Usk Island	C	22/23	Good	Excellent	Good
B T & CC owned public toilets					
10. Caerwent	C		Excellent	Good	Excellent
11. Caldicot – Jubilee Way	B		Excellent	Good	Fair
12. Chepstow – Welsh Street	B		Excellent	Fair	Good
13. Chepstow – Castle Dell/TIC	B	23/24	Excellent	Excellent	Good

14. Chepstow – Riverside	C	23/24	Good	Fair	CLOSED (refurb)
15. Gilwern	B		Good	Good	Excellent
16. Goytre	B		Good	Good	Good
17. Monmouth – Agincourt Street	C	21/22	Good	Good	Good
18. Tintern	C	23/24	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

14.4.4 Table Two can be summarised –

At the last inspections, MCC facilities were rated as 4 excellent, 3 good and 1 fair. 4 went up, 3 went down.

T&CC facilities were rated as 3 excellent, 4 good and 1 fair. 3 went up, 3 the same, one down.

Of the 16 surveyed September 2023, 14 of the 16 were judged good or excellent, 88% of total. Only 2 were deemed 'fair', so a slight improvement on the previous year, (81% good or excellent).

14.4.5 All T&CC's were notified of the survey results together with requesting their support, as public toilet providers, for the 'Boys Need Bins' campaign.

14.5 Abergavenny Town Council (ATC) survey, 2018

14.5.1 The Projects committee of ATC conducted their own assessment of public toilet provision in Abergavenny, and reported their findings in September 2018. Their public survey generated 355 responses.

14.5.2 The survey identified Brewery Yard as the most frequently used, followed by White Horse Lane, the bus station and Castle Street. Castle Street and the Bus Station facilities were judged the best for cleanliness, White Horse Lane the worst. Overall, over 50% considered the Abergavenny toilets well presented, generally clean although basic.

14.5.3 Regarding potential improvements, 31% thought ATC should increase the precept to fund improvements, 18% selected 'close one of the blocks and invest saved money to improve the remaining', 16% suggested charging.

14.5.4 When asked for further comments, most referred to Abergavenny being a tourist town so should have decent toilets, anti-social behaviour stemming from toilets, a need for upgrading and the importance of adequate provision for those with different medical conditions.

14.5.5 A Town Councillor inspected the four toilet blocks in August 2018 and commented "The cleaners have an unenviable task ... Graffiti and mess has to be removed from surfaces, needles retrieved from the

floor, basins, toilets and bins, and all sorts of strewn around detritus cleared up.”

- 14.5.6 Three recommendations were put to ATC, in readiness for 19/20, being (i) retain the status quo, (ii) close one block (White Horse Lane being preferred), (iii) introduce a small charge for usage, and consider whether toilets remain in MCC ownership or transfer to ATC.
- 14.5.7 Noting MCC retains ownership of the toilet blocks, together with the joint priority of promoting tourism, having thriving town centres, etc. dialogue will continue between ATC and MCC on the best options going forward.

14.6 Gwent Police comments

- 14.6.1 Police colleagues reported anti-social behaviour, notably drug taking, in public toilets in Abergavenny and Monmouth. They have made representation to the Town Councils affected, to request closure of public toilets, including disabled facilities, by early evening (17.00 was suggested) to prevent anyone seeking to sell or take drugs doing so from public conveniences.
- 14.6.2 Specifically drug activity was reported at Whitehorse Lane, Abergavenny, Agincourt Street, Monmouth and Cattle market (Blestium Street), Monmouth. Police have included these sites in their regular PCSO patrols. Two prosecutions were taken before Christmas 2018 for possession of Class A drugs in Abergavenny.
- 14.6.3 Cleaning crews, since December 2018, have started recording the number of syringes and other drug paraphernalia, to establish the extent of the problem. Both Gwent Police and MCC Cleansing report a steady increase in recent years.
- 14.6.4 Solutions will be discussed through ‘Problem Solving Groups’ between MCC Officers, Emergency Services and any others with an interest. Another aid might be to ‘blue light’ public toilets, whereby drug users cannot see veins thereby making conveniences less attractive.
- 14.6.5 There are also health and safety considerations to consider, both for Police and MCC Cleaning personnel, visiting toilets with drug paraphernalia.
- 14.6.6 Gwent Police would wish to be included in any conversations about future provision in our towns, noting their involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour reduction. In the meantime they will continue to seek to arrest for any illegal drug use. They recognise most toilets are now provided by T&CC’s so will continue dialogue with facility providers.

15.

Actions

Monmouthshire CC will –

1. Continue to work closely with Town & Community Councils on options for maintaining and improving public toilet provision in the county. **On-going, regular dialogue with T&C colleagues, eg. suggested improvements and associated costs.**
2. Give particular focus on ensuring public toilets provided for disabled persons are suitable and safe. **Six 'Changing Places' facilities now available across the county. Our 4 Leisure Centres can be listed on the national 'Changing Places' website, to direct more profoundly disabled persons to suitable facilities. Improvements made to disabled toilets 23/24 and working towards 'stoma-friendly' status.**
3. Work with partners on how to best utilise the £17,200 Welsh Government grant. **£17,200 vired to Landlord Services in 2023/24.**
4. Work with the private sector to seek to provide more publicly available toilets where most needed. **On-going, no unmet need currently identified.**
5. Display the national 'toilet/toiled' national logo (see 13.1) in all participating toilet facilities, including Leisure Centres, libraries, etc. **Undertake in 2024/25, though noting limitations on suitable areas to display the logo.**
6. Improve awareness and information available on publicly accessible toilets by updating information on the Monmouthshire CC website and open access data held by Welsh Government, together with App development. **Data Map Wales has provided all public toilet provision across Wales. This provides information on location, opening times and facilities available.**
7. Regularly review cleaning and maintenance standards, together with T&CC's who typically manage the public toilets in our towns and villages. **MCC Landlord Services have an annual repair schedule agreed every March. Cleaning reviewed by MCC Facilities and MCC Environmental Health.**
8. Environmental Health Officers to inspect both public and privately provided toilets as part of their inspection regime. Provide a grading of public toilet blocks to determine progress over time. **Done, Table Two.**
9. Work closely with Gwent Police to find solutions to reduce anti-social behaviour associated with public toilets. **On-going, to revisit noting changes to Gwent Police personnel.**
10. Work with other agencies with an interest in suitable and hygienic provision, including Welsh Government, CADW and **Bannau Brycheiniog** National Park Authority. **On-going.**
11. Provide proactive advice to all event organisers in the county on the suitability of their toilet provision. **On-going. All organised events in county receive information on suitable toilet provision, noting numbers attending, type of clientele, etc.**
12. Respond to any Welsh Government recommendations on public toilet provision and seek out notable practice adopted in other

counties. A 'rating scheme' would be welcomed. Any WG guidance awaited. MCC have introduced their own rating scheme in the interim.

13. Ensure Changing Places facilities in MCC Leisure Centres entered onto the national database, together with photographs and details of provision, (MonLife).
14. Review sanitary bins in all publicly available toilets to ensure adequate provision – for availability to ladies, men and disabled persons – and support the 'Bins for Boys' campaign.
15. Provide stickers to advise of 'stoma-friendly' toilets where standards achieved.
16. Landlord Services to revisit Service Level Agreements with Town & Community Council public toilet providers, to ensure both parties clear on responsibilities.

CURRENT PROVISION of publicly accessible toilets -

Area	Address	Postcode
<u>1. MCC owned public toilets</u>		
1. Abergavenny	Bus station, Swan Meadow, Abergavenny,	NP7 5HL
2. Abergavenny	Castle Street, Abergavenny	NP7 5EE
3. Abergavenny	Whitehorse Lane, Abergavenny* Closed since April 2020	NP7 5AS
4. Abergavenny	Brewery Yard, Abergavenny	NP7 5SD
5. Abergavenny	Bailey Park, Abergavenny Open weekends & summer holidays	NP7 5PW
6. Abergavenny	Linda Vista Gardens	NP7 5DL
7. Caldicot	Caldicot Country Park, Caldicot	NP26 4HU
8. Monmouth	Cattle Market, Monnow Street, Monmouth	NP25 3EG
9. Usk	Maryport, Maryport Street, Usk	NP15 1RW
10. Usk	Usk Island, Pontypool Rd, Usk	NP15 1SY
<u>2. Town & Community Council public toilets</u>		
11. Caerwent	Main Road, Caerwent	NP26 5BA

12. Caldicot	Jubilee Way Car Park, Caldicot	NP26 4BG
13. Chepstow	Welsh Street, Chepstow	NP16 5JA
14. Chepstow	Castle Dell Car Park, (TIC), Chepstow	NP16 5EY
15. Chepstow	Riverside, Upper Church Street	NP16 5HU
16. Gilwern	Crickhowell Road, Gilwern	NP7 0DE
17. Goytre	School Lane, Goytre	NP4 0BL
18. Grosmont	Rear of Town Hall, Grosmont	NP15 2AU
19. Monmouth	Agincourt Street, Monmouth	NP25 3DZ

3. Public Toilets in other MCC buildings

20. Abergavenny	Leisure Centre, Old Hereford Road, Abergavenny	NP7 6EP
21. Abergavenny	Museum, Castle Street, Abergavenny	NP7 5EE
22. Abergavenny	Hub/library, Town Hall, Abergavenny	NP7 5HD
23. Caldicot	Leisure Centre, Green Lane, Caldicot	NP26 4BN
24. Caldicot	Caldicot Castle, (April 1 - Oct 31st only)	NP26 4HU
25. Caldicot	Community Hub, Caldicot	NP26 5DB
26. Chepstow	Leisure Centre, Welsh Street, Chepstow	NP16 5LR
27. Chepstow	Community Hub, Bank Street, Chepstow	NP16 5HZ
28. Chepstow	Museum, Bridge Street, Chepstow	NP16 5EZ
29. Gilwern	Library, Upper Common, Gilwern	NP7 0DS
30. Monmouth	Shire Hall, Agincourt Square, Monmouth	NP25 3DY
31. Monmouth	Leisure Centre, Old Dixton Road, Monmouth	NP25 3DP
32. Monmouth	Museum, Priory Street, Monmouth	NP25 3XA
33. Monmouth	Community Hub, The Rolls Hall, Monmouth	NP25 3BY

34. Tintern	Old Station, Tintern (April 1 - Oct 31st only)	NP16 7NX
35. Usk	Community Hub, 35 Maryport Street, Usk	NP15 1AE

4. Other publicly accessible toilets

36. Tintern	Tintern Abbey, Tintern – CADW owned, (leased to MCC)	NP16 6SE
37. Llanfoist	Friends of Llanfoist Chapel, New Cemetery, Llanfoist Refurbished 22/23	NP7 9LF
38. Monmouth	Bridges Centre, Drybridge Park, Monmouth	NP25 5AS

Note – Unique Property Reference Numbers (UPRN's) submitted to WG 1/2/19, together with Welsh version. Above list detailed with opening hours and facilities available at each facility. Full details on opening hours for each site available here –

[Public access to toilets in Monmouthshire - Monmouthshire](#)

Informing this revised strategy -

Original Local Toilet Strategy published June 2019

Local Toilet Strategy Review January 2023, scrutiny via Place Committee 12.1.23, and earlier scrutiny by the former Strong Communities Committee.

March 2024

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Update on actions

Local Toilet Strategy

Further to (1) Place Scrutiny Committee 12th January 2023 & (2) on-going actions from original strategy

(1) Place Scrutiny Committee Members on 16th January received a summary of the points they wanted further information and actions on. This summary – sent to Committee Members 6th April 2023 – serves to update Members as to actions noted and answers questions raised on 12th January. Any supplementary comment provided in red.

Actions

- The MCC hyperlink to opening times in the report needs to be fixed.

Members also referred to some changes to the public toilets listed in the strategy. Amendments have now been made to the 2019 version, so the spreadsheet of all publicly available toilets in Monmouthshire, showing locations, opening hours and facilities provided at each is now up-to-date.

This spreadsheet will need to be translated into Welsh prior to being placed on MCC's website. It will also go to Welsh Government to be incorporated into Data Map Wales (national toilet map).

Spatial map updated, together with all opening hours and facilities provided –

[New map | DataMapWales \(gov.wales\)](#)

- To contact Welsh Government about the toilets on the A40, as they are a target for vandalism.

Carl Touhig, Communities & Place Directorate, has raised this issue (re the closed toilets owned by WG) with Welsh Government and South Wales Trunk Road Agency (SWTRA). Carl attends regular meetings with WG so will continue to ask what their plans are for this empty building, to prevent further deterioration and vandalism.

- To get clarification from Landlords Services as to why the estimated repair cost for Whitehorse Lane toilets was so high, at £93k.

£93K was the estimated repair cost in 2019. Landlord Services have updated their estimate which is (April '23) now £166K. The figure is indeed very high, but includes (external) renewing roof, doors, all rendering, pathways, pipework, signage, etc.; (internally) renewing floor, doors, all tiling/grouting, 5 x toilets and sinks, handwashing machines; redecoration of all internal and external woodwork, rendering, etc.

Decision needed on future of this facility, in consultation with Town Council, etc. – Landlord Services.

Members raised the following points:

- Toilets need to be Stoma-friendly, with good/better signage.
Although not an officially recognised 'disability' the best option for those with this condition would be to apply for a RADAR key, which allows access to all disabled toilet facilities in the county. Applications would be accepted. Persons with this condition require more space than provided in a 'typical' public toilet, so disabled facilities are the better alternative. The spreadsheet provided outlines where all our disabled facilities are located. In summary 15 of the 20 traditional toilet blocks have disabled facilities (requiring RADAR key access), and there are a further 10 MCC buildings, for example our Leisure Centres and Hubs that provide same without need for a key, (as these are all manned during opening hours). So 25 disabled facilities in total. **Where missing, mirrors, hooks and shelving provided in disabled toilets in 12 of the traditional blocks 23/24. A few blocks don't have a separate disabled toilet, so mirrors, hooks, etc. provided in both male and female facilities. To be fully 'stoma-friendly' need mirror, hooks, shelving, bins and signage. MCC to advise on bin provision; stickers from Colostomy UK have arrived. When criteria met, the nationally recognised 'stoma-friendly' stickers will be displayed.**
- Clarification is needed over baby-changing facilities in both men's and women's toilets. Spreadsheet includes details on where baby changing is available, **and spatial maps provide same.** There are 21 facilities where they are provided. However, currently whether they're in male/female or unisex toilets not always identified. This can be recorded during the next proactive inspections, (MCC used the standard WG spreadsheet where this wasn't originally identified). Environmental Health provide annual checks and assess overall standards.
- The Changing Places wording could be stronger, and clarity was sought as to how the Council is addressing the lack of disability provision across the county.
Wording in the strategy will be amended to emphasise this important aspect. The strategy will need to be translated prior to going to our website and WG. There are 6 Changing Places facilities in Monmouthshire – enhanced changing areas for more profoundly disabled people – 4 in our Leisure Centres, one in Bridges Community Centre, Monmouth and one in Chepstow Mencap. All currently have 'Other Facilities' status with the national 'Changing Places' scheme, and they will be placed on their website when next updated. **Monmouth LC now fully CP compliant, Chepstow LC completing works in March 2024. The other two LC's are not feasible currently, (eg. overall size slightly insufficient) but are of a good standard. The national CP website will include reference to our 2 x fully compliant CP facilities when full approval given. When approved and on national website, MonLife will provide a Press Release.**

Here is the facility in Abergavenny Leisure Centre –

Picture of 'Changing Places' changing room, Abergavenny Leisure Centre



- It would be helpful to know if men or women are completing the User Satisfaction Survey, and their ages. This wasn't captured in the 2019 survey, when the WG guidance at that time was followed, but could be measured when a future satisfaction survey is conducted.
- The idea of gender-neutral toilets should be explored and included in the Impact Assessment. The Integrated Impact Assessment **has been** amended to refer to this aspect. There are a number of unisex toilets available in our county, as per spreadsheet. These are in our MCC buildings such as Leisure Centres and Hubs, 14 in total. Noted MCC would consider unisex provision when any future changes are made to our traditional blocks and encourage other owners, notably our Town & Community Councils, to do the same.
- Areas in which there is a high number of visitors, but no toilets e.g. Skenfrith, need to be explored. The Skenfrith Inn were contacted as to whether they would agree for non-customers to use their facilities when open. Pre-floods in 2019, there was an outside block outside that was regularly used by ramblers, etc. During the refurbishments the toilets were brought inside. The premises don't encourage non-customers to use their toilets, as they're now accessed through their restaurant. They wouldn't decline a request, however, so long as it's a limited number. The Inn also advise there are toilets the public can use at the village hall and shop. MCC would encourage local solutions, such as this example, in our rural locations.

- Could a shared responsibility with Abergavenny Town Council for White Horse Lane toilets be explored, rather than closing them, as there are no other toilets nearby? The Town Council have confirmed they would not wish to take on responsibility for this toilet block. The owners of Cibi Walk, however, have indicated interest in potentially picking up refurbishment and management costs. **Nick Keyse, Landlord Services, has confirmed Cibi Walk do not want to take on responsibility for this block. Landlord Services to consider future status.**
- Members support the toilets at Severn Tunnel Junction and agreed that keeping toilets free of charge is vitally important. (1) Transport for Wales advised accordingly, as owners of site, (2) noted all our publicly available toilets will remain free to use.

Recommended that an update report be submitted to Place Scrutiny in early 2024, one year on from the January 2023 update report. WG will be advised of this update and thanks to Members of the Committee for their active interest.

David Jones
Head of Public Protection

April 2023 & updates March 2024

(2) Original actions & progress

ACTION	PROGRESS
1. Continue to work closely with Town & Community Councils on options for maintaining and improving public toilet provision in the county	A continuing action. Many T&CC's undertook their own improvements in last 4½ years – Environmental Health to revisit and review standards in both MCC and T&CC provided facilities – done in February 2020, August 2022 & September 2023 - see Table Two in strategy.
2. Work with partners on how to best utilise the £17,200 Welsh Government grant.	The one-off grant was vired to Landlord Services for 23/24 to spend on MCC facility improvements, in consultation with MonLife – for example, funding improvements in a Leisure Centre to upgrade to full 'Changing Places' standard.
3. Work with the private sector to seek to provide more publicly available toilets where most needed.	Environmental Health to encourage participation in private sector businesses during their routine inspections.

<p>4. Display the national 'toilet/toiled' national logo (see 10.1 in strategy) in all participating toilet facilities, including Leisure Centres, libraries, etc.</p> <p>5. Improve awareness and information available on publicly accessible toilets by updating information on the Data Cymru website and provide a link to our Monmouthshire CC website.</p> <p>6. Regularly review cleaning and maintenance standards, together with T&CC's who manage many of the public toilets in our towns and villages.</p> <p>7. Environmental Health Officers to inspect privately provided toilets as part of their inspection regime and respond to any complaints.</p> <p>8. Work closely with Gwent Police to find solutions to reduce anti-social behaviour associated with public toilets.</p> <p>9. Provide proactive advice to all event organisers in the county on the suitability of their toilet provision.</p> <p>10. Respond to any Welsh Government recommendations on public toilet provision, and seek out notable practice adopted in other counties.</p>	<p>National logo signs received from WG. Action delayed during pandemic when many of these facilities were closed, eg. leisure centres and libraries. To be distributed together with 'stoma-friendly' signage later in 2024</p> <p>Completed. Data Cymru Wales (toilet map) up-to-date March 2024 & now links to MCC website</p> <p>Agreed to grade each facility to gauge improvements (or otherwise) over time. Environmental Health will inspect MCC and T&CC provided facilities annually - done so far in 2020, 2022 and 2023.</p> <p>Environmental Health Officers will inspect all privately provided toilets, eg. in restaurants, supermarkets and public houses. Conducted as part of their routine hygiene inspections.</p> <p>Whitehorse Lane block in Abergavenny previously recommended for closure, in part due to anti-social behaviour (when facility open) reported by Gwent Police.</p> <p>Completed - actioned by Monmouthshire Event Safety Advisory Group</p> <p>Noted WG will be in receipt of all Welsh LA's Toilet Strategy progress reports. Head of Public Protection to liaise with WG to determine any notable practice and share within MCC if/when received.</p>
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March 2024

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Integrated Impact Assessment document

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

<p>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation David H Jones</p> <p>Phone no: 01633 644100 E-mail: davidjones3@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>To update the Council's Local Toilet Strategy prior to re-publishing and sharing on our website and with Welsh Government, in accordance with statutory requirements.</p>
<p>Name of Service area</p> <p>Public Protection, SC&H Directorate</p>	<p>Date</p> <p>March 2024</p>

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4 Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	The revised strategy, working with provider partners, aims to protect existing public toilet facilities. This assists more elderly residents and visitors in our towns and open spaces.	None	By regularly formally inspecting all toilet facilities, they should be suitable and safe for elderly persons. In addition, ensuring suitable baby changing is available helps parents whilst out and about in the county.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Disability	<p>The aim is to protect existing facilities including disabled toilets. At this time there are 25 publicly available disabled toilets in the county, with others (eg. in supermarkets) provided by the private sector.</p> <p>MCC also provide Changing Places facilities for persons with more profound disabilities in all our (4) Leisure Centres – see 9.1 in the strategy.</p> <p>Although not a recognised ‘disability’, MCC seek to provide a number of ‘stoma-friendly’ public toilets, to aid those using colostomy bags.</p>	None	<p>As above, a regular inspection programme will raise any shortfalls to be actioned by providers.</p> <p>There are now 6 Changing Places in the county. The national Changing Places website will list each and advise on facilities available and opening times.</p> <p>When compliant, stoma-friendly toilets will be provided with appropriate signage.</p>
Gender reassignment	<p>Providing gender neutral public toilets will be explored as and when any changes are made to current provision. MCC will encourage other providers to do the same. At this time there are 14 unisex toilets currently, eg. in our Leisure Centres and Hubs.</p>	None	<p>There are a number of singular public toilets in the county which are therefore gender-neutral. Knowing where these unisex toilets are located is now provided via the spatial map available both nationally (Data Map Wales) and locally (MCC website)</p>

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Marriage or civil partnership	None	None	N/A
Pregnancy or maternity	Providers are encouraged to provide adequate baby changing facilities, both in public and private toilets. In public facilities there are currently 21 that provide baby changing.	None	Data Map Wales (with a MCC website link) has a toilet map facility. Where baby changing is available is provided on the national map.
Race	None	None	N/A
Religion or Belief	None	None	N/A
Sex	<p>MCC and the other public toilet providers have one of the following options –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A singular toilet, (which is therefore unisex) 2. Male and female toilets, eg. in traditional public toilet blocks 3. (2) plus a separate disabled toilet <p>(2) is preferred by most, in high street settings, noting this is likely to be the safer option.</p>	None	Persons can check what facilities are available by town or village prior to visiting, via the spatial map with details of each facility.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Sexual Orientation	All public toilets are spatially mapped with details of what is available at each, allowing choice of facility to visit.	None	N/A

2. The Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice

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

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice	<p>The strategy refers to keeping all publicly accessible toilets free to use, making it fair for all.</p> <p>Public toilets are essential to equitable access to public outdoor spaces.</p>	None	N/A

3. Policy making and the Welsh language.

How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:	Describe the positive impacts of this proposal	Describe the negative impacts of this proposal	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts.
<p>Policy Making</p> <p>Effects on the use of the Welsh language,</p> <p>Promoting Welsh language</p> <p>Treating the Welsh language no less favourably.</p>	<p>All publicly accessible toilets have been mapped out – locally and nationally via Welsh Government – both in English and Welsh. Currently all information on our toilet provision is available via Data Map Wales and MCC's website.</p> <p>Signage provided states 'toiled' and 'toilet' – to be distributed to toilet providers, Leisure Centres, Town Councils, etc.</p> <p>The latest strategy, when formally agreed, will be published in English and Welsh</p>	None	N/A
<p>Operational</p> <p>Recruitment & Training of workforce</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<p>Service delivery</p> <p>Use of Welsh language in service delivery</p>	Any complaints regarding MCC toilet provision would be channelled via our local Hubs. Here callers are advised	N/A	N/A


Promoting use of the language	they can relay any concerns, or indeed compliments, in Welsh if they so wish.		
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4. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!


Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	Town & Community Councils, as reflected in the strategy, have enabled a sharing of public toilet provision across the county. About half of all public toilet (blocks) are owned and managed by T&CC's. Future transfer of these assets can be further explored as the strategy develops. Private businesses too can contribute to toilet provision in our towns, making good use of limited resources.	N/A
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	As the strategy develops, consideration will be given to electricity and water usage in toilet facilities, with the aim of reducing usage and being more environmentally efficient.	N/A
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	The revised strategy aims to maintain, or improve where possible, the quantity and quality of toilet provision for all. Retaining provision encourages people to take exercise and stay more physically active, by encouraging people to go out more, in our towns, villages and open spaces.	N/A

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	Suitable provision will be more attractive to local residents, businesses and visitors.	N/A
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	N/A	N/A
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation – as above	See 'Healthier Wales' above. Location maps and general information on facilities provided bi-lingually.	N/A
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	The strategy aims to provide adequate facilities where most needed, eg. in town centres.	N/A

5. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p>The strategy provides an assessment of the current publicly available toilets and seeks to work with a range of providers to maintain and improve that provision in the future.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p> <p>Collaboration</p>	<p>The strategy refers to the integral role of our Town & Community Councils, as significant public toilet providers. Gwent Police have also contributed comments to the strategy, noting anti-social behaviour aspects. The delivery of the action plan depends wholly on positive partnership working.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
 <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p> <p>Involvement</p>	<p>Drafting the initial strategy involved a public opinion survey, seeking views from County Councillors, Town & Community Councils, Gwent Police and various MCC departments. All these views have been incorporated into the original and revised strategy.</p> <p>Annually this strategy and associated actions is presented to Place Scrutiny Committee, where feedback and new actions are encouraged.</p>	
 <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p> <p>Prevention</p>	<p>Liaison with partners aims to seek preventative solutions, eg. through discussions and agreeing actions with Gwent Police.</p> <p>Landlord Services have an annual refurbishment schedule, to prevent damage to the fabric of our public toilet stock.</p>	

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>Suitable local public toilet provision is important for the well-being of all groups, for parents with babies to older people who may have medical conditions needing ready access to toilets.</p>	

Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	Providing safe publicly accessible toilets must be done safely, with suitable lighting and regular maintenance. The strategy aims to ensure both service users and providers, eg. cleaning staff, are not exposed to undue risk.		
Corporate Parenting	N/A		

Page 46 **9. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?**

- Public opinion survey January 2019
- Public consultation on draft strategy to May 2019
- Comments from Town & Community Councils, Gwent Police, various MCC departments
- Assessment of current public toilet provision, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2023
- Figures from Well-Being Assessment, PSB, April 2017
- Previous report by 'Public Conveniences Working Group' 2009
- Annual scrutiny by MCC committees since 2021

7. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

The revised Local Toilet Strategy provides an assessment of the current toilet provision and has been informed with input from the public opinion survey, various MCC departments, Town & Community Councils, MCC Scrutiny Committees and Gwent Police.

As detailed in this assessment, the impact on the revised strategy is highly positive. There is a mechanism to measure progress over time, via the annual inspections by Environmental Health, and reviewing progress against the actions identified. Protected characteristic groups are supported, eg by ensuring suitable disabled toilet facilities are provided across the county.

Adequate toilet provision in our towns – provided by MCC or Town Councils – ensures residents can get out and about and enjoy local facilities, our shops, markets, etc. 18 blocks across the county demonstrates this Authority’s commitment to resourcing our own public toilets, and our support to those transferred to Town & Community Councils.

In the future the strategy will be kept under review, with progress reports back to Place Scrutiny Committee on a regular basis. This will also track on-going maintenance from MCC Landlord Services, to keep our stock safe to use.

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8. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible
Further to any further amendments/comments from Members, seek Cabinet Member approval to share with WG and publish on MCC website.	March 2024	David H Jones

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

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1	Strong Communities Select Committee, with Equality & Future Generations Evaluation conducted	May 2019	Property Services condition survey 2019 incorporated. Rating system agreed. Need to review progress emphasised.
2	Place Scrutiny Committee, E&FGE completed	January 2023	Comments from 12th January 2023 incorporated into this version
3	Place Scrutiny Committee	March 2024	Subject to discussion at this committee 14th March 2024

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2023-24

Place Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
14 th March 2024	Local Toilet Strategy	To scrutinise the strategy's progress.	David Jones Cllr Sandles	Policy Development
10 th April 2024	Climate and Nature Emergency Strategy 2024	To scrutinise progress of the strategy prior to Cabinet decision.	Hazel Clatworthy Cllr Maby	Policy Development
	Nature Recovery	To scrutinise progress of the strategy prior to Cabinet decision.	Hazel Clatworthy Cllr Maby	Policy Development
	Food Strategy	To scrutinise progress of the strategy prior to Cabinet decision.	Cath Fallon Marianne Elliott Cllr Maby	Policy Development
23 rd May 2024				
11 th July 2024				
26 th September 2024	Road Safety Strategy	To scrutinise the Road Safety Strategy.	Geraint Lewis Cllr Maby	Pre-decision Scrutiny
PUBLIC SERVICES 14TH OCTOBER	Local Flood Strategy	Pre-decision scrutiny of adoption of the Local Flood Strategy.	Craig O'Connor Cllr Maby	Pre-decision Scrutiny
7 th November 2024				

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2023-24

Place Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
5 th December 2024				
To be confirmed	Replacement Local Development Plan	To scrutinise the RLDP Deposit Plan prior to Council endorsement for public consultation.	Craig O'Connor Cllr Griffiths	Pre-decision Scrutiny
To be confirmed	Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy	To scrutinise progress of the strategy prior to Cabinet decision.	Deb Hill-Howells Ian Hoccom Cllr Maby	Pre-decision Scrutiny
To be confirmed (end 24/early 25)	Abergavenny Placemaking Plan	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny prior to adoption of Plan by Cabinet.	Daniel Fordham Cllr Griffiths	Pre-decision Scrutiny
To be confirmed (end 24/early 25)	Monmouth Placemaking Plan	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny.	Daniel Fordham Cllr Griffiths	Pre-decision Scrutiny
To be confirmed (end 24/early 25)	Magor Placemaking Plan	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny.	Daniel Fordham Cllr Griffiths	Pre-decision Scrutiny
To be confirmed	Pavement Café Policy	To scrutinise the pavement café policy as the basis for making decisions on applications for licences.	Paul Keeble Cllr Griffiths	Policy Development
To be confirmed	Monlife Heritage Strategy		Tracey Thomas	
To be confirmed	Active Travel Plans	Across Highways and MonLife		

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2023-24

Place Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
To be confirmed (2024, no clear date yet)	Destination management Plan	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny.	Matthew Lewis	Pre-decision Scrutiny
To be confirmed (take with DM Plan)	Scrutiny of STEAM	Scrutiny of Monmouthshire STEAM (tourism volume and value) figures.	Nicola Edwards Matthew Lewis Cllr Sandles Cllr Griffiths	Policy Development
Workshop	Economic Development Strategy Update	<i>To consider progress ahead of Cabinet decision.</i>	<i>Craig O'Connor</i>	<i>Scrutiny Workshop</i>
Workshop	Local Transport Plan Update	<i>To consider progress ahead of Cabinet decision.</i>	<i>Craig O'Connor</i>	<i>Scrutiny Workshop</i>
Workshop	Affordable housing		<i>Craig O'Connor</i>	<i>Scrutiny Workshop</i>
Workshop	Climate Change and Net Zero ready homes		<i>Craig O'Connor</i>	<i>Scrutiny Workshop</i>
Workshop	Renewables		<i>Craig O'Connor</i>	<i>Scrutiny Workshop</i>
Workshop	Retail		<i>Craig O'Connor</i>	<i>Scrutiny Workshop</i>
Workshop	Tourism		<i>Craig O'Connor</i>	<i>Scrutiny Workshop</i>
Workshop	Deposit Plan		<i>Craig O'Connor</i>	<i>Scrutiny Workshop</i>

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2023-24

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

- Inclusive Cultural Strategy
- Increase the use of local produce in schools and care homes and new food strategies and policies approved by Cabinet (link to School Meals Procurement and Deforestation?)
- Nature Isn't Neat expansion
- Development of Active Travel routes
- Development of a new station at Magor and improvements at Severn Tunnel Junction to improve access and usage
- Creating plans for a metro that links Monmouthshire to Bristol, Newport and Cardiff
- Develop a county-wide digital solution that matches those who need to travel with those who have car spaces
- RLDP submission for examination
- RLDP for adoption
- Find new ways to progress refurbishment of Caldicot Leisure Centre
- *Deforestation (and school meals procurement? - Food Strategy to P&O?)*

Place Scrutiny Committee

Action List

1st February 2024

Minute Item:	Subject	Officer / Member	Outcome
4	Circulate data requested by Cllr Howarth on external fee income to the committee	Jonathan Davies	

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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
Council	23-Jan-25	Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2025/26	Ben Callard - Resources		Ruth Donovan	29-Jan-24
ICMD	18-Dec-24	Council Tax Base 2025/26	Ben Callard - Resources		Ruth Donovan	29-Jan-24
Cabinet	06-Nov-24	Local Flood Risk Management Strateg			Mark Hand	19-Feb-24
Cabinet	06-Nov-24				Hannah Jones	4-Sep-23
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
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

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	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
Council	18-Apr-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	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	Public Spaces Protection Order Dog Controls	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Huw Owen	19-Feb-24
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	Cconsultation on the relocation of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni		To receive feedback on the statutory consultation concerning the proposed relocation and increase in capacity of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni.	Matthew Jones	26-Feb-24
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
Cabinet	10-Apr-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
ICMD	27-Mar-24	Experimental TRO Prohibition of driving except for access Goldwire Lane Monmouth	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Graham Kinsella	
ICMD	13-Mar-24	Increase in building control charges	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Craig O'Connor	
Cabinet	06-Mar-24	To consider a Business Case for the acquisition of a property for use as a registered children's home	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		jane Rodgers	13-Feb-24

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	
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	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		Mark Hand	18-Sep-23
ICMD	29-Nov-23	A012 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	15-Nov-23	'Planning Annual Performance Report	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	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			Mark Hand	18-Sep-23
Cabinet	15-Nov-23	DEVELOPING THE FUTURE MY DAY MY LIFE BASES	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding	Speed limit changes at Caerwent Brook/Dewstow Road 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 Chippenham	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 Place Scrutiny Committee held at The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA with remote attendance on Thursday, 1st February, 2024 at 10.00 am

Councillors Present

County Councillor Lisa Dymock (Chairman)
County Councillor Jane Lucas, (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: Louise Brown, Emma Bryn, Tomos Davies, Maria Stevens, Jackie Strong, Laura Wright, Tudor Thomas

Also in attendance County Councillors:
Ben Callard, Cabinet Member for Resources
Paul Griffiths, Deputy Leader, and Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development and Simon Howarth

Officers in Attendance

Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager
Robert McGowan, Policy and Scrutiny Officer
Peter Davies, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer, Resources
Will McLean, Chief Officer for Children and Young People
Frances O'Brien, Chief Officer, Communities and Place
Jonathan Davies, Head of Finance
Mark Hand, Head of Place-making, Housing, Highways and Flood
Cath Fallon, Head of Economy and Enterprise
Matthew Gatehouse, Chief Officer People, Performance and Partnerships.
Ian Saunders, Chief Officer Customer, Culture and Wellbeing.
David Jones, Head of Public Protection
Huw Owen, Principal Environment Health Officer (Public Health)
Tyrone Stokes, Accountant
Dave Loder, Finance Manager
Nikki Wellington, Finance Manager
Stacey Jones, Senior Accountant
Carl Touhig, Head of Neighbourhood Services
Craig O'Connor, Head of Planning
Deb Hill-Howells, Head of Decarbonisation, Transport and Support Services

APOLOGIES: County Councillors Martyn Groucutt, Cabinet Member for Education and Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

Note: the following minutes focus on the challenge from members – for the full discussion, the recording of the meeting is at www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZHCX3TvBsA&list=PLlmqn4nAaFJAaDA9m3C2P8ZdJsca-bkSU&index=11

1. Declarations of Interest.

None.

2. Public Open Forum.

None.

3. Scrutiny of the Budget Proposals - Scrutiny of the budget mandates relating to the committee's remit.

Cabinet Member Ben Callard delivered a presentation, introduced the report and answered the members' questions with Mark Hand, Debra Hill-Howells, Paul Griffiths, Jonathan Davies, Carl Touhig, Peter Davies and Cath Fallon.

Key points raised by Members:

1. Is there further information on the residents' meetings that will take place?
2. Is there a shortfall relating to car parks?
3. Can we be informed if the trade waste costs will now break even with the proposed increases and how this affects schools? How many schools currently use outside contractors and how do you think that the planned national changes for workforce recycling in April will affect the services and the income that we receive?
4. Do we need to provide residents with further information on what they can use as alternatives to plastic bags, such as bread bags and plastic food bags? And is it possible to assess the impact of this?
5. Do we receive any cash on saleable waste products as part of the waste incineration process?
6. Can we have more information on the drivers of increased costs of school transport? How are we avoiding these and making it cheaper by bringing it in-house?
7. Are we planning to electrify our bus services? Has money been set aside to invest in reducing the carbon of our home fleet?
8. Are other LAs doing the same with food waste bags?
9. How will ALN pupils be affected by the home-to-school transport proposals?
10. What will be the knock-on effect of increased parking charges to the use of supermarket car parks? When supermarkets were built the idea was that they wouldn't take trade away from towns. Are there any planning issues there?
11. Which council assets are possibly being used for homelessness? Is accommodation available at Severn View Care home?
12. Why have recycling cost pressures increased so much?
13. Why is there a 10% increase regarding garden waste?
14. Can we have more information about the cost pressures related to Council Tax premiums? Why isn't it cost neutral?
15. Have we pushed Welsh Government sufficiently in terms of getting extra funding? What extra consultation have we had to ensure we get the funding level to the Welsh average?
16. Are you looking into any other council properties for homelessness? What about county farms?
17. Can there be a press release or advertising so people will know that bread bags can be used as food waste bags?
18. Why is there no mention or breakdown in the budget of Highways?
19. There have been complaints from residents about the early closure of leisure centres on Sunday afternoons, and there are therefore concerns about the impact on the well-being of residents who participate in activities that will now be curtailed e.g. the badminton club in Monmouth. Surely the graph will look the same next year as usage naturally tails off at the end of the day? Could we not open for longer to get more people in, and increase revenue in the process?
20. Will the proposal to close Tintern Old Station and two museums for one day a week, except for bank holidays, be confusing to tourists?

21. The survival of local shops, particularly in Monmouth, is a great concern. Will car parking charges affect footfall and local businesses? We have received a suggestion from a resident to remove the charges from the main car park in Monmouth to support local shops.
22. What will happen to the electric buses?
23. Can you clarify the number of vehicles to be replaced? Will they be utilised for community transport?
24. If Severn View care facility isn't suitable for older people, with what confidence can we say it is suitable for homeless people?
25. The costs of provision for the building at Crick – was that dependent on selling Severn View for housing?
26. We're going to save £400k for B&Bs and homeless accommodation, but refurbishment of Severn View will be needed. Is it acceptable that all the people that are homeless in Monmouthshire will go to one place?
27. There are concerns about the waste strategy and the risk associated with incorporating trade waste.
28. Does trying to operate as a business make sense as a council? Should the focus not be on delivering public services? – **ACTION: To circulate the data on external fee income requested by Councillor Howarth to the committee**
29. For ALN children, why can we not find specialist transport and have a better price for it?
30. Can we have a further explanation of the budget associated with borrowing money to purchase transport? Is there not massive risk associated with this?
31. Note that if contractors don't put in a tender for a route then parents expect the authority to provide transport for children, and we can't save £22m without some reductions being made.

Chair's Summary:

The committee recognises the budget pressures that the administration is trying to manage and there were a number of questions such as around the trade waste increases and whether we know the impact that this will have on our businesses across Monmouthshire. We wanted some reassurance on the home to school transport proposals and wanting to ensure it doesn't have a detrimental impact on additional learning needs. We needed more understanding with regards to homelessness and the savings that will be made, utilising Severn View care home and whether or not it's a suitable facility. There's concern over the Welsh Government settlement of 2.3% when the average is 3.1%. We hope that the Cabinet Member will continue pushing for extra funding. There were some questions around Second Home Council Tax premiums and concern that there's a lack of information on highways. There are concerns about the early closure of leisure centres on Sundays and the impact on health and well-being, as well as the confusion and impact on tourism caused by the proposed closures. The effect of car parking charges on footfall in towns was also discussed.

4. Public Spaces Protection Order Dog Controls - To scrutinise the latest report.

Cabinet Member Paul Griffiths introduced the report and answered the members' questions with Huw Owen and David Jones.

Key points raised by Members:

1. Why was there a low number of responses from sports clubs?
2. What are the practicalities of enforcement, especially where play areas aren't fenced in?
3. Can we assess the effectiveness in 6/12 months' time and ask for public feedback about how it's going?

4. We have a high bar to reach for raising awareness: some dog owners are very unhappy about not being able to run their dog on the pitch at Bailey Park, for example.
5. Compare with anti-social driving measures, in which a patrol car would visit problem areas – what are the equivalent enforcement options in this case?
6. Could the location of the old swimming pool in Bailey Park be a free running area?
7. Can you the point about exclusions on school land, and certain exceptions?
8. Will the consequence of these measures be an increase in dog fouling on pavements? Will enforcement officers be able to look at that, and is there a fine for that?
9. What methods will be used to inform/educate the public on the PSPO and how it affects green spaces?
10. We previously had the impression that the red card wouldn't be used as there was too much dialogue on it – the boards would be more graphic. Do we have more of an idea on that?
11. Will the order be printed on the signs – that it's 'a designated area etc.?
12. Some authorities have dog bag vending machines, which are very cheap – has anything like this been considered?
13. In terms of intelligence, how/who do members or residents contact?
14. Would town council be able to utilise some of the enforcement officers?
15. Can you clarify the exclusion areas in relation to Caldicot Castle Grounds?
16. In Caldicot, are the exclusion areas not inconsistent with the active travel routes e.g. the route from Deepweir to the village, and back in front of the cricket club?
17. Will this not discourage people from walking with their dogs or children to and from school?
18. If there is a tarmacked pavement, will people not naturally assume that they can walk on it with their dog?
19. Will there be a FAQs section on the website when this is rolled out?
20. We need to be aware of what communities spend e.g. Gilwern spends £14-15k on dog bins, but dog users from other areas come into the community because there hasn't been sufficient enforcement, so work with town and community councils is crucial
21. Can we work with dog owners to find areas for them to use – could they form an organisation or user group to have their own area designated for dog walking and exercising?
22. We need to recognise the importance of the Dangerous Dogs Act, as some of the feelings from communities about dogs coming on to playing fields, for example, is that there have been instances of big dogs frightening children
23. At Chippenham Mead, will marking on signage indicate where dogs can be taken off lead?

Chair's Summary:

This is a controversial paper but welcomed by the committee today. We all want spaces that are safe for both people and dogs, and I think the administration has taken a sensible approach and heard the residents' feedback in the consultation. We asked them to reassure us how they will enforce this PSPO, and the challenges of enforcing it on open play areas. Awareness and education are crucial for the success of this measure, and town and community councils will have an important role, as well as we as county councillors, in managing it going forward. We also need to consider exceptional cases, such as therapy dogs in schools and the effects of the PSPO on the cleanliness and hygiene of pavements, and we need to know how the public can provide information. Thank you to the Cabinet Member and officers for bringing this report. There were many questions and we support this fully. There may be some areas that are difficult, but if we educate the residents and make the zones clear, it will be very beneficial for the county overall.

We note that regarding Recommendation 2.3, the allocation of costs will be considered during the capital pressures review that will go to council on 29th February.

5. Place Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme and Action List.

The RLDP Deposit Plan will move back from the 10th April meeting to 23rd May, ahead of a council date in June.

6. Cabinet and Council Work Planner.

7. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting.

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

8. Next Meeting: Wednesday 6th March 2024 at 10.00am.

The meeting ended at **1.07 pm**

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