

# Public Document Pack



Neuadd y Sir  
Y Rhadyr  
Brynbuga  
NP15 1GA

Dydd Mawrth, 4 Hydref 2016

## Hysbysiad o gyfarfod

### Pwyllgor Ardal Bryn y Cwm

Dydd Mercher, 12fed Hydref, 2016 at 2.00 pm  
Llanddewi Ysgyryd Neuadd Bentref  
Church Road, Nr. Abergavenny. NP7 8AW

## AGENDA

Eitem ddim	Eitem	Tudalennau
1.	Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.	
2.	Datganiadau o Fuddiant	
3.	Fforwm Agored i'r Cyhoedd.	
4.	Cadarnhau cofnodion y cyfarfod blaenorol.	1 - 8
5.	Derbyn adroddiad diweddarau gan Dîm y Fenni ar y cynnydd hyd yma.	9 - 10
6.	Diweddariad llafar ar ddatblygu Hyb y Fenni.	
7.	Adolygiad ar Lywodraethiant Cymunedol.	11 - 18
8.	Rhaglen Waith y Dyfodol.	19 - 20
9.	Cyfarfod nesaf.  Dydd Mercher 25 Ionawr 2017 am 2.00pm i'w gynnal yn Siambr y Cyngor, Neuadd y Dref, Y Fenni (os yw ar gael).	

**Paul Matthews**

**Prif Weithredwr**

## CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

### MAE CYFANSODDIAD Y PWYLLGOR FEL SY'N DILYN:

Cynghorwyr Sir:

R. Chapman  
D. Edwards  
J. George  
R. Harris  
M. Hickman  
G. Howard  
S. Howarth  
D. Jones  
S.B. Jones  
S. Jones  
P. Jordan  
M. Powell  
J. Prosser  
K. Williams

### **Gwybodaeth Gyhoeddus**

#### **Mynediad i gopiâu papur o agendâu ac adroddiadau**

Gellir darparu copi o'r agenda hwn ac adroddiadau perthnasol i aelodau'r cyhoedd sy'n mynychu cyfarfod drwy ofyn am gopi gan Gwasanaethau Democrataidd ar 01633 644219. Dylid nodi fod yn rhaid i ni dderbyn 24 awr o hysbysiad cyn y cyfarfod er mwyn darparu copi caled o'r agenda hwn i chi.

#### **Edrych ar y cyfarfod ar-lein**

Gellir gweld y cyfarfod ar-lein yn fyw neu'n dilyn y cyfarfod drwy fynd i [www.monmouthshire.gov.uk](http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk) neu drwy ymweld â'n tudalen Youtube drwy chwilio am MonmouthshireCC. Drwy fynd i mewn i'r ystafell gyfarfod, fel aelod o'r cyhoedd neu i gymryd rhan yn y cyfarfod, rydych yn caniatáu i gael eich ffilmio ac i ddefnydd posibl y delweddau a'r recordiadau sain hynny gan y Cyngor.

#### **Y Gymraeg**

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu cyfraniadau gan aelodau'r cyhoedd drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg. Gofynnwn gyda dyledus barch i chi roi 5 diwrnod o hysbysiad cyn y cyfarfod os dymunwch siarad yn Gymraeg fel y gallwn ddarparu ar gyfer eich anghenion.

# Nodau a Gwerthoedd Cyngor Sir Fynwy

## Cymunedau Cynaliadwy a Chryf

### Canlyniadau y gweithiwn i'w cyflawni

#### Neb yn cael ei adael ar ôl

- Gall pobl hŷn fyw bywyd da
- Pobl â mynediad i dai addas a fforddiadwy
- Pobl â mynediad a symudedd da

#### Pobl yn hyderus, galluog ac yn cymryd rhan

- Camddefnyddio alcohol a chyffuriau ddim yn effeithio ar fywydau pobl
- Teuluoedd yn cael eu cefnogi
- Pobl yn teimlo'n ddiogel

#### Ein sir yn ffynnu

- Busnes a menter
- Pobl â mynediad i ddysgu ymarferol a hyblyg
- Pobl yn diogelu ac yn cyfoethogi'r amgylchedd

### Ein blaenoriaethau

- Ysgolion
- Diogelu pobl agored i niwed
- Cefnogi busnes a chreu swyddi
- Cynnal gwasanaethau sy'n hygyrch yn lleol

### Ein gwerthoedd

- **Bod yn agored:** anelwn fod yn agored ac onest i ddatblygu perthnasoedd ymddiriedus
- **Tegwch:** anelwn ddarparu dewis teg, cyfleoedd a phrofiadau a dod yn sefydliad a adeiladwyd ar barch un at y llall.
- **Hyblygrwydd:** anelwn fod yn hyblyg yn ein syniadau a'n gweithredoedd i ddod yn sefydliad effeithlon ac effeithiol.
- **Gwaith tîm:** anelwn gydweithio i rannu ein llwyddiannau a'n methiannau drwy adeiladu ar ein cryfderau a chefnogi ein gilydd i gyflawni ein nodau.

This page is intentionally left blank

# Public Document Pack Agenda Item 4

## MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Bryn y Cwm Area Committee held  
at Llanfair Killgeddin Village Hall Abergavenny Monmouthshire NP7 9BD on  
Wednesday, 13th July, 2016 at 2.00 pm

**PRESENT:** County Councillor: D.L. Edwards (Chairman)

County Councillors: R. Harris, M. Hickman, D. Jones, S.B. Jones,  
S. Jones, M. Powell, J. Prosser and K. Williams

### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Nicola Needle	Changing Lives Lead
Ashley Morgan	Community Wellbeing & ENT Development Lead ICF
Abigail Barton	Communications Manager
Richard Williams	Democratic Services Officer

### **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Peter Johns	Team Abergavenny
Jenny Barnes	CAIR

### **APOLOGIES:**

Councillor R. Chapman, Chris Edmondson, Alan Michie and Debra Hill-Howells

#### **1. Election of Chair**

We elected County Councillor D. L. Edwards as Chair.

#### **2. Appointment of Vice-Chair**

We appointed County Councillor M. Hickman as Vice-Chair.

#### **3. Declarations of Interest**

County Councillor R.G. Harris declared a personal and prejudicial interest, pursuant to the Members' code of conduct, in respect of agenda item 11 Area Capital Grants – bid by Abergavenny Community Enterprise (ACE), as he is a board member of (ACE). He therefore left the meeting taking no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

#### **4. Community Coordination and Small Local Enterprises**

We received a detailed evaluation report of Community Coordination and Small Local Enterprises within Monmouthshire. The report had been compiled over a period of two years. It was noted that the findings from the report are used to develop a model of place-based support which reflects the requirements of the Social Services and Well-being Act and is underpinned by the sustainable development principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act: long-term, integrated, collaborative, preventative and one that involves people in co-creating their own solutions.

## **MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting of Bryn y Cwm Area Committee held at Llanfair Killgeddin Village Hall Abergavenny Monmouthshire NP7 9BD on Wednesday, 13th July, 2016 at 2.00 pm**

Having received the report, the following points were noted:

- County Councillor J. Prosser informed the Committee that he is the Chair of the Agri Urban Project which is a two year project established to improve sustainability for the region. He invited the Changing Practice, Changing Lives Lead Officer and colleagues to the next meeting, which is being held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 5.30pm.
- The Changing Practice, Changing Lives Lead Officer would contact the Rural Development Team with a view to establishing a working relationship.
- The team will continue to collect data as effectively as possible.
- The team has been working closely with the voluntary sector.

**We resolved:**

- (i) to receive the report and noted its content;**
- (ii) that the Changing Practice, Changing Lives Lead Officer provides the Area Committee with an update report regarding Community Coordination and small local enterprises in a year's time.**

#### **5. Public Open Forum**

The Chairman invited members of the public present to put questions to the Area Committee, or to raise issues of concern:

#### **Consultation with the Community**

Jenny Barnes, representing CAIR, expressed concern that the Authority needed to improve the way in which it consulted with the general public and in particular, consulting with groups containing disabled people.

Concern was also expressed that the Abergavenny Community Hub will not be accessible to disabled people. Officers have been contacted but no response has yet been received regarding this matter.

It was considered that the new Community Hub has to be DDA compliant. Jenny Barnes was informed that she could contact the Planning Department to see the drawings of the proposed new lift at the Community Hub with a view assessing whether it is DDA compliant.

#### **6. Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the Bryn y Cwm Area Committee meeting dated 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016 were confirmed and signed by the Chair subject to the following amendment:

## MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the meeting of Bryn y Cwm Area Committee held at Llanfair Killgeddin Village Hall Abergavenny Monmouthshire NP7 9BD on Wednesday, 13th July, 2016 at 2.00 pm**

County Councillor M. Hickman was in attendance and chaired the meeting.

County Councillor R.G. Harris had submitted his apologies for absence at the meeting.

#### **7. Update report by Team Abergavenny regarding progress to date**

We received an update report from Team Abergavenny. At the meeting an additional note was handed out to the Committee by Team Abergavenny outlining an issue, as follows:

Team Abergavenny had submitted business cases to spend the £30,000 Seed Money which had been allocated to Team Abergavenny. Team Abergavenny had accepted that it had not followed the exact rules procedure that the Council employees' are bound by, or had met the criteria set out for the use of the money. The £30,000 had been granted which came with restrictions and procedures that made it difficult to find useful ways of using the fund.

The sequence of events had followed:

- Team Abergavenny was informed that Cabinet had agreed the fund in January 2016.
- Team Abergavenny was not sent the minutes of the meeting to confirm the decision but was referred to them.
- On 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016, Team Abergavenny was informed that the money had to be committed by July 2016. The Team set about identifying areas where the money could be spent, in partnership with others where possible. County Council officer support had been promised to help write the base outline of some requests. However, this had not been received.
- Business plans to the value of £30,000 were submitted by the end of June 2016 but have been rejected because they did not meet Cabinet criteria.

Team Abergavenny questioned whether the onus was on volunteers to find out all the procedure details or whether it was the duty of County Council Officers to ensure that Team Abergavenny was sufficiently equipped and informed. In short, it was considered that there was a need to improve the working relationship between the County Council and Team Abergavenny.

Having received the report and additional note, the Area Committee agreed that a good working relationship between the County Council and Team Abergavenny was essential and needed to be maintained.

It was noted that the Head of Democracy, Engagement and Improvement will be presenting a report to Council regarding Governance of the Authority in due course.

## MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Bryn y Cwm Area Committee held  
at Llanfair Killgeddin Village Hall Abergavenny Monmouthshire NP7 9BD on  
Wednesday, 13th July, 2016 at 2.00 pm**

**We resolved:**

- (i) to receive the report and additional note;**
- (ii) that the Head of Democracy, Engagement and Improvement be informed of the issues raised by Team Abergavenny and the concerns expressed by the Area Committee regarding this matter.**

### **8. Progress report regarding the Eisteddfod**

We received a verbal update regarding the progress in respect of the Eisteddfod. In doing so, the following points were noted:

- Monmouthshire County Council will have its own area located within the Eisteddfod containing the Love Monmouthshire Pavilion, Give it a Go Zone and the Vale of Usk Country Kitchen.
- Area such as Abergavenny Castle and Linda Vista Gardens will be notified to visitors as being a short walk away.
- An extensive programme will be available from the Maes.
- Other areas in Monmouthshire will be promoted.
- 'My Day, My Life' will be onsite providing activity classes for visitors.
- There will be theatre workshops.
- Local Chefs and suppliers will be available in the Country Kitchen.
- The WRU, Tennis Wales, a climbing wall, outdoor pursuits and the Scouts will be available in the 'Give it a Go Zone'.
- On each of the days, there will be a pop up busking stage (10.00am – 2.00pm). A rehearsal stage will also be available for performers.
- Poetry readings.
- There will be opportunities for Elected Members to get involved in various sessions.
- The Communications Team is commissioning a sign welcoming visitors into Castle Meadows.
- The event will be bilingual.

Having received the verbal update, the following points were noted:

- The Mayor of Abergavenny needs to be notified of his role in proceedings.



## MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of Bryn y Cwm Area Committee held at Llanfair Killgeddin Village Hall Abergavenny Monmouthshire NP7 9BD on Wednesday, 13th July, 2016 at 2.00 pm

- Half an hour free WiFi will be provided.
- Visitors will be encouraged to submit their email address in order for them to complete a survey of their visit.
- Highways officers will arrange for the weeds to be removed from Llanfoist Bridge.
- Disabled access will be addressed and mobility scooters will be available within the Maes. However, vehicles will need to be brought in to the site to obtain a scooter.
- A translation device will be available to non-Welsh speakers.
- As part of the legacy of the Eisteddfod, it is intended that the Eisteddfod Committee will raise funds to erect commemorative stones in Swan Meadows and Castle Meadows.
- The Cabinet Member will liaise with the Welsh Government with regard to the poor condition of the A4042.
- All of Abergavenny's public conveniences will be open for the Eisteddfod.
- The temporary traffic lights currently located by the Angel Public House will be removed before the Eisteddfod commences.

**We resolved to receive the verbal update and noted its content.**

#### **9. Development of Hub in Abergavenny**

We resolved to defer consideration of this item to the next meeting of the Bryn y Cwm Area Committee as the officer scheduled to present the update had been unable to attend the meeting.

#### **10. Area Capital Grants**

The Communications Manager outlined the procedure for issuing capital funding to organisations that have submitted applications to the Area Committee for funding. £5000 capital funding was currently available from the 2015/16 budget.

The following applications for funding were received and considered by the Area Committee:

#### **Abergavenny Community Enterprise Partnership**

Applied for: £350

Reason: To purchase a computer, cartridges and stationery.

## MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Bryn y Cwm Area Committee held  
at Llanfair Killgeddin Village Hall Abergavenny Monmouthshire NP7 9BD on  
Wednesday, 13th July, 2016 at 2.00 pm**

**Having discussed the application, we resolved to fund the purchase of the Printer. The Committee didn't agree a sum but left the decision open to ascertain the cost of the printer.**

### **Gilwern AFC**

Applied for: £500

Reason: Purchase of medical kit, stretcher, training equipment.

**We resolved that financial details would be required before considering the application.**

### **Gwent Best Kept Village**

Applied for: £250

Reason: Annual competition – grant requested to cover the judges' expenses and trophies.

**Having considered the application, we resolved not to support the application as it was not specific to the Bryn y Cwm Area.**

### **Clydach Juniors Athletic Football Club**

Applied for: £800

Reason: To pay for legal advice, planning application and associated reports to create a green space for the community.

**We resolved that financial details would be required before considering the application.**

### **Goytre Community Garden**

Applied for: £530

Reason: To create a sensory garden in the grounds of Capel Ed Presbyterian Church.  
**Having considered the application, we resolved to support the application in the sum of £530.**

## **MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of Bryn y Cwm Area Committee held  
at Llanfair Killgeddin Village Hall Abergavenny Monmouthshire NP7 9BD on  
Wednesday, 13th July, 2016 at 2.00 pm**

### **Llanelly Hill Welfare Memorial Hall**

Applied for: £300

Reason: To cover printing costs for the village newsletter, tickets and advertising.

**Having considered the application we resolved not to support the application as it did not refer to capital funding.**

#### **11. Future Work Programme**

**We considered the Bryn y Cwm Area Committee future work programme for 2016/17. In doing so, we resolved that the following items be added:**

- **County Councillor J. Prosser to provide the Area Committee, at future meetings, with a verbal update in respect of the Agri Urban Programme.**
- **To receive an update at the next meeting regarding the development of a Hub in Abergavenny.**
- **Invite the Police and Crime Commissioner to a future Area Committee meeting to discuss speeding vehicles in the Bryn y Cwm Area.**

#### **12. Next meeting**

**We resolved that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 2.00pm and that it be held at Llanddewi Skirrid Village Hall (subject to availability).**

**The meeting ended at 3.35 pm**

This page is intentionally left blank

## TEAM ABERGAVENNY

### BETTER, TOGETHER

### *Update Report to the Bryn Y Cwm Area Committee on 12 October 2016*

*Since our last report in April this year please find the following update:*

#### *1. Communications*

- a. The 3rd edition of Team Abergavenny's Newsletter has been circulated.*
- b. Consultation. Over the coming months The Team will be giving greater emphasis to community engagement.*
- c. We are aware of the outline plans to redevelop the Town Hall as a Hub to include the One Stop Shop and Library as one combined entity, the Borough Theatre and the Town Council.*

*Public engagement: it is important and that Officers when producing the consultation timetable do not limit it just to stakeholders. It is very important, as demonstrated with the recent Public Realm meetings, that a wide range of views should be taken at the outset in order to avoid delays or problems at a later stage.*

- d. We note the report about the constitution of the Programme Board and Area Committee on your agenda. Team Abergavenny has expressed its preference for community engagement to be based on the Bryn y Cwm Area Committee structure because it engages with representatives from the whole of the Bryn y Cwm area. Also we would welcome an opportunity to report direct to this new Committee. We accept that this would mean greater work by the Team, but it would be worthwhile because it would be seen to be more democratic and also it would enable members to be more involved with the Team's activities.*

#### *2. Development*

- a. Because there is a lack of clarity by the Officers at County Hall on the direction and role the voluntary Whole Place scheme we asked in June to meet in order to seek clarity. The current approach to dealing with volunteers generate uncertainty and difficulties in managing projects. The uncertain position we believe stems from the frequency of changes in the staff and structure and in communicating policy. Our request was made via the Chairman of the Bryn y Cwm Area Management Committee and the position is still unresolved. The request to meet started in June when £30k capital business plans were rejected. We are extremely disappointed as we cannot be sure of our future direction without this guidance. We also note that despite notification of our monthly meetings no Whole Place Officer has requested to attend for several months, which gives rise to further uncertainty about the future of the Whole Place Plan.*

- b. Abergavenny Redevelopment Fund. As this fund is still in existence we would like to resubmit the rejected projects for your consideration. These projects are still important in helping to redevelop Abergavenny and district.*

*The schemes were:*

*\*Kitchen equipment for Abergavenny Community Centre £5000*

*\*Improved access to lighting in the Borough Theatre - £15000*

*\*A consultant in order to get agreement from CADW to erect a tensile fabric canopy over the upper Brewery Yard Area. £2500*

*\*A contribution to new lighter weight market stalls in the Market Hall £6000*

- c. Liaison: We met with a representative from Caldicot Town Team and in consequence we will review our objectives to allow for a wider interpretation of our areas of involvement.*

*Also we will be adopting a more formal method to process our annual plan and it will be linked to the 5 year plan and submitted to the ByC Area Management Committee for consideration. We believe that once approved it will enable the Team to make bids for money from suitable sources and hopefully it will reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and achieve less time delays in implementation.*

3. *WiFi in the Town*

*The scheme to provide public WiFi in the town is progressing slowly. The difficulty arises from getting permission to place the WiFi hubs on the outside of buildings strategically through the town. Absentee landlords and traders who have no interest in helping the business community has made the project more difficult.*

4. *Public Realm. (Bridge across the Usk for pedestrians/cyclists)*

*We facilitated a meeting of the public realm group recently to discuss the proposed new bridge across the Usk. The proposal to locate it downstream of the existing road-bridge about 300m down, was accepted as the favoured option of the three, but there was some disappointment that this is not being seen as a part of a wider plan for transport across the Usk and through the town generally. There was disappointment that de-trunking of the A40 through town is not being considered.*

*3 October 2016*

## Community Governance in Monmouthshire

“Community governance” refers to the processes for making all the decisions and plans that affect life in the community, whether made by public or private organizations or by citizens. For community governance to be effective, it must be about more than process, it also must be about getting things done in the community. And what gets done must make a difference.

This paper will also provide an update on the way that the council is changing its relationship with Community and Town Councils.

## What do we mean by Community Governance?

- The way in which local communities are represented and governed at local authority level.
- It is also the mechanisms through which the involvement of other statutory and voluntary agencies, community groups and by the efforts of local people themselves are held in an organized structure that facilitates engagement.
- It is also about the way in which individuals and groups within the community are listened to and able to influence decisions that affect them.

## The current picture

Community Governance in Monmouthshire is undergoing an evolution from a static model informed and directed by the Council through a series of Area Committees to a more dynamic model reflecting local needs a new ways of working more closely to the community.

<u>Bryn Y Cwm</u>	<u>Sevenside</u>	<u>Lower Wye</u>	<u>Central Monmouthshire</u>
<u>Area Committee</u>	<u>Area Committee</u>	<u>Area Committee</u>	<u>Area Committee</u>
<u>Programme Board</u>	<u>Programme Board</u>		
<u>Community Forum</u>			<u>Community Forum</u>

## Current challenges

- Improving communication and dialogue at all levels within the Council.
- Speeding up decision making
- Ensuring buy in across all service departments

- Providing adequate resources to enable effective transition, e.g. investing in capital assets before transfer
- Not enough engagement in Whole Place with Community Councils and their populations.
- Area Committees, mixed responses as some support them and others suggest that they are anachronistic and create confusion.
- Capacity within local communities, Town Teams and Town / Community Councils.
- The need to extend the range and quantity of activists
- The Council needs to allocate resources to the Programme Board.
- Better flow of appropriate information.

### **Why change?**

- Improved community engagement;
- More cohesive communities, resulting in more effective and convenient delivery of local services;
- Provide clarity as to when, where and how local people can engage in discussions and influence decisions; and
- It will also provide explicit clarification as to the responsibility for decision making in certain arenas and the accountability that flows from those decisions.

### **What does good [community] governance look like?**

#### **Good governance is transparent**

People should be able to follow and understand the decision-making process. This means that they will be able to clearly see how and why a decision was made – what information, advice and consultation council considered, and which legislative requirements (when relevant) council followed.

#### **Good governance follows the rule of law**

This means that decisions are consistent with relevant legislation or common law and are within the powers of council. In the case of Victorian local government, relevant legislation includes the Local Government Measure and other legislation such as the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015, and the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2015.

#### **Good governance is responsive**

Local government should always try to serve the needs of the entire community while balancing competing interests in a timely, appropriate and responsive manner.

#### **Good governance is equitable and inclusive**

A community's wellbeing results from all of its members feeling their interests have been considered by council in the decision-making process. This means that all groups, particularly the most vulnerable, should have opportunities to participate in the process.

#### **Good governance is effective and efficient**



Local government should implement decisions and follow processes that make the best use of the available people, resources and time to ensure the best possible results for their community.

### **Good governance is participatory**

Anyone affected by or interested in a decision should have the opportunity to participate in the process for making that decision. This can happen in several ways –

- community members may be provided with information,
- asked for their opinion,
- given the opportunity to make recommendations or, in some cases,
- be part of the actual decision-making process.

### **What has happened to date?**

This position paper represents the culmination of a period of work which now needs formal decision and implementation. That review has been in progress since March 2015 when Keith Edwards was appointed to undertake a review of Community Governance. His report was initially taken through the political processes in October 2015 (Cabinet) and then Council in December 2015. When the recommendations of the Edwards review were discussed at Council there was not a consensus as to how things should be progressed and Members took the decision to establish a Member led working group to consider the recommendations and decide upon a structure for community governance.

The member working group was cross party and established so that there was representation from across the existing four council defined areas. The members were:

- Cllr. Down;
- Cllr. Farley;
- Cllr. Edwards;
- Cllr. Higginson;
- Cllr. Prosser;
- Cllr. Webb; and
- Cllr Hobson

The first meeting was largely a discussion about the nature of democracy and what MCC elected members' expectations of community governance are. At the second meeting in June we discussed a set of specific proposals. These are included below.

We asked members to be aware of the following principles when making a decision

- Provide a forum for local councillors to engage with residents about local issues
- Give local communities a stronger and more direct voice in decision making in their local area
- Enable members to have influence over decisions that are specific to their local area
- Develop and oversee the delivery of localised plans
- Engage with representatives of town and community councils

- Harness and channel community energy to deliver improved outcomes for the local area and its communities
- Bring together partner agencies to focus on locally specific issues

It is also worth Members giving consideration to the five principles of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act:

- Integrated
- Collaborative
- Long term
- Involving
- Preventative

In particular the principles of involving and collaboration were pertinent in this instance.

### **Option 1 (Status Quo)**

**Area Committees and Programme Boards co-exist with no formal relationship but have representation.**

<b>Positives</b>	<b>Negatives</b>
Members retain local accountability/visibility	Confused responsibility for communities
Clear structure for council as per constitution	Disparate area committee practice
council representatives on Programme Boards have equal voice with community members	No clear representative lines for Programme Boards
	Members disenfranchised

### **Option 2) Area Committees are retained as the sole structure with an increase in co-opted community members**

<b>Positives</b>	<b>Negatives</b>
Members are accountable	Scale of meeting (number of committee members)
Transparent co-opting arrangement	Can co-opted members vote?
Clear alignment to the constitution	Community representatives could be elected (C&T Council), representative or individual – how will this be determined?
Decision making strengthened and streamlined	Breadth of geographical cover
Single entry point to public	Disparity between the area committees effectiveness
Community voice greater than currently	

**Option 3) Area Committee with no representation from public.**

As above but without formalised co-opted members / public involvement

Positives	Negatives
Members are accountable	No community voice – how is this different from Council meetings
Single entry point to public	No local voice from Town & Community Councils
Clear alignment to the constitution	How will the local plans be delivered with no community input
Decision making strengthened and streamlined	Breadth of geographical cover

**Option 4) Area committee with local area focus group**

Positives	Negatives
All of positives above re. member alignment & involvement	Risk of same, regular voices and contributors
No complexity of vote structure	Perceptions of tokenism
Community participation	Risk of consultation and not engagement
Membership of the focus group could align to the PSB.	

**Option 5) Programme Board without Area Committee**

Positives	Negatives
Significant local engagement	Disenfranchised members and a lack of clarity for members involved in the Programme Board
Local expertise and involvement	Unelected/Unaccountable community representatives
Place driven	Lack of clarity of vote of local member
	Lack of clarity regarding routes to council

**Option 6) Programme Board with limited and defined elected member representation.**

*3 members per programme board selected at Monmouthshire County Council AGM*

Positives	Negatives
As above.	Members could feel disenfranchised
Clear conduit to council	As above

**Option 7) Community Area Committee as per [LG Bill](#) (sections 44 – 46) - only 2 in Monmouthshire, one in the north and one in the south.**

<b>Positives</b>	<b>Negatives</b>
Inclusive of Community and Town councils	Only 2 – divided local areas
	Difficult to manage local issues and implementation of plans to meet local priorities due to scale.

### **Conclusions of the discussion**

Following a wide ranging debate there was agreement across the members present that their preferred option was Option 2 but with the additional invitation to a single representative from each of the Community or Town Councils in that area.

A key development has been the move from 4 areas as per the existing structure (Lower Wye, Severnside, Monmouth and Central Monmouthshire and Bryn Y Cwm) to five areas. This development is in keeping with a range of new policy directions such as the renewed relationship with Community and Town Councils, the division of the County for the Wellbeing Assessment and the developments around Place Based Approaches in Social Care.

This is the position that will be taken to Full Council in September 2016.

### **Implications of the decision and developments in the relationships with Community and Town Councils**

Whilst this is not the most radical solution available it does provide a stable platform and recognises some of the key challenges that Monmouthshire has faced in the past. We now have some key actions:

- Seeking formal member agreement to the new community governance models as described above
- Beginning the formal implementation with the five new areas.
- Agreeing the staffing support for the new model including, but not limited to, the role of the Whole Place Team.

### **Relationships with Community and Town Councils**

The nature and tone of our relationship with the 33 Community and Town Councils in Monmouthshire has been the subject of a renewed focus in the past few months. This has been informed largely by a number of low level complaints, often typified as ‘background noise’ rather than significant issues, however they tend to focus on the responsive ness of the Council (MCC) to queries and complaints.

As the consequence, operationally, there is now a single entry point for all Community and Town Councils (Members' Services Officers) and at the strategic level there are arrangements in place to begin a different type of relationship through the allocation of SLT members to each of the five areas. Community and Town Councils were made aware of these changes at an event on the 20<sup>th</sup> June and then by letter on the 4<sup>th</sup> July.

The first round of meetings will take place on the following dates:

<b>Area</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Chief Officer</b>
Monmouth & surrounding area	13 <sup>th</sup> September	Monmouth Community Hub	6.30pm – 8pm	Peter Davies
Chepstow & surrounding area	14 <sup>th</sup> September	Chepstow Community Hub	6.30pm-8pm	Will McLean
Caldicot & surrounding area	21 <sup>st</sup> September	Caldicot Community Hub	6.30pm-8pm	Kellie Beirne
Usk & surrounding area	15 <sup>th</sup> September	Usk Community Hub	7pm – 8.30pm	Sarah McGuinness
Abergavenny & surrounding area	15 <sup>th</sup> September	Abergavenny Council Chamber, Town Hall	6.30pm – 8pm	Claire Marchant

This page is intentionally left blank

ITEM	BACKGROUND DETAIL	REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS
<p><b>Standard Items:</b></p> <p>Bryn y Cwm Area Forum</p> <p>Team Abergavenny</p> <p>Agri Urban</p>	<p>The Forum has suspended its activities.</p> <p>To receive an update report on progress to date.</p> <p>To receive a verbal update by Councillor J. Prosser.</p>	<p>No information to report.</p> <p>12<sup>th</sup> October 2016</p> <p>25<sup>th</sup> January 2017</p>
<p><b>New Work Programme Items:</b></p> <p>Development of a Hub, Abergavenny</p> <p>Speeding vehicles in the Bryn y Cwm Area</p> <p>Community Governance Review</p> <p>Abergavenny Indoor Market</p> <p>Area Capital Grants</p>	<p>To receive an update.</p> <p>Invite the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner to address Members.</p> <p>To receive an update by Will McLean, the Head of Governance, Engagement and Improvement.</p> <p>To receive a report by Sharon Hutchinson, the Markets and Facilities Supervisor, regarding the indoor market.</p> <p>To receive requests for funding.</p>	<p>12<sup>th</sup> October 2016</p> <p>TBC (unable to attend October meeting. Waiting for response to January 2017 invitation)</p> <p>12<sup>th</sup> October 2016</p> <p>TBC (unable to attend October meeting. Waiting for response to January 2017 invitation).</p> <p>25<sup>th</sup> January 2017</p>

<p>Heads of the Valleys Dualling Gilwern to Brynmawr</p>	<p>To meet representatives from Costain to receive an update on progress.</p>	<p>25<sup>th</sup> January 2017</p>
<p>Community Coordination in the Bryn y Cwm Area</p>	<p>To receive an update on progress from Nikki Needle.</p>	<p>Summer Meeting 2017</p>
<p>Circuit of Wales</p>	<p>The Bryn y Cwm Area Services Officer to invite representatives from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to a future Area Committee meeting to discuss the race track.</p>	<p>TBC</p>