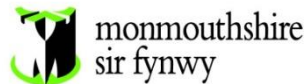


Public Document Pack



County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Friday, 5 December 2025

Notice of meeting

Public Services Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 15th December, 2025 at 10.00 am,
The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr Usk

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

ALL COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE MEETING

AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for Absence.	
2.	Declarations of Interest.	
3.	Public Open Forum. Our Scrutiny Committee meetings are live streamed and a link to the live stream will be available on the meeting page of the Monmouthshire County Council website If you would like to speak under the Public Open Forum at an upcoming meeting you will need to give three working days' notice in advance of the meeting 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. Alternatively, if you would like to submit a written, audio or video representation, please contact the team via the same email address to arrange this. The deadline for submitting representations to the Council is 5pm three clear working days in advance of the meeting. If combined representations received exceed 30 minutes, a selection of these based on theme will be shared at the meeting. All representations received will be made available to councillors prior to the meeting.	

	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.	To discuss drug related deaths and the impact of synthetic drugs with the Heroin & Crack Cocaine Action Area Co-ordinator for Gwent Police. (Report of the Substance Misuse Lead Officer for the Area Planning Board to follow).	1 - 28
5.	To present an update on the M48 Severn Bridge Heavy Goods Vehicle Restrictions (question and answer session).	29 - 50
6.	Minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th October 2025.	51 - 58
7.	Public Services Scrutiny Committee's Forward Work Programme and Action Plan.	59 - 64
8.	Council and Cabinet Work Planner.	65 - 70
9.	Next Meeting: Monday 9th February 2026 at 10.00am.	

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive

**MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY**

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Jill Bond	West End;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Steven Garratt	Overmonnow;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Meirion Howells	Llanbadoc & Usk;	Independent
County Councillor Penny Jones	Raglan;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Tony Kear	Llanbadoc & Usk;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Malcolm Lane	Mardy;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Dale Rooke	Chepstow Castle & Larkfield;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Frances Taylor	Magor West;	Independent Group
County Councillor Armand Watts	Bulwark and Thornwell;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru

Public Information

Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

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

Welsh Language

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

Public Speaking

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](#)

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Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Our purpose

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

Objectives we are working towards

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

Our Values

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

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

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

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

Kindness: We will show kindness to all those we work with putting the importance of relationships and the connections we have with one another at the heart of all interactions.

Role of the Pre-meeting

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

Questions for the Meeting

Scrutinising Performance

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

Scrutinising Policy

1. Who does the policy affect ~ directly and indirectly? Who will benefit most/least?
2. What is the view of service users/stakeholders? What consultation has been undertaken? Did the consultation process comply with the Gunning Principles? Do stakeholders believe it will achieve the desired outcome?
3. What is the view of the community as a whole - the 'taxpayer' perspective?
4. What methods were used to consult with stakeholders? Did the process enable all those with a stake to have their say?
5. What practice and options have been considered in developing/reviewing this policy? What evidence is there to inform what works? Does the policy relate to an area where there is a lack of published research or other evidence?
6. Does the policy relate to an area where there are known inequalities?
7. Does this policy align to our corporate objectives, as defined in our corporate plan? Does it adhere to our Welsh Language Standards?

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

Empowering Communities

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

Service Demands

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

Financial Planning

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

Making savings and generating income

- Do we have the right structures in place to ensure that our efficiency, improvement and transformational approaches are working together to maximise savings?

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

Questions to ask within a year of the decision:

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

Questions for the Committee to conclude...

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

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

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

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SUBJECT: BACKGROUND REPORT ON THE ROLE OF THE AREA PLANNING BOARD (APB) IN TERMS OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE

MEETING: PUBLIC SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 15th DECEMBER 2025

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To provide Members of the Public Services Scrutiny Committee with background context to their scrutiny of Substance Misuse on 15th December 2025.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Public Services Scrutiny Committee notes the background information and utilises it to pursue their lines of inquiry with invited guests from Gwent Police and the Substance Misuse Lead for the Area Planning Board.

3. KEY ISSUES:

3.1 Overview of the Area Planning Board (APB)

- 3.2 The Gwent Substance Misuse Area Planning Board (APB) is a regional partnership comprising five local authorities, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Gwent Police, Gwent Probation, Prisons, Public Health Wales, and representatives for service users and carers. The APB was established to deliver the Welsh Government's Substance Misuse Strategy, "Working Together to Reduce Harm," and subsequent action plans.

3.3 Strategic Purpose and Governance

- 3.4 The APB's purpose is to bring together all parties with a common interest in delivering and improving substance misuse services across the region. It operates under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that sets out collaborative arrangements, roles, responsibilities, decision-making processes, and accountability mechanisms for planning, commissioning, and managing substance misuse services.

- 3.5 The APB itself does not have statutory powers to commission services directly; instead, it makes recommendations to statutory authorities, who retain legal responsibility. The Lead Authority (currently Newport City Council) is authorised to commission services on behalf of the APB.

3.6 Key Functions of the APB

- 3.7 The following are the key functions:

- **Planning and Commissioning:** Develops outcome-based commissioning plans and costed implementation plans for substance misuse services.
- **Performance Management:** Oversees performance management, ensuring services meet national standards and reporting requirements.
- **Resource Allocation:** Manages regional funding (Substance Misuse Action Fund - SMAF) and oversees pooled budgets to ensure value for money.
- **Service Integration:** Ensures all funded services form part of an integrated care pathway, based on national guidance.
- **Regional Collaboration:** Identifies opportunities for regional service delivery to improve cost-effectiveness and engagement.

3.8 **Services Commissioned by the APB**

3.9 The APB commissions and oversees a range of services, including:

- **Assessment and Referral:** Single points of contact for adults and young people, providing assessment and referral to appropriate services.
- **Treatment and Support:** Funding for counselling, group therapy, clinical services, and access to residential rehabilitation.
- **Prevention and Early Intervention:** Supports brief interventions, training, and awareness activities, especially for young people.
- **Family Support:** Services for families affected by substance misuse, such as the Gwent Drug and Alcohol Family Service.

3.10 **Partnership Working and Membership**

3.11 The APB's membership includes representatives from statutory bodies, voluntary and private sector organizations, service users, and advisory members from Welsh Government.

3.12 Member representatives are responsible for implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the commissioning plan, acting as communication links between the APB and their organizations, and promoting equality of opportunity.

3.13 **Accountability and Reporting**

3.14 The APB is accountable to the Responsible Authorities and Public Service Boards (PSBs) for progress and discharge of functions. Regular reporting includes progress against commissioning strategies, local needs assessments, and evaluation of whether regional work meets local needs. The APB also arranges open workshops and submits reports to scrutiny committees, ensuring transparency and stakeholder engagement.

3.15 **Alignment with Wellbeing Objectives**

3.16 The APB's work aligns with local authority wellbeing objectives, particularly in preventative and equitable community and social care. The partnership approach

maximizes contributions to the five ways of working under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act: long-term, prevention, integration, collaboration, and involvement.

3.17 Potential lines of Scrutiny Inquiry

3.18 Members have indicated they have a particular interest in scrutinising drug-related deaths in Monmouthshire and the dangers of synthetic opioids, so the following questions were given to Gwent Police and the Substance Misuse Lead Officer for the APB as a framework for the scrutiny:

- The prevalence of drug-related deaths in the county
- What formal protocols exist for investigating drug-related deaths in Monmouthshire and Gwent and how this shapes practice?
- The substances most commonly involved in recent drug-related deaths and what the primary substance misuse issues are in Monmouthshire
- What socio-economic and health factors contribute to drug-related deaths in the county and whether there is a commonality?
- What services exist to tackle drug use in the county, and how many people are accessing this support, and whether improvements can be made.

3.19 Members may also wish to question the following lines of inquiry as part of their scrutiny:

- The effectiveness of the APB's regional approach compared to previous models
- How services address the needs of diverse groups and incorporate lived experience
- What mechanisms exist for service user feedback and continuous improvement
- Sustainability of services in the context of changing funding streams
- What prevention and early intervention strategies exist, especially for young people

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

4.1 There are no direct considerations from this report.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

5.1 Not applicable.

6. REASONS:

6.1 To provide background information to inform the scrutiny undertaken by the Public Services Scrutiny Committee on 15th December 2025 on Substance Misuse.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

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

8. CONSULTEES:

None required.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

ackground Report of the Substance Misuse Lead Officer for the Area Planning Board
Presentation by the Substance Misuse Lead Officer for the Area Planning Board and
Gwent Police

10. AUTHOR:

Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager

11. CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: 01633 644233

E-mail: hazelilett@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Drug-Related Deaths Report 2025: Findings and Demographics

Page 5

Analyzing trends and populations affected by drug mortality



Welsh DRD Review Panels - Background & Process

► Background:

- Established under Welsh Government guidance since 2014 as part of harm reduction strategy
- Aim: Identify learning opportunities and prevent future deaths

Process Steps:

- Trigger: Unexpected drug-related death
- Data Collection: Multi-agency information sharing
- Review: Panel evaluates circumstances and systemic issues
- Recommendations: Actions for prevention
- Dissemination & Monitoring: Share lessons and track implementation

Introduction and Context

Scope of Drug-Related Deaths

The report covers 28 cases across a wide age range, highlighting a complex public health issue in Gwent region.

Polydrug Use and Risks

Multiple substance use, especially heroin combined with cocaine and benzodiazepines, increases fatality risks significantly.

Social and Mental Health Factors

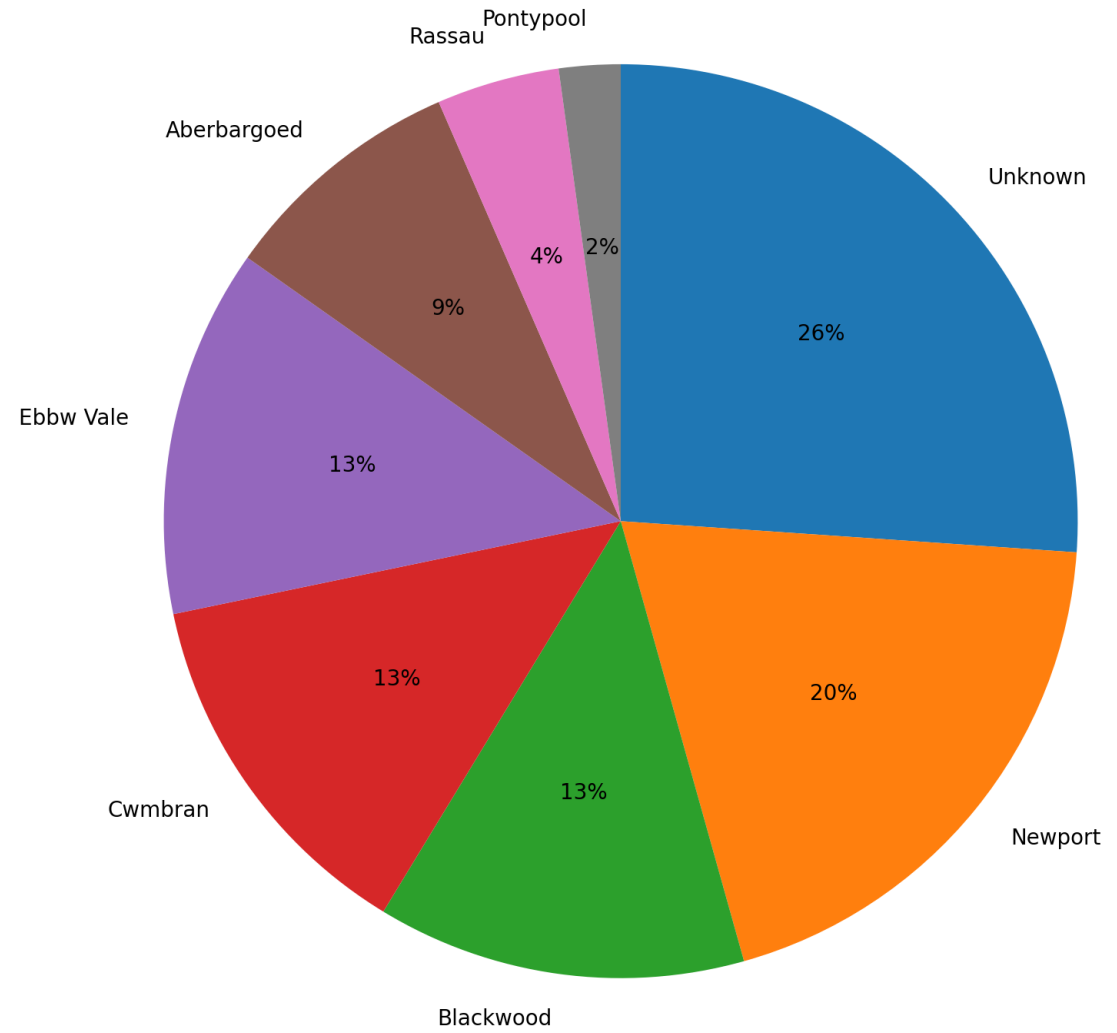
Mental health issues, housing instability, and non-engagement with treatment worsen drug-related death outcomes.



Age, Gender, and Geographic Distribution

Demographic Factor	Details
Age Range	19-67 years
Gender	Predominantly male
Geographic Spread	Newport, Cwmbran, Blackwood, Ebbw Vale, Monmouth
Patterns	Younger cases linked to prescription misuse; older cases linked to chronic heroin use

Where deceased resided – by area (2025 DRDs)



Geographical breakdown

Frequency and Emerging Concerns

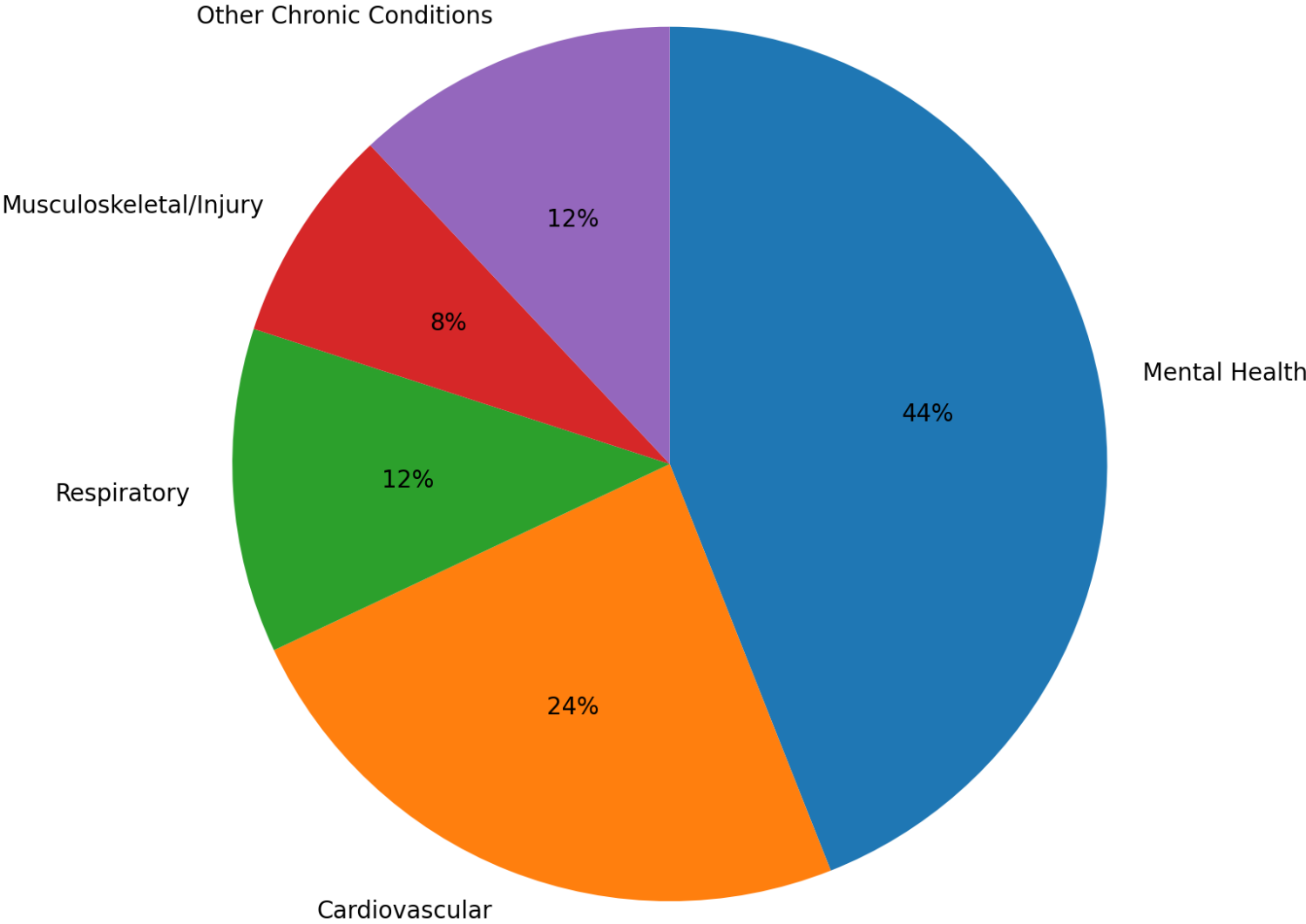
SUBSTANCE	FREQUENCY
Heroin	15 cases
Cocaine	10 cases
Ketamine	8 cases
Pregabalin	6 cases
Tapentadol	4 cases
Diazepam	3 cases
Nitrous Oxide	2 cases

Co morbidity Physical Health Concerns



Page 11

Comorbidity Health Issues among Deceased (2025 DRDs)



Key Trends and Observations



Dominant Substances in Fatalities

Heroin remains the leading substance in over half of fatalities, often combined with cocaine increasing risks.

Polydrug Use and Risks

Multiple substances, including pregabalin and benzodiazepines, amplify sedation and respiratory depression dangers.

Emerging Threats and Patterns

Tapentadol presence signals an emerging risk; ketamine and nitrous oxide show diverse recreational use.

Psychosocial and Social Factors

Mental health challenges, missed treatments, and housing instability increase vulnerability to overdoses.

Emerging Drug Threats

Tapentadol and Ketamine are emerging substances posing new challenges in the illicit drug market and harm reduction efforts.

Poly-Drug Use Risks

Poly-drug use is prevalent and significantly increases overdose risk, complicating treatment and prevention.

Service Engagement Gaps

Many individuals lacked contact with support services before death, highlighting gaps in outreach and prevention strategies.

Key Trends and Observations

Inconsistent Service Engagement

Many individuals show sporadic or no contact with mental health and addiction services before critical incidents.

Barriers to Engagement

Stigma, logistical challenges, and lack of personalized care hinder sustained service engagement among high-risk groups.

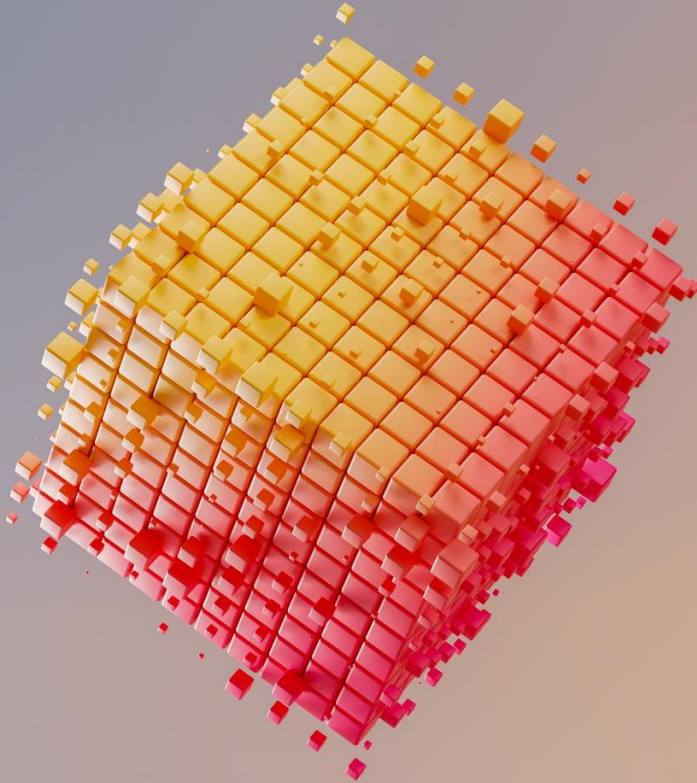
Importance of Outreach

Enhanced outreach and improved accessibility are essential to support continuity of care and reduce mortality from substance misuse.



Heatmap of Correlated Risk Factors

Page 14



Correlated Risk Factors

Key risk factors such as service non-engagement, poly-drug use, and housing instability often overlap and increase vulnerability.

Compounded Vulnerabilities

The combination of these risk factors creates compounded vulnerabilities, increasing the likelihood of fatal outcomes.

Integrated Interventions Needed

Recognizing intersections is crucial for designing integrated interventions targeting multiple risks to prevent overdose and death.

Narrative Insights from Cases

Page 15



Contextual Case Details

Narratives reveal settings like residences and hostels with drug paraphernalia presence informing risk factors.

Emergency Response Variability

Ambulances were often called and CPR sometimes administered, yet outcomes were often fatal due to delayed discovery.

Community Role in Discovery

Friends, family, and staff commonly discovered cases, emphasizing community awareness and timely intervention importance.

Need for Proactive Measures

Overdose response training and improved surveillance in high-risk areas are critical to prevention efforts.

Action Points for Stakeholders

Page 16



Monitoring Tapentadol Trends

Urgent monitoring of Tapentadol is needed due to its rising presence in illicit drug markets.

Monitoring Emerging Substances

Intensify surveillance of new drugs like Nitazine and Ketamine to identify and address risks promptly.

Targeted Poly-Drug Interventions

Develop specialized programs for individuals using multiple substances to enhance treatment effectiveness.

Service Engagement and Outreach

Use outreach and flexible treatment models to improve engagement with at-risk populations in varied settings.

Multi-Agency Collaboration

Collaboration with social services like DWP ensures preventative measures and support for financially vulnerable individuals.

Action Points for Stakeholders

Harm Reduction and Training

Implement overdose response training and expand harm reduction like naloxone distribution and supervised spaces.

Improving Clinical Pathways

Enhancing clinical pathways for ketamine-related complications, especially in urology, addresses emerging health risks.

Empowering Law Enforcement

Law enforcement should administer naloxone during long ambulance delays to ensure timely overdose intervention.

Targeted Poly-Drug Interventions

Develop specialized programs for individuals using multiple substances to enhance treatment effectiveness.

Service Engagement and Outreach

Use outreach and flexible treatment models to improve engagement with at-risk populations in varied settings.



SERVICES

GDAS

- ▶ Consortium of providers:- Kaleidoscope, , Drugaid, G4S
- ▶ Integrated adult service for drugs and alcohol for open access and criminal justice

ABSDAS

▶ Adult Drug and Alcohol Service for complex service users with severe or enduring mental health issues and/or complex physical health issues

- ▶ Drug and alcohol support to young people under the age of 18 years across Gwent (and for 18-21 year olds for transitions support). Integrated support for open access CYP and CAMHS provision for co-occurring complex mental and physical health (pregnancy, access to Tier 4 etc)

Gwent Drug & Alcohol Family Support

- ▶ Provides support to concerned others of any age that are affected by someone else's drug or alcohol use.

Police Investigation:

- ▶ Who am I?
- ▶ What is a Drug Related Death?
- ▶ Definition of a suspected Drug Related Death (DRD):
 - ▶ *A death is defined as ‘drug-related’, where it is probable that as a **direct consequence** of the non-therapeutic taking or administration of any drug or volatile substance (excluding alcohol) to a person, was a **causative or contributory factor** in his or her death.*
 - ▶ *If there is drugs commodity or paraphernalia **on the deceased person or at the scene** of an unexplained death, then it should be treated as suspected drugs death.*

Policing Reponse to DRD's

Page 20

- ▶ Initial attendance by Uniform Officers & a Supervisor (PS)
- ▶ Detective Resources notified to attend - DS & DI (if relevant)
- ▶ Scenes of Crime Officers attend - photograph, evidence recovery
- ▶ Investigative parameters set by DS (in line with forces Sudden Death Policy)
- ▶ (Golden Hour Enquiries, H to H, CCTV, witnesses, seizure of evidential exhibits (drugs, paraphernalia, mobile phones etc)
- ▶ Coroners form completed and submitted with NOK
- ▶ Close liaison with Coroners office through coronial process and Inquest
- ▶ Investigation managed within CID and allocated to Detective to progress
- ▶ Included on the Daily handover Document to ensure tasks are expedited

Op Adder:

- ▶ Op Adder implemented in all DRD's
- ▶ Set up to expedite the examination of drugs and commodity recovered from the scene of DRD's
- ▶ Officers complete application for examination of drugs recovered from the scene
- ▶ This is prioritised by our JSIU (Joint Scientific Investigation Unit) and results are generally provided to OIC (Officer in Case) within 7-10 days.
- ▶ DRD Lead also notified and shares details of the results with partners - Harm Reduction Alerts to service users.
- ▶ Regular Partnership meetings to discuss cases - share information, make improvements and target emerging trends (Tapentadol, Medetomidine, S/O's)
- ▶ Partners are notified of the DRD and information shared about the subject / individual to assist the investigation

Operation Housebuilder:

Page 22

- ▶ Implemented by National Crime Agency 2023 in response to growing number of DRD's involving Synthetic Opioids (Nitazene / Xylazine, Medetomidine etc)
- ▶ All forces in UK involved along with Border Force and Forensic Providers
- ▶ DRD Leads for each force will review all DRD's to ensure that commodity testing is expedited (Op Adder).
- ▶ If results indicate Synthetic Opioids (Nitazene, Xylazine etc). Referral made to Housebuilder National Forum for discussion, identification of themes, assistance, best practice etc.
- ▶ If S/O present - Investigation prioritised - Analytical support implemented to identify upscale supply - potential suspects, stash houses, production sites etc.
- ▶ Targetted response - Sharing of resources, common themes / subjects, crossovers, OCG links etc

Any Questions?

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GWENT AREA PLANNING BOARD

AGENDA ITEM: FATAL AND NON-FATAL POISONINGS REVIEW PANEL ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY 2025 TO DECEMBER 2025

Purpose of report

In line with Welsh Government requirements, the follow annual report outlines key findings from the APB Fatal and Non-Fatal Poisoning review group. It outlines and explores key issues and makes recommendations for improvements.

Executive Summary

This report summarizes 28 drug-related deaths (DRDs) recorded in 2025, anonymizing personal details while highlighting key demographics, substances involved, circumstances of discovery, housing issues, ambulance and CPR involvement, and outcomes. The aim is to identify patterns and inform prevention strategies.

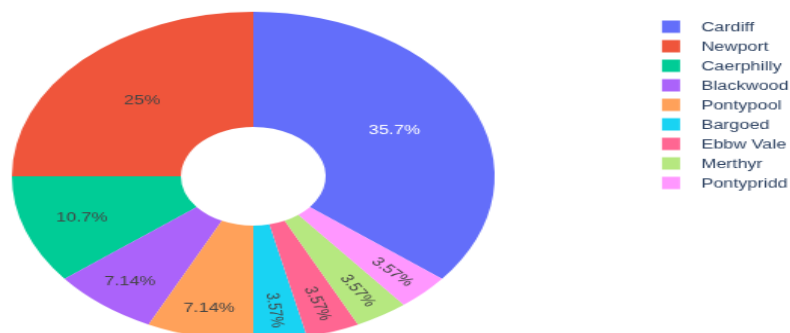
Aggregate Observations

- Age Range: 19–67 years; majority between 30–50 years.
- Gender: Predominantly male.
- Common Substances: Heroin, cocaine, pregabalin, benzodiazepines, nitrous oxide, methamphetamine.
- Housing Issues: Several cases involved homelessness or temporary accommodation.
- Ambulance & CPR: CPR attempted in approximately half of cases; naloxone used in opioid-related deaths.
- Co-morbidities: Cardiovascular disease and mental health issues noted in multiple cases.

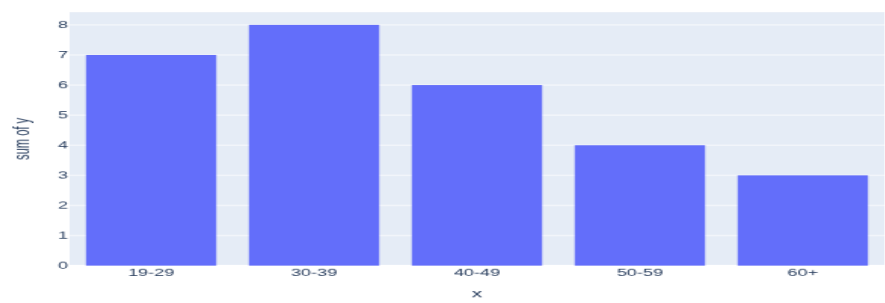
Charts and Visualizations

The following charts illustrate demographic and contextual trends across all cases.

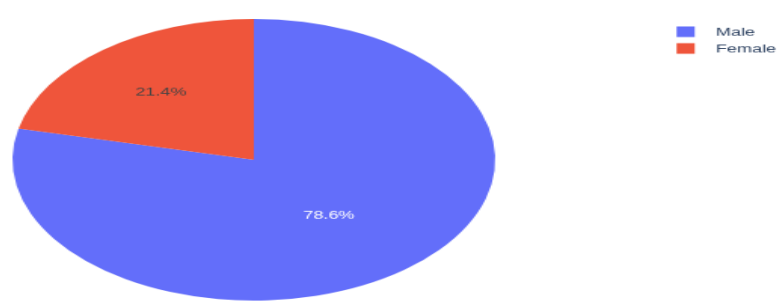
Distribution of Areas of Residence



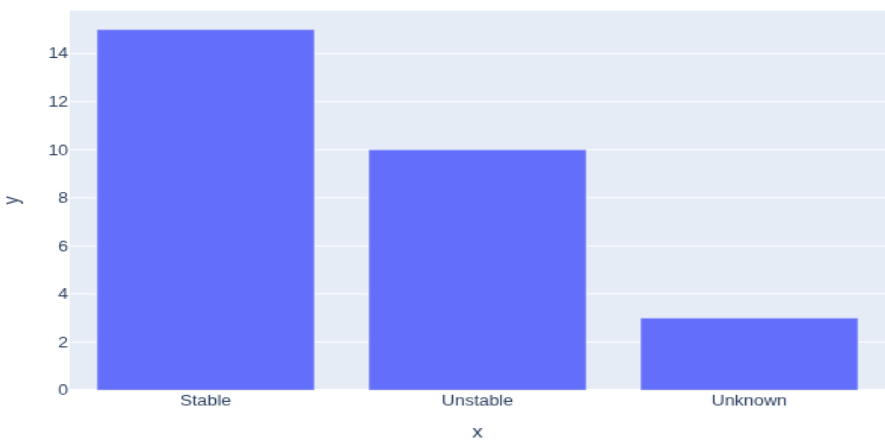
Age Distribution



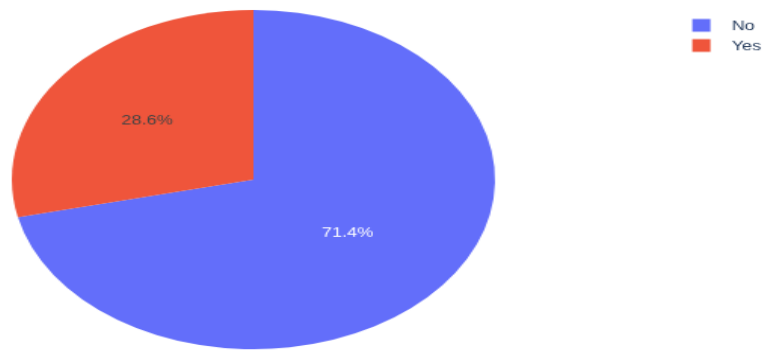
Gender Breakdown



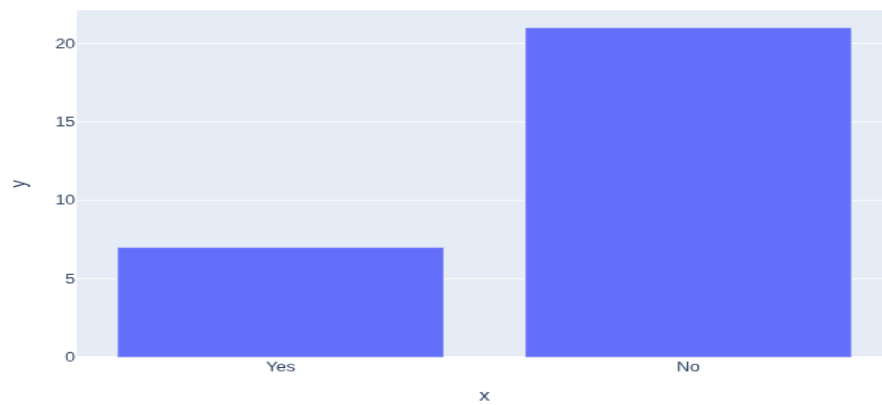
Housing Issues



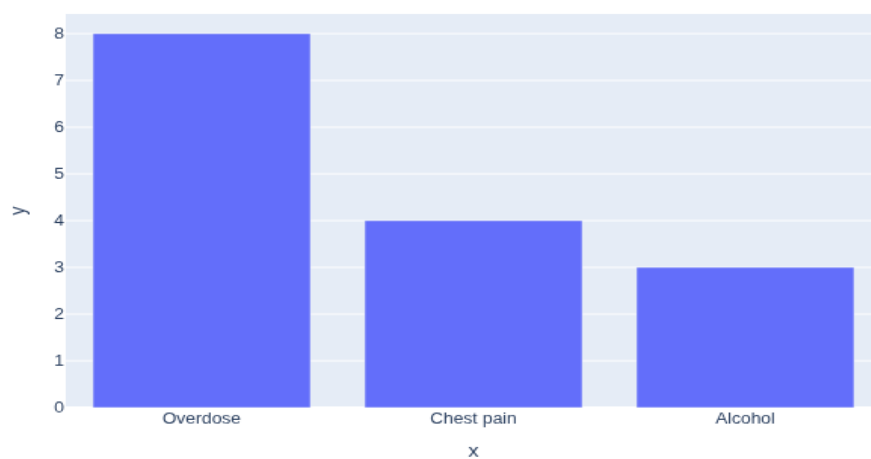
Mental Health



Previous Overdose



A&E Attendance Reasons



Key Trends:

- Age: Majority between 30–49 years; smaller proportions under 30 and over 60.
- Gender: Approximately 80% male.

- Housing: 35% unstable housing or homelessness.
- Mental Health: Present in ~30% of cases, often co-occurring with substance misuse.
- Previous Overdoses: Found in 25% of cases, indicating recurrence risk.
- A&E Attendance: Overdose and chest pain are leading reasons.
- Correlation: Housing instability and mental health strongly linked to repeated overdoses and A&E visits.

Recommendations

- Intensify monitoring of Tapentadol and Ketamine trends.
- Develop targeted interventions for poly-drug users.
- Improve service engagement strategies for high-risk individuals.
- Expand harm reduction services, including naloxone distribution and training.
- Increase housing support for individuals at risk.
- Enhance mental health and substance misuse interventions.
- Improve early warning systems for high-risk substances.
- Enhance overdose response training for staff in hostels and nightclubs.
- Increase harm reduction outreach in supported housing.

Maria Evans

Lead Officer for the Gwent Fatal and Non-fatal Poisonings Review Group

18/11/2025

M48 Severn Bridge

Update

15-12-25

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Agenda Item 5

M48 Severn Bridge

Short-Term Solution

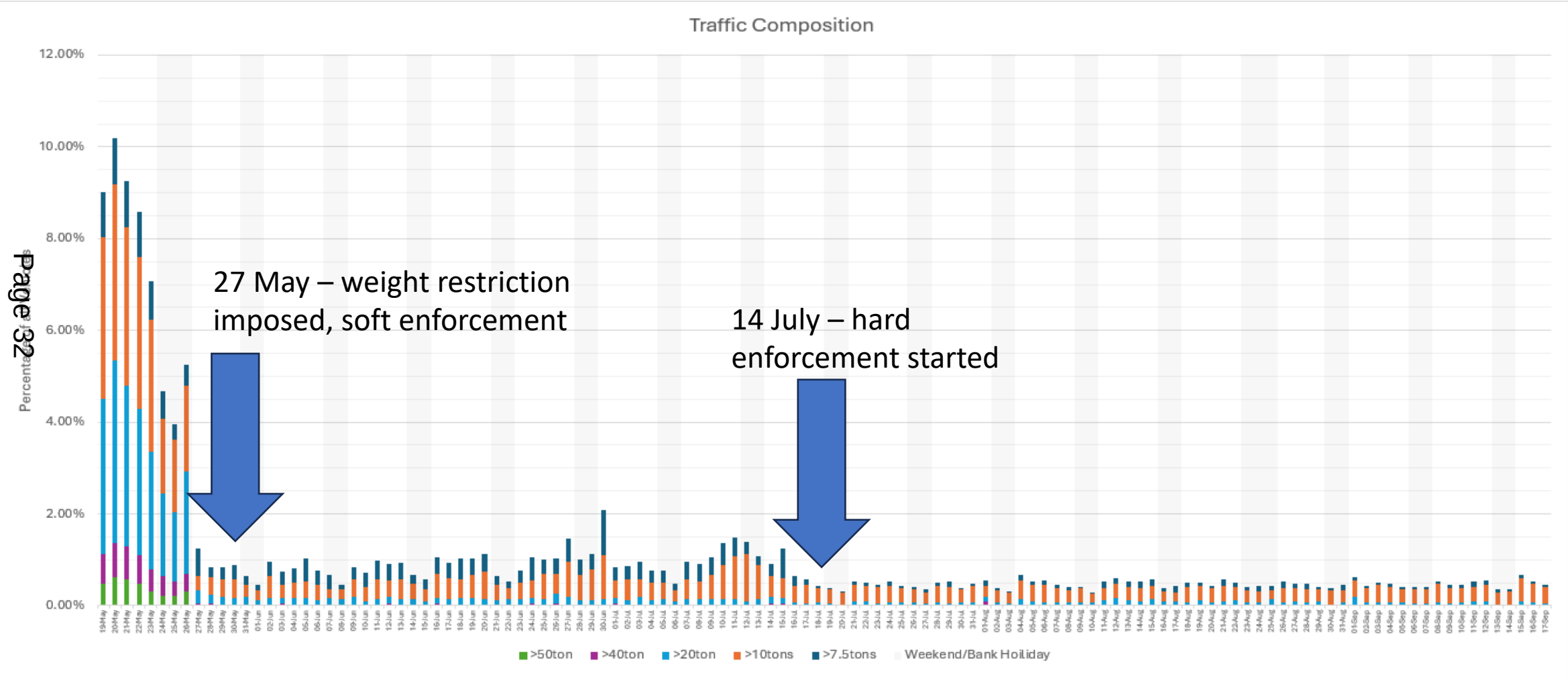
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M48 Weight Limit Implementation

- 7.5t weight limit implemented 27th May 2025
- Compliance was initially poor but improved with messaging and enforcement activity
- Operation 'Wolverine' achieved good compliance and this has been maintained
- Monitoring continues daily with 'weigh in motion' sensors and ANPR technology in place to capture breaches
- Loading remains well within acceptable safety tolerances

7.5t Compliance



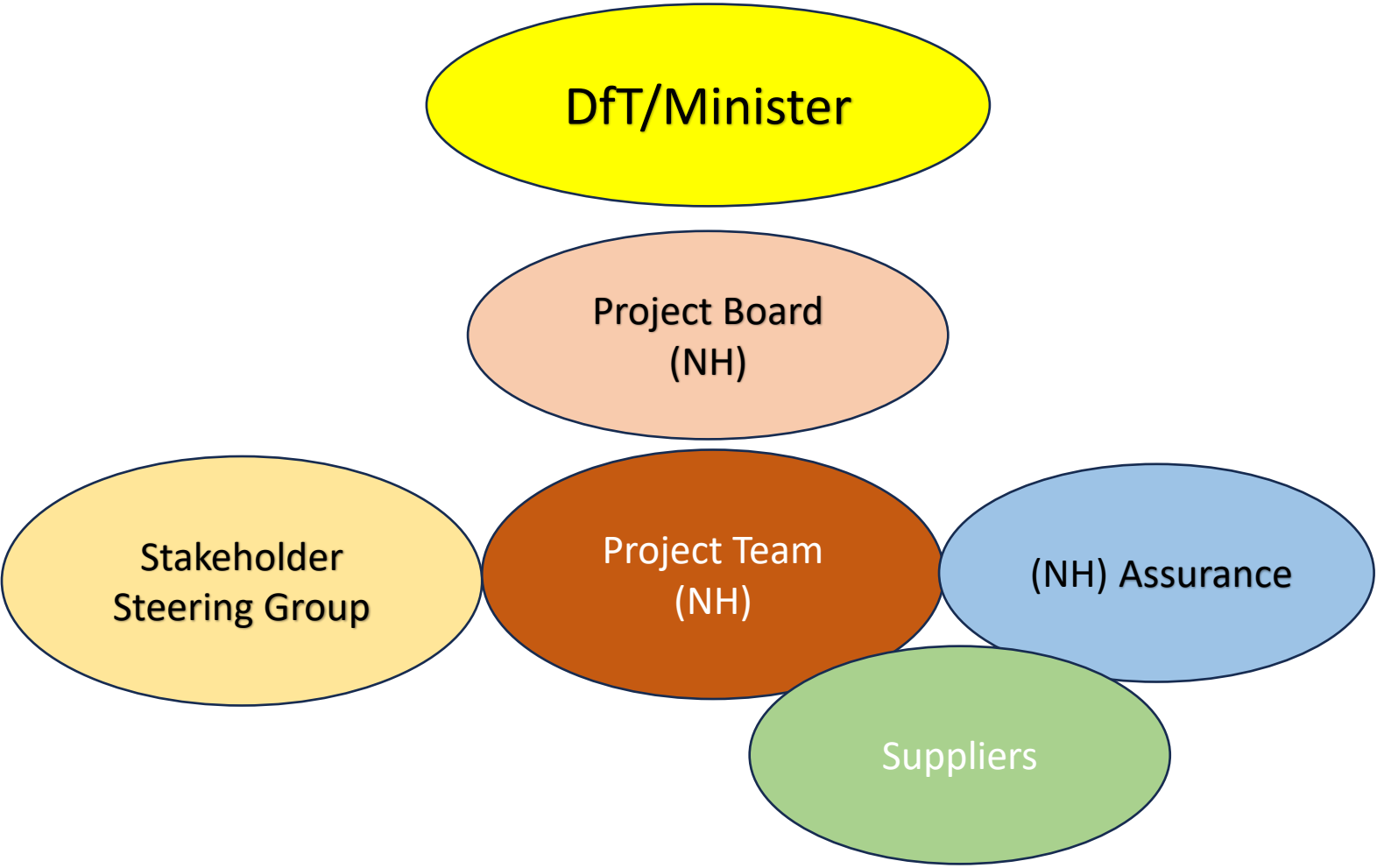
M48 Severn Bridge

Medium-Term Solution

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Governance Overview



Feasibility Stage 1



Feasibility Stage 2



Engagement

- Ideas generation workshop (wide engagement)
- Reach out to wider community (colleagues, consultancies)
- Long List of options
- Development of assessment matrix:
 - Operations & Resilience
 - Construction & Risks
 - Wider Traffic & Env. Impacts
 - Health & Safety
- Long List testing
- Internal stakeholder testing
- Short List produced
- Traffic data, model build/assurance

- Short List technical development
- Technical engagement with Welsh Govt, SWTRA, LAs (esp IT integration)
- Review of IT experience (Brock, Dartford etc)
- Engineering development
- Traffic model tests
- Overview presented to project team

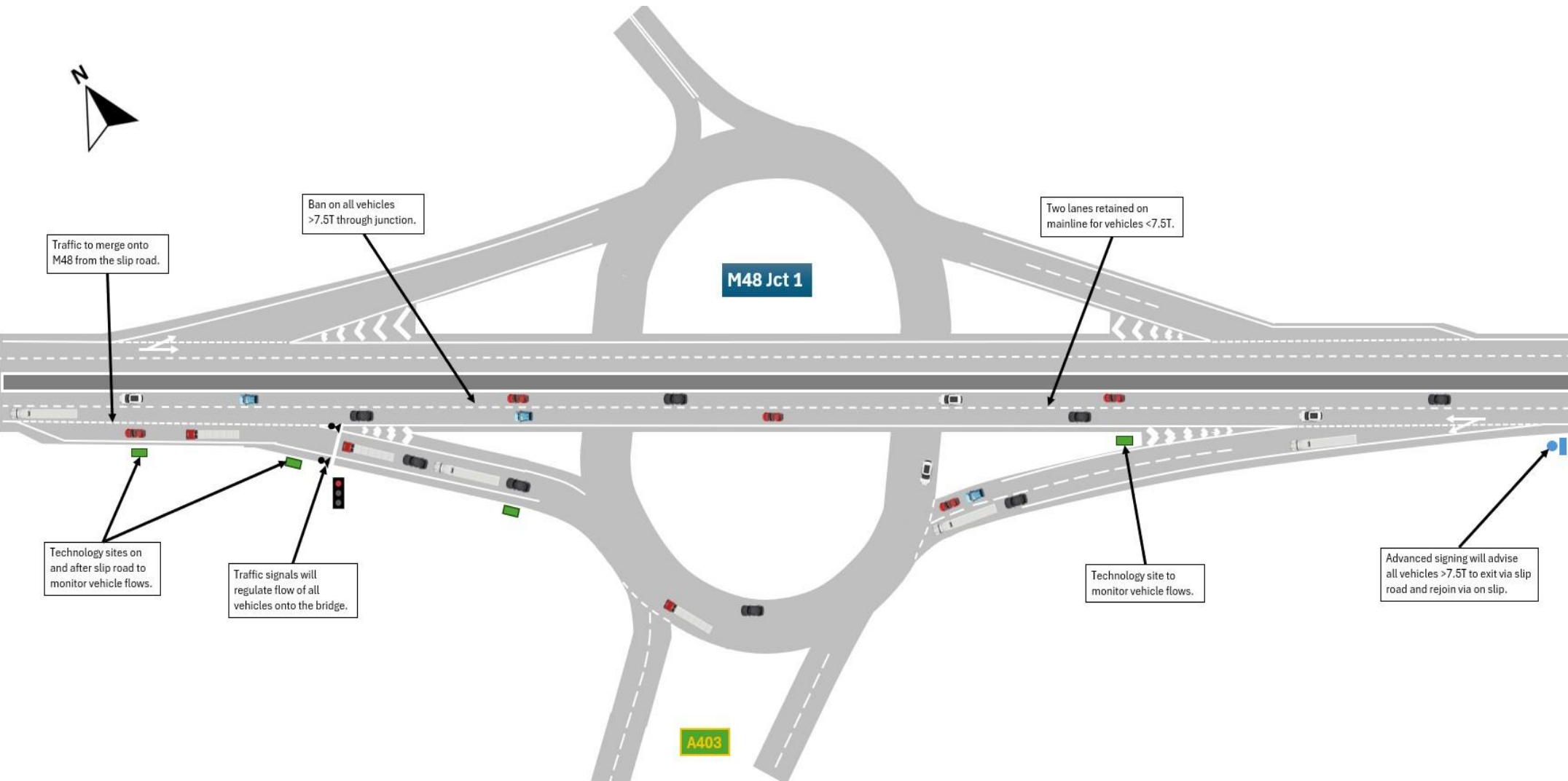
- **Stakeholder Workshop**
 - Public Sector Members of SSSG and their technical leads invited to workshop to review emerging options
- **User Acceptance Testing**
 - Business Reps, Businesses, Hauliers and industry representatives
- **Internal Option Selection Workshop**
 - Project Team
 - Route Sponsor
 - SES
 - Customer Champion

Location

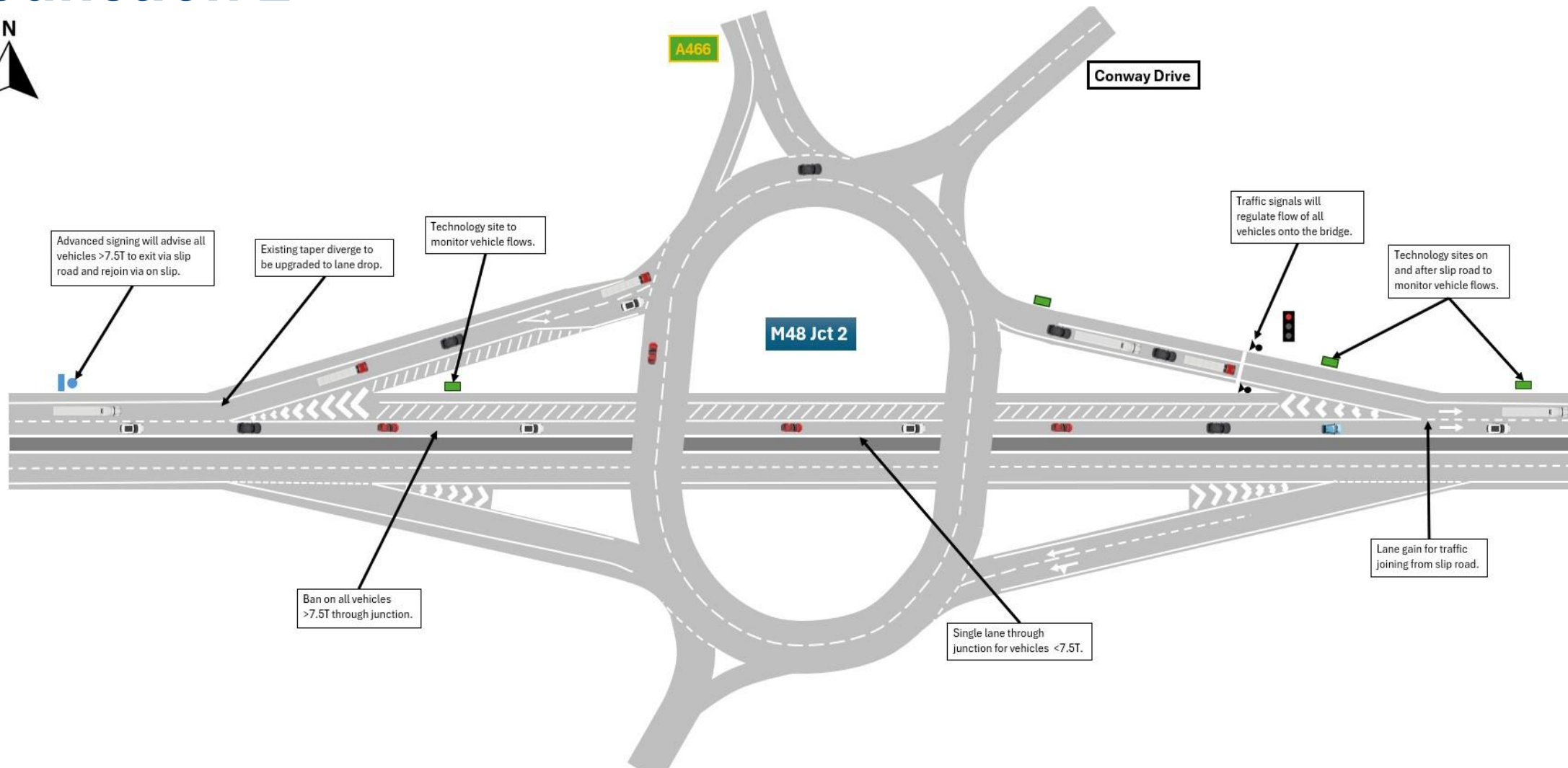


Junction 1

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Junction 2



Current Activity

- Further Traffic Modelling
- Early Engagement with Technology Suppliers
- Determine Signing Strategy
- Power/Communication infrastructure design
- Geotechnical Surveys
- Civils Design Work

Next Steps

- Conclude and present traffic modelling outcomes to define any limitations to system performance
- Undertake resilience assessment and contingency/incident management strategy
- Technology procurement and testing
- Conclude civils/signing design
- Progress Traffic Order requirements

Medium Term - Communications

- Strategic Stakeholder Steering Group Monthly Meeting
- Monthly Stakeholder Newsletter
- Website Updates
- Press Releases
- Customer Workshops
- M48 Severn Bridge e-mail account
- Briefings

Status

- **Time** scheme remains on track for OfT in October 2026. Statutory Instrument process is highest risk to programme
- **Cost** cost estimate is currently in preparation but solution is at the lower end of the anticipated range
- **Quality** proposed solution may require restriction on HGV access (eastbound) in AM peak to avoid significant congestion from A466 > M48 East. This challenge is complex and has direct interface with SI process.

Medium-Term Programme

	2025									2026									
	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT
Project Initiation	✓																		
Team Mobilisation	✓	✓																	
Scoping & Procurement	✓	✓																	
Feasibility 1: Sifting		✓	✓	✓															
Feasibility 2: Development					✓	✓													
Options Selection						✓	✓												
Communications							✓	✓											
Detailed Design							✓	✓											
Procure & Mobilise																			
Physical Works																			
Testing & Enforcement																			
Bridge Re-Opens to HGVs																			
KEY																			
✓	Completed																		
	Underway / On-Track																		
	Not Started Yet																		

M48 Severn Bridge

Long-Term Solution

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Current Activity

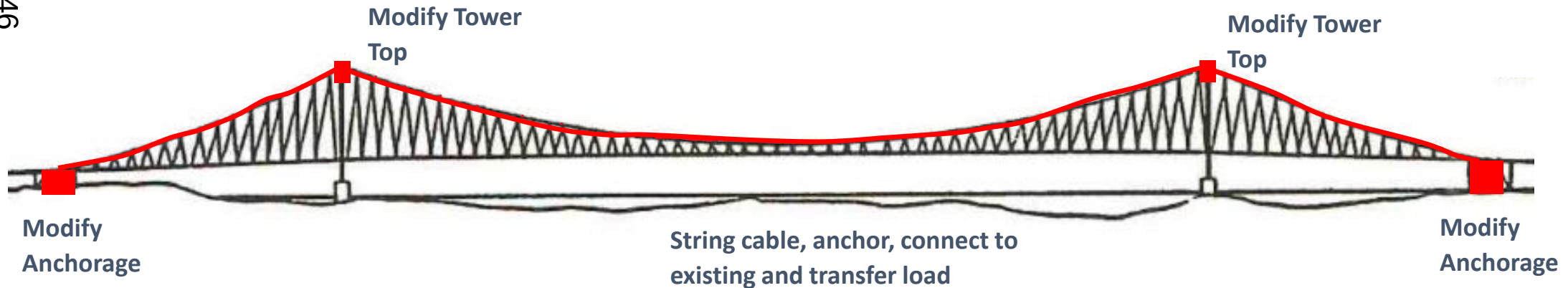
- Previous assessment and optioneering studies reviewed
- Workshops held to scope feasibility requirements
- Supplier commissioned to undertake feasibility study
 - All options will be reviewed to inform OBC
- *Initial* sieving suggests focus will likely be on ‘cable augmentation’

Main Cable Augmentation – Scale and Extent

➤ Need to add about 25% capacity to the bridge: likely to be by main **cable augmentation**

- 80% of load in existing cable is weight of bridge
- Load to go into both old and new cables
- Works by transferring load from old cable into new by ‘jacking’ cables toward each other

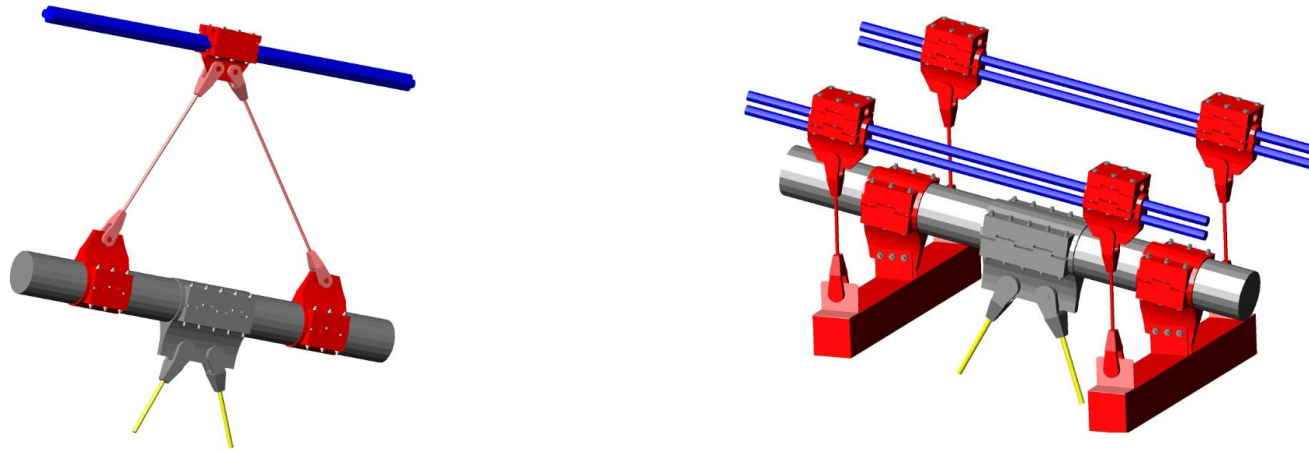
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Key Aspects of Cable Augmentation

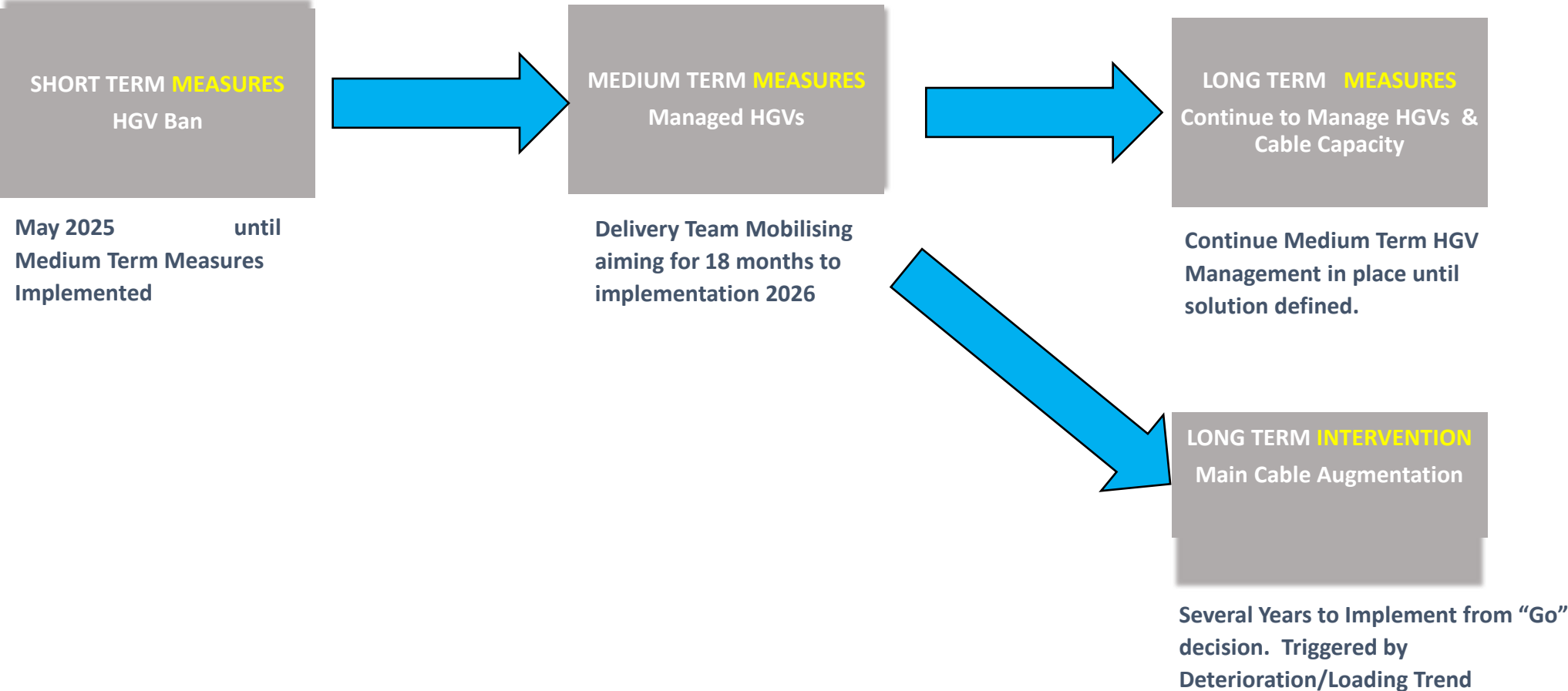
Extent of Augmentation

- To be decided – with some future proofing built in
- Heavily dependent on how much load can be transferred from existing cable into new cable
- Previous view on 25% capacity enhancement to be revisited
- Hope to avoid building new anchorages



Mitigation Management Strategy

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Project Performance

- Time / Cost / Quality
- Full scope and schedule of feasibility study now agreed with supplier – identified additional time required for option assessment/testing and peer reviews
- Consultancy Team now approved (named individuals)
- Initial Options Report: Summer 2026 – delayed by 2 months
- Final Feasibility Report: Autumn 2026 – delayed by 2 months
- Review of previous work completed
- Review of global experience on cable bridges commenced

■ ANY QUESTIONS?

Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

Meeting of Public Services Scrutiny Committee held at Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr USK on Tuesday, 28th October, 2025 at 10.00 am

Councillors Present

County Councillor Armand Watts (Chair)

County Councillors: Jill Bond, Penny Jones, Tony Kear, Dale Rooke, Frances Taylor, Jan Butler, Emma Bryn, John Crook, Lisa Dymock, Tony Easson, Martyn Groucutt, M. Newell, Maureen Powell, Sue Riley, Angela Sandles, Jackie Strong, Peter Strong and Ann Webb

Officers in Attendance

Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager
Sharran Lloyd, Community and Partner Development Manager
John Crandon, Community Safety Officer
Andrew Mason, Community safety Lead
Ian Muirhead, Community Safety Officer

External Invitees: Jane Hutt, Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent, Sian Curley, Chief Executive of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office and Connor Dumayne-Davis, Police Constable.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Steven Garratt, Meirion Howells, Malcolm Lane and Maria Stevens

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Steven Garrett, Meirion Howells, Malcom Lane and Maria Stevens. Councillor Malcolm Lane was substituted by Councillor Lisa Dymock. Councillor Maria Stevens was substituted by Councillor Peter Strong.

2. Declarations of Interest

None received.

3. Public Open Forum

None present.

4. Community Safety and Police Resources

The Police and Crime Commissioner Jane Hutt delivered a presentation on the Police, Crime and Justice Plan for Gwent, prior to answering Members questions on community safety and police resourcing. The Chair Councillor Watts thanked Jane for the presentation on the plan and noted the clarity in the plan and the five pillars and the public leaflet.

- Councillor Bond asked what is being done about misogyny, sexual abuse, and bad behaviour in schools, and whether there are initiatives to address these issues?

Jane described work with public health targeting boys in schools, upcoming initiatives involving solicitors discussing consent, and activities for the White Ribbon campaign.

- Councillor Bond asked for more detail about the nature of police liaison and the availability and involvement of officers to deliver safeguarding lessons, following the loss of the schools' liaison program.

Jane explained that funding for the school's liaison program was withdrawn by Welsh Government, leading Gwent Police to develop a new model where neighbourhood officers engage with schools. She described ongoing monitoring, partnership work with Welsh Government, and specific initiatives like public health projects targeting misogyny and legal professionals discussing consent in schools.

- Councillor Bond also asked about public confidence in the police and progress on institutional issues within Gwent Police.

Jane mentioned actions are being taken to maintain public confidence following negative media coverage, emphasising ongoing work to address institutional behaviour and support for staff. Jane outlined actions such as assembling advisory groups before negative media, supporting staff, and ongoing scrutiny and cultural work. She acknowledged more work is needed and is launching a deep dive into vulnerability.

- Councillor Bond asked if Jane had visited any Monmouthshire schools and how the impact of these initiatives would be seen, noting the importance of addressing broader equality issues beyond abuse.

Jane described the Safe Spaces Initiative in primary schools, the upcoming launch of a Charter for children and young people, and a strategic equality plan with dedicated funding for community groups. She referenced engagement in Abergavenny, addressing cohesion and feedback from local groups, and reiterated her commitment to building community support and visibility of these actions.

- Councillor Dymock asked about the Mystery Shopper initiative: how it works, findings so far, and how those findings are used to improve frontline services. She also asked when Jane last visited Caldicot Town Centre and Station, and what concerns residents raised during that visit.

Jane responded that she had visited Caldicot several times, most recently for Armed Forces Day and in the town centre, receiving positive feedback about anti-social behaviour initiatives and concerns about continued resourcing. She explained the Mystery Shopper exercise is authentic and based on direct conversations, with generally positive feedback in Caldicot but acknowledged that issues are raised when present.

- Councillor Dymock also asked about confidence in the accuracy and completeness of crime and incident data, especially regarding public reports and 101 call logging. She raised concerns that repeated incidents may not be accurately captured, affecting the neighbourhood police team's ability to respond, and asked about systems and oversight to ensure proper logging and accountability.

Regarding 101 call logging, Jane suggested discussing specific concerns offline, noted meetings about the issue, and referenced the HMIC inspection report which rated Gwent Police's crime data integrity as outstanding, but acknowledged there may be other factors to discuss further.

- Councillor Rooke asked about the police precept in Monmouthshire, noting it is about 25% higher than other counties, and questioned whether Monmouthshire is getting its fair share of resources. He also asked about the allocation of the 100 additional police officers recruited since October 2022, specifically how many were directed to Monmouthshire.

Jane explained that the precept is linked to the council tax base across Gwent and that all residents pay for policing collectively, similar to other public services. She stated there is no variation in service provision across the five local authorities, though the funding level differs due to the tax base. Jane acknowledged concerns about police visibility and noted that the Chief Constable's model focuses on increasing neighbourhood policing and visibility but also highlighted the need for officers to address modern crimes such as online fraud and safeguarding, which impacts visible presence. She said operational allocation details would need to be provided by policing colleagues.

Action: Chief Constable to provide the information.

- Councillor Kear asked Jane to highlight her successes since taking on the role and where improvements are needed.

Jane listed successes such as strengthening scrutiny and accountability, advancing the strategic equalities plan, establishing a strategic board for community safety, supporting the Safer Streets initiative, launching the Children's Charter, and increasing early intervention and prevention activities. She noted improved performance in 999 and 101 call handling, with Gwent Police often ranking in the top three to five forces.

- Councillor Kear also asked about trends in answering 999 and 101 calls, performance against the set budget, and how the budget links to police officer numbers.

Jane explained the budget process, current performance, and the challenge of no capital funding, and described ongoing collaboration with other forces to achieve efficiencies. She confirmed the Home Office sets police numbers and funding, and the Chief Constable invests in visible services through Community Action Teams.

- Councillor Kear asked about areas needing improvement and where Jane has had difficult conversations with the Chief Constable.

Jane answered that she is undertaking a deep dive into vulnerability, as highlighted in the HMIC report, indicating this is an area needing further work.

- Councillor Kear questioned the performance against the budget, and how it relates to police officer numbers? He referenced numbers of 1,509 police officers, 130 PCSO's, a £2.7 million shortfall, and a £190 million budget. He asked how many police officers and PCSO's there are for Gwent, and then specifically for Monmouthshire? He suggested that this information could have been provided at the meeting.

*Jane responded that she did not have the figures immediately, that they will be provided by the Chief Constable, clarifying that operational distribution is the Chief Constable's responsibility, not hers. She noted that some PCSO's are Welsh Government funded. Jane stated the budget is currently on track, but a deficit is forecast for the future, requiring efficiencies and collaboration. Jane confirmed efforts are being made to close the gap. She confirmed the Home Office sets police numbers and funding, and the Chief Constable invests in visible services. **Action: For the Chief Constable to provide the data.***

- Councillor Jones asked about county lines, specifically whose remit it falls under, the latest statistics or data, concerns about the withdrawal of school liaison officers and its possible correlation with county lines activity, the existence of dedicated police officers for county lines, whether they visit schools, and how this is monitored.

*Jane responded that a Chief Superintendent responsible for crime oversees county lines, and further data would be provided by the police. She explained that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner funds various preventative initiatives, including youth offending services, the Fearless program (which visits schools and allows anonymous reporting), and the St Giles Trust (which works with high-risk youth by referral). Jane confirmed that these activities are ongoing and agreed to request specific policing data from the Chief Superintendent. **Action: To provide data on the delivery of County Lines material in Monmouthshire schools.***

- Councillor Webb asked whether police officers appreciate the help and assistance that county councillors can provide in any situation, mentioning a specific incident where her input was dismissed by an officer during a serious local situation. She also noted the importance of police presence at community and town council meetings and recent assurances from the local sergeant about improved attendance.

*Jane responded that elected representatives are a key source of intelligence in communities and emphasised the importance of their relationships with police. She encouraged councillors to request police attendance at council meetings. **Action: For the Police and Crime Commissioner to raise Councillor Webb's experience with the Chief Constable and the Chief Superintendent for neighbourhood policing.***

- Councillor Riley asked about Monmouthshire County Council's assistive tech service, specifically regarding funding and support for tracking watches used to help vulnerable people remain in their homes. She questioned whether the police could provide financial support for this service, noting the potential savings in police time when older people go missing.

Jane acknowledged the importance of initiatives like tracking devices for vulnerable people and mentioned the "Care Right Person" program and the Herbert Protocol, both aimed at supporting vulnerable adults, especially those with dementia. She offered to provide more information about these programs and ongoing work but indicated that, given the current financial situation, direct financial support from the police may not be feasible.

- Councillor Jackie Strong asked whether restorative justice is still an ongoing resource available within the community, referencing previous involvement with young people and the town council.

Jane replied that discussions are underway with Public Service Board partners and public health colleagues to advance restorative justice in Gwent. She noted that this is a timely question and advised that the OPCC's strategic equality plan, a dedicated £400,000 community cohesion fund and plans to expand restorative justice initiatives in partnership with public health and other agencies are being progressed. She encouraged groups to apply for funding to enhance community support and cohesion.

- Councillor Bryn asked how recent negative press and revelations about police forces have impacted the well-being, confidence, and pride within Gwent Police, and whether this has affected recruitment and retention.

Jane explained that Gwent Police has established a culture board and a cultural strategy to address these challenges, including working with the University of South Wales on real-time training for cultural and ethical issues. She stated that the Chief Constable provides internal assurance and support, and there is significant investment in well-being services. Jane noted that, at present, there is no significant impact on recruitment and retention in Gwent, but the situation is monitored closely.

- Councillor Peter Strong highlighted the importance of continuity in local policing teams, noting that recent stability has improved relationship-building in Caldicot and expressed support for the local policing team in Caldicot. He praised the skill, persistence, and compassion of Gwent Police as seen in the "Crash Detectives" TV series, suggesting it reflects well on the force and benefits viewers and requested that Jane convey appreciation to the officers featured in the program.
- Councillor Dymock questioned how many survey responses informing the police and crime plan were from Monmouthshire residents, and how does that feedback influence local policing priorities?

Jane confirmed the survey responses can be disaggregated by local authority area and that the Chief Constable's priorities must deliver against the police, crime, and justice

plan, which is informed by such feedback. **Action: To provide the information on how many service responses were from Monmouthshire residents.**

- Councillor Dymock also asked which schools in Monmouthshire have been visited, what support have they received, and are solicitors being placed in schools?

Jane clarified solicitors are not being placed in schools, but an initiative is starting where solicitors volunteer to talk to young people about consent. **Action: For information on school visits and support to be provided by the Chief Constable.**

- Councillor Dymock questioned whether the survey information was available?

Jane stated she did not have the survey information available at the meeting but will provide it to the committee ~ **Action: to provide the data.**

- Councillor Bond asked how are schools liaison officers engaging with schools, are they available, and do they deliver safeguarding or educational lessons, especially after the loss of the previous program?

Jane explained the previous Welsh Government-funded program was withdrawn, and now neighbourhood officers are connected to schools with regular contact and engagement. There are ongoing efforts to strengthen this, and new partnership proposals are being developed. Jane agreed to provide further information following the meeting. **Action: To provide details on safeguarding sessions and other educational sessions between the Police and schools since the loss of the schools' liaison officers.**

- The Chair Councillor Watts referenced an article published in the summer of 2025 about Gwent Police's public rating and asked Jane how the five pillars would address this perception.

Jane responded that she could not comment on the article without seeing the data but assured the Committee that improving trust and confidence is a priority.

- Councillor Watts asked questioned whether Gwent Police have a designated hate crime officer and what interventions are being undertaken to prevent hate crime and extremism, especially in schools.

Jane confirmed there is an officer responsible for hate crime but emphasised it is a broader effort involving community cohesion funding and early intervention strategies.

- Councillor Watts asked Jane to confirm that answers would be provided to the Committee in relation to the 100 new officers and the proportion allocated to Monmouthshire, noting that there are outstanding questions for response by Gwent Police.

Action: Jane agreed to request the information from the Chief Constable and provide it to the committee.

Chair's Summary

The Chair thanked Jane for her patience in answering member's questions and for attending the session. It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting and a list of outstanding questions would be forwarded to the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable for a response. The Committee agreed to invite the Chief Constable to a future meeting to discuss the responses.

5. To note the date and time of the next meeting: 15th December 2025

The meeting ended at 12.15 pm.

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Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2025-26

Public Services Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
15 th December 2025	Drug Related Deaths in Monmouthshire	To discuss drug related deaths and the impact of synthetic drugs with the Heroin & Crack Cocaine Action Area Co-ordinator for Gwent Police.	Gwent Police Area Planning Board - Substance Misuse Lead	External Scrutiny
	M48 Severn Bridge	To present an update on the M48 Severn Bridge Heavy Goods Vehicle Restrictions.	National Highways	External Scrutiny
2026 TBC	Invite the Chief Constable	To discuss Police Resourcing with the Chief Constable.	Chief Constable, Gwent Police	External Scrutiny
9 th February 2026	Youth Offending Service	To consider the latest progress report on the Youth Offending Service, particularly how partners contribute and what it delivers for Monmouthshire.	Chesney Chick	Performance Monitoring
15 th April 2026				
<i>To be confirmed 8th December or 9th February</i>	Adult Suicide	<i>Progress update after 6 months.</i>	<i>ABUHB Mind</i>	<i>External Scrutiny</i>
<i>To be confirmed</i>	National Highways - M48 and Severn Bridge 7.5t weight Limit	<i>To review progress in approximately 6 months.</i>		<i>External Scrutiny</i>

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2025-26

Public Services Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
<i>To be confirmed</i>	Changes to Ambulance Performance Framework	<i>Discussion on changes to the Ambulance Performance Framework which take effect on Tuesday 1 July 2025.</i>	<i>Ambulance Service</i>	<i>External Scrutiny</i>
<i>To be confirmed</i>	Pre-decision Scrutiny of the Public Service Board Annual Report	<i>To undertake pre-decision scrutiny of the report and to draw agree any items for future scrutiny.</i>		<i>Pre-decision Scrutiny/Performance Monitoring</i>
<i>To be confirmed</i>	Integrated Services Partnership Board	<i>To discuss the role and remit of the Integrated Services Partnership Board and how it delivers services in Monmouthshire.</i>		<i>Performance Review</i>
Items to consider for Inclusion: (Arising from Corporate and Community Plan)				
Progress the development of the new Magor and Undy Community Hub				
Invest in better bus infrastructure				

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2025-26

Public Services Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
Work with the police, partners and communities to tackle anti-social behaviour				
To explore streams: Housing Social Grant, Substance Misuse Grants, to assess what they are delivering for Monmouthshire				

- Violence and Women ~ Scrutinize the delivery of the Gwent perpetrator assessment and the impact of inappropriate sexual behaviour among 10-17 year-olds. Address the increase in misogyny in schools, including the influence of figures like Andrew Tate.
- Flood Risk Management ~ Jointly with Place Scrutiny Committee, inviting National Resources Wales
- Public Transport and Accessibility: Assess the impact of dental service relocations on public transport accessibility for residents.
- Update on the flying start ~ Update on the collaboration between health visitors and Sure Start, including changes in reporting structures and service provision.

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2025-26

- Request a comprehensive health update from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) (**in progress**), covering:
 - Holistic approach to supporting older people.
 - Primary and secondary care integration.
 - Resource, nurses, doctors, sustainability and retention.
 - Communication with the public on service provision.
 - Preventative services, colon tests, jabs.
 - Updates on specific projects like the Neville Hall Velindre satellite.
 - The uptake of preventative measures like vaccinations, especially among children.
 - Adult Mental Health Services ~ adult suicide
 - Care for people in the community with dementia, family support services.
- Community Policing ~ invite Police and Crime Commissioner ~ **in progress**
- Invite the Integrated Strategic Partnership Board to discuss dentistry and the flow of funds.

Action List for Public Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting	28 th October 2025	
Minute:	Action	Officer / Member
4	Community Safety and Police Resourcing To forward outstanding queries to the Police and Crime Commissioner for responses. To invite the Chief Constable to a future meeting to be arranged in early 2026 to discuss outstanding lines of inquiry.	Scrutiny Manager

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Committee / Decision Maker	Meeting date / Decision due	Report Title	Cabinet member	Purpose	Author	Date item added to the planner
Cabinet	Deferred	Pavement Café Policy	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the pavement café policy as the basis for making decisions on applications for licences	Carl Touhig	4-Oct-22
Council	05-Mar-26	2026/27 Capital Strategy and 2026/27 Treasury	Ben Callard - Resources	To approve the Council's 2026/27 Capital and	Jon Davies	3-Dec-25
Council	05-Mar-26	COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION and REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR 2026/27	Ben Callard - Resources	The Council is bound by Statute to specific timescales for Council Tax setting and is also required to make certain defined resolutions. The recommendations that form a major part of this report are designed to comply with those Statutory Provisions. The recommended resolutions also draw together the Council Tax implications of precepts proposed by the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent and Town and Community Councils, thereby enabling the County Council to establish its headline Council Tax levels at the various property bands within each Town or Community area.	Jon Davies	3-Dec-25
Council	05-Mar-26	Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025 - 2028	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding	Reason is to endorse a new Corporate Parenting Strategy for 2025 - 2028	Jane Rogers	24-Oct-25
Cabinet	04-Mar-26	Revenue and Capital Budget 2026/27 – Final proposals following scrutiny and public consultation	Ben Callard - Resources	To update Cabinet with the consultation responses to the draft budget proposals issued in respect of the Capital and Revenue budgets for 2026/27. To make recommendations to Council on the Capital and Revenue budgets including the level of Council Tax for 2026/27. To receive the statutory report of the Responsible Financial Officer on the budget process and the adequacy of reserves. To receive the Responsible Financial Officer's Prudential Indicator calculations for capital financing.	Jon Davies	3-Dec-25
Cabinet	11-Feb-26	2025/26 Revenue & Capital Monitoring Update 3	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	12-Jun-25
Cabinet	11-Feb-26	2026/27 WCF/Mon Farm treasury strategy	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	12-Jun-25
Cabinet	11-Feb-26	Cultural Strategy	Sara Burch	To approve the Monmouthshire Cultural Strategy which lays out clear ambitions and actions to ensure that Monmouthshire is a desired cultural destination for residents and visitors alike.	Tracey Thomas	20-May-25
Council	22-Jan-26	Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2026/27	Ben Callard - Resources	The purpose of this report is to: • present arrangements for the implementation of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and to approve it for 2026/27. • agree to adopt the amendments to the Regulations, proposed by Welsh Government, • affirm that annual uprating amendments will be carried out each year without a requirement to adopt the whole Council Tax Reduction Scheme.	Ruth Donovan	28-Nov-25

Cabinet	21-Jan-26	2026/27 Draft Revenue & Capital budget proposals	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	12-Jun-25
Cabinet	21-Jan-26	Disposal of two farm cottages at Leechpool Holdings	Ben Callard - Resources	To seek approval for the disposal of two vacant farm cottages located in Leechpool Holdings, Portskewett, identified as surplus to requirements following internal review with services that no longer have an identified need.	Nick Keyse	26-Nov-25
Cabinet	21-Jan-26	Agree S106 Funding for Caldicot Multi-User Route that connects the newly constructed Caldicot Links/Greenway Active Travel route with the Country Park	Sara Burch	To agree additional funding for the Caldicot Multi-User Route	Colette Bosley	15-Oct-25
ICMD	14-Jan-26	Museum Service - Collections Rationalisation	Sara Burch - Rural Affairs, Housing and Tourism	To agree the removal of 2 collections - one of newspapers and one of books from the museum collections, to offer to more appropriate homes. (This is part of a series of similar decisions)	Rachael Rogers	2-Dec-25
ICMD	17-Dec-25	Various Traffic Regulation Orders - Amendment Order No 18	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	The report seeks Cabinet Member approval to proceed with the making and implementation of the MCC Traffic Regulation, speed limit and parking regulations Consolidation Order 2019 (Amendment Order No.18) 2025	Gareth Freeman	26-Nov-25
ICMD	17-Dec-25	Council TaxBase 2026/27 and associated matters	Ben Callard - Resources	To agree the Council Tax base figure for submission to Welsh Government, together with the collection rate to be applied for 2026/27 and to make other necessary related statutory decisions.	Ruth Donovan	28-Nov-25
ICMD	17-Dec-25	Annual Performance Report - Planning	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	Report the Annual Performance Report to Welsh Government	Andrew Jones	15-Oct-25
ICMD	17-Dec-25	Section 6 Report to Welsh Government on Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Report of Councils' actions taken to help maintain and enhance biodiversity	Kate Stinchcombe/Colette Bosley	15-Oct-25
Cabinet	10-Dec-25	Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual letter 2024-25	Angela Sandles - Engagement	1) To consider the data in this letter, to understand MCC's performance on complaints, including any patterns or trends and our compliance with recommendations made by the PSOW's office. 2) To inform the PSOW of the outcome of MCC's considerations and any proposed actions on the above matters.	Annette Evans	
Cabinet	10-Dec-25	Joint Committee of the National Adoption Service and Foster Wales	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding	Joint Committee of the National Adoption Service and Foster Wales - to consider a Deed of Variation to the current Joint Committee Agreement regarding the required quoracy level for committee meetings	Jane Rogers	24-Oct-25
Cabinet	10-Dec-25	Socially Responsible Procurement Policy	Ben Callard - Resources	1. To approve the adoption of the Socially Responsible Procurement Policy. 2. To delegate authority to approve any	Cath Fallon	20-Oct-25
Cabinet	10-Dec-25	Strategic Risk Assessment	Ben Callard - Resources	To provide Cabinet with an overview of the current strategic risks facing the authority.	Hannah Carter	29-Oct-25
Cabinet	10-Dec-25	Approval of Placemaking Plans - Monmouth, Abergavenny, Magor and Undy	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	Approval of Placemaking Plans - Monmouth, Abergavenny, Magor and Undy	Craig O Connor	17-Nov-25

Cabinet	10-Dec-25	Community and Corporate Plan - Q2 Progress Update	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy	To provide Cabinet with an update on the progress that has been made to deliver the commitments set out in the Community and Corporate Plan 2022-28.	Hannah Carter	29-Oct-25
Council	04-Dec-25	Appointment of Paul Matthews to the board of CCR Energy Ltd			James Williams	27-Oct-25
Council	04-Dec-25	Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2024/25	Angela Sandles - Engagement		James Williams	27-Oct-25
Council	04-Dec-25	Annual Safeguarding Report	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Diane Corrister	18-Jul-25
Council	04-Dec-25	Regional Partnership Board Annual Report 2024/2025	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Natasha Harris (Torfaen)	24-Oct-25
Council	04-Dec-25	Director's Annual Report	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Jane Rogers	18-Jul-25
ICMD	26-Nov-25	LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) ACT 1994 THE LOCAL AUTHO	Ben Callard - Resources	To seek Member approval of the proposals for consultation purposes regarding payments to precepting authorities during the 2026/27 financial year as required by statute	Peter Davies	7-Nov-25
Cabinet	19-Nov-25	Medium Term Financial Plan update - November 2025	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Nov-25
Cabinet	19-Nov-25	2025/26 Revenue & Capital Monitoring Update 2	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	12-Jun-25
Cabinet	19-Nov-25	Destination Management Plan	Sara Burch & Paul Griffiths		Collette Bosley	17-Apr-25
Cabinet	19-Nov-25	Car Parking Review	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	That Cabinet endorses the following recommendations 1.That Cabinet agrees the strategic objectives for the Council's parking strategy 2.That Cabinet agrees the proposed MCC actions in response to the recommendations made in the Monmouthshire car parking review	Craig O Connor	9-Oct-25
Cabinet	19-Nov-25	Inclusion Strategy and Additional Learning Needs Policy	Laura Wright - Education	The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with an opportunity to consider the Inclusion Strategy and the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Policy to ensure that they are fit for purpose and meet the local priorities as outlined in the Learning Place section of the Community and Corporate Plan.	Morganna Wagstaff	13-Oct-25
Cabinet	19-Nov-25	Panel Performance Assessment	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy	To provide an update on the proposed approach for the Council's Panel Performance Assessment which is a requirement under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.	Matt Gatehouse	28-Aug-25
Council	23-Oct-25	RLDP for Adoption	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Rachel Lewis	17-Apr-25
Cabinet	15-Oct-25	2025/26 Revenue Monitoring Update 1	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	12/76/25
Cabinet	15-Oct-25	Connect to Work and Future Focus programmes	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Hannah Jones / Rory Clifford	21-Jul-25
Cabinet	15-Oct-25	A strategy to take forward a whole authority approach to wellbeing and prevention	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Jane Rogers	19-Jun-25
ICMD	08-Oct-25	WELSH CHURCH FUND WORKING GROUP	Ben Callard - Resources	1.1 The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications for the Welsh Church Fund Working Group Meeting 2 held on Thursday 18th September 2025.	Dave Jarrett	

ICMD	24-Sep-25	Health & Safety Annual Report	ben Callard - Resources		Kate Thompson	5-Aug-25
Council	18-Sep-25	Self-assessment 2024/25		To seek Council approval of the self-assessment report 2024/25 in line with requirements outlined in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.	richard Jones	10-Jun-25
Cabinet	17-Sep-25	Proposed endorsement of the Monmouthshire Local Area Energy Plan	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Welsh Government commissioned the production of Local Area Energy Plans for Local Authority areas which will be used to develop a regional and national Energy Plan. The Local Area Energy Plan for Monmouthshire provides data on the energy requirements of the county and the transition that will be required to support carbon neutrality of the energy demands. The report seeks Cabinets endorsement of the Local Area Energy Plan to enable the development of the regional Area Energy Plan and a supporting Investment Prospectus.	Deb Hill Howells	28-Jul-25
Cabinet	17-Sep-25	Real Living Wage Employer Accreditation	ben Callard - Resources	Further to Cabinet's decision on Wednesday 6th November 2024, and an evaluation of the authority's supply chain, to bring forward a further report detailing the plan to pay the real living wage rate to employees of third parties contracted to work at the authority's sites, and to seek approval to pursue accreditation as a Real Living Wage employer.	Philippa Green	13-Jun-25
Cabinet	17-Sep-25	County of Sanctuary Strategy	Angela Sandles - Engagement	To approve a county of sanctuary strategy which establishes clear principles which will run through all council services and which promotes inclusion and welcome across the wider community.	Sharrran Lloyd and Jane Harvey	27-May-25
Cabinet	17-Sep-25	Review of Housing Support Grant Programme.	Sara Burch		Ian Bakewell	23-May-25
ICMD	20-Aug-25	Highway Traffic Regulation Amendment Order No 17	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Gareth Freeman	4-Aug-25
ICMD	23-Jul-25	Lloyds tour of Britain Stage 5 Pontypool to Tumble	Angela Sandles - Engagement		Nick John	2-Jul-25
ICMD	23-Jul-25	Welsh Church Fund Working Group	Ben Callard - Resources		Dave Jarrett	2-Jul-25
Council	17-Jul-25	Chepstow Integrated Transport LUF project			Deb Hill Howells	24-Jun-25
Council	17-Jul-25	Strategic Director's Report, Children, Learning, Skills and the Economy'	Laura Wright - Education		Will Mclean	18-Jun-25
Cabinet	16-Jul-25	2024/25 Revenue & Capital monitoring Outturn (incl early update on 2025/26)	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	12-Jun-25
Cabinet	16-Jul-25	2026/27 Revenue & Capital MTFP update and process	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	12-Jun-25
Cabinet	16-Jul-25	ADD AS FIRST ITEM Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023: Monmouthshire County Council's Annual Report	Ben Callard - Resources	To seek approval of the Social Partnership Duty Report 2025, setting out how the Council will build on existing practice, and work collaboratively with trade unions, to ensure compliance with the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023.	Philippa Green	6-Jun-25
Cabinet	16-Jul-25	Play Sufficiency Update	Angela Sandles - Engagement	Play sufficiency assessment update.	Nick John	28-Mar-25
Cabinet	16-Jul-25	Shire Hall Delivery Stage - Financial Approval	Ben Callard - Resources		Tracey Thomas	25-Mar-25

Council	26-Jun-25	Strategic OfficerLeadership and Organisation Structure changes	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy		Paul Matthews	5-Jun-25
Council	26-Jun-25	Separation of Licensing Functions	Angela Sandles - Engagement		Linda O Gorman	28-May-25
Council	26-Jun-25	Appointments to Outside Bodies	Angela Sandles - Engagement		John Pearson	23-May-25
Council	26-Jun-25	Licensing Act Policy 2025	Angela Sandles - Engagement	Policy has to be approved by Full Council and it needs to be in place by 1 st July 2025	Linda O Gorman	10-Jan-25
Cabinet	25-Jun-25	Strategic Risk Assessment	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy	To provide Cabinet with an overview of the current strategic risks facing the authority.	richard Jones	10-Jun-25
Cabinet	25-Jun-25	Nature Recovery Action Plan & Green Infrastructure Strategy	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Collette Bosley	17-Apr-25
Cabinet	21-May-25	Placemaking Grant 25/26 & 26/27	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Craig O Connor	29-Apr-25
Cabinet	21-May-25	Marches Forward Partnership	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy		Peter Davies / Cath Fallon	1-Apr-25
Cabinet	21-May-25	Active Gwent Sports Partnership	Angela Sandles - Engagement	For Monmouthshire County Council to formally enter into the Active Gwent sport partnership.	Nick John	28-Mar-25
Cabinet	21-May-25	Digital, Data and Technology Collaboration	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy	To develop proposals to build on existing collaborative arrangements in place for the provision of technology services through the Shared Resource Service. Expanding on these to include digital and data services will generate economies of scale enabling the authority to access expertise to accelerate progress against delivery of priorities set in the Community and Corporate Plan.	Peter Davies & Matt Gatehouse & Sian Hayward	14-Mar-25
Cabinet	21-May-25	Y Prentis Update	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Hannah Jones	26-Feb-25
Council	15-May-25	SAC Membership Report	Martyn Groucutt - Education	To inform Council of SAC recommendations to appoint members of SAC	Sharon Randall-Smith	16-Apr-25
Council	10-Apr-25	Constitution Review	Angela Sandles - Engagement		James Williams	25-Mar-25
Council	10-Apr-25	Senior Pay Review	Ben Callard - Resources		Julie Anthony	3-Mar-25
ICMD	09-Apr-25	PSPO Lane Closure to prevent fly tipping & off roading	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Mark Cleaver	13-Mar-25
ICMD	09-Apr-25	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 4	Ben Callard - Resources			
Cabinet	02-Apr-25	Marches Forward Partnership	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy		Peter Davies - Lead (Cath Fallon)	3-Mar-25
Cabinet	02-Apr-25	Reponse to Boundary Commission Electoral Review Consultation	Angela Sandles - Engagement		John Pearson	12-Feb-25
ICMD	26-Mar-25	Proposal to increase the fee payments to Monmouthshire Foster Carers	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Charlotte Drury	4-Feb-25
ICMD	12-Mar-25	Highway Traffic Regulation Amendment Order No 16	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment			
Council	06-Mar-25	Appointment of Chief Officer - Head of Transport - Exempt info	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Deb Hill Howells	21-Jan-25
Council	06-Mar-25	Publication of the Councils Pay Policy	Ben Callard - Resources	To approve the publication of Monmouthshire County Council's Pay Policy, in compliance with the Localism Act.	Matt Gatehouse / Pip Green	17-Jan-25
Council	06-Mar-25	Contract Procedure Rules	Ben Callard - Resources		Scott James	9-Jan-25
Council	06-Mar-25	2025/26 Final Budget sign off including CT resolution	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	13-Jun-24
Council	06-Mar-25	2025/26 Capital Strategy & Treasury Strategy	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	13-Jun-24

Cabinet	05-Mar-25	Approval of a Discretionary Policy for Council Tax Premiums	Ben Callard - Resources		Ruth Donovan	27-Jan-25
Cabinet	05-Mar-25	2025/26 Final Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Jun-24
Cabinet	05-Mar-25	2025/26 WCF/Mon Farm Strategy	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Jun-24
ICMD	26-Feb-25	County of Sanctuary: Homes for Ukraine	Angela Sandles - Engagement	To confirm future support arrangements for Ukranian's living in Monmouthshire as part of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme following changes to the national arrangement for both funding & visas	Richard Drinkwater/Matt Gatehouse	7-Feb-25
ICMD	26-Feb-25	Housing Allocations Policy				
Cabinet	19-Feb-25	UK Shared Prosperity Fund post March 2025 – financial implications and impact	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Hannah Jones	10-Jul-24
Cabinet	19-Feb-25	2024/25 Revenue and Capital Monitoring Month 9	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Jun-24
ICMD	29-Jan-25	2025/26 Community Council and Police Precepts final	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	17-Dec-24
Council	23-Jan-25	Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2025/26	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	13-Jun-24
Council	23-Jan-25	Council Diary 2025/26	Angela Sandles - Engagement		John Pearson	
Council	23-Jan-25	GWENT REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD (RPB) AREA PLAN AND RPB ANNUAL REPORT 23/24	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Natasha Harris (Torfaen)	
Cabinet	22-Jan-25	Business case for the purchase of a property in Abergavenny to develop supported accommodation for care experienced young people	Ben Callard - Resources		Jane Rogers	7-Jan-25
Cabinet	22-Jan-25	Education Middle Tier	Martyn Groucutt - Education		Will McLean	20-Nov-24
Cabinet	22-Jan-25	2025/26 Draft Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Jun-24
ICMD	15-Jan-25	Decision to transfer Dixton Archive from Monmouth Museum to Herefordshire Record Office			Rachael Rogers	9-Dec-24
ICMD	15-Jan-25	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 3	Ben Callard - Resources		Dave Jarrett	13-Jun-24
ICMD	18-Dec-24	2025/26 Community Council and Police Precepts draft	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	13-Jun-24