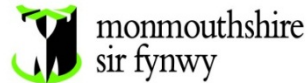


Public Document Pack



Neuadd y Sir
Y Rhadyr
Brynbuga

Dydd Mawrth, 3 Ebrill 2018

Dear Cyngorwyr,

CABINET

Gofynnir i chi fynychu cyfarfod **Cabinet** a gynhelir yn **Steve Greenslade Room, County Hall, Usk** ar **Dydd Mercher, 11eg Ebrill, 2018**, am **2.00 pm**.

AGENDA

1. Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb
2. Datganiadau o Fuddiant
3. I ystyried yr adroddiadau canlynol (copdau ynghlwm):

i. **Polisi Coed**

1 - 22

Is-adrannau/Wardiau yr effeithir arnynt – Pob un

Pwrpas: Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn ceisio cymeradwyaeth gan y Cabinet ar gyfer mabwysiadu Polisi Coed newydd sy'n amlinellu cyfrifoldebau'r Cyngor Sir mewn perthynas â choed yn ei berchnogaeth.

Awdur: Mark Cleaver

Manylion Cyswllt:
markcleaver@monmouthshire.gov.uk

i. **Gwerthiant Neuadd y Sir, Cwibrân**

23 - 36

Is-adrannau/Wardiau yr effeithir arnynt – Pob un

Pwrpas: Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn ceisio cymeradwyaeth ar gyfer gwaredu safle cyn Neuadd y Sir yng Nghwibrân i'r cynigydd a ffefrir.

Awdur: Ben Winstanley, Rheolwr Ystadau

Manylion Cyswllt:
benwinstanley@monmouthshire.gov.uk

i. **STRATEGAETH DDRAFFT TRAIS YN ERBYN MENYWOD, CAM-DRIN YN Y CARTREF A THRAIS RHYWIOL (VAWDASV)**

37 - 88

Is-adrannau/Wardiau yr effeithir arnynt – Pob un

Pwrpas: Cyflwyno Strategaeth Ddrafft Trais yn erbyn Menywod Gwent, Cam-drin yn y Cartref a Thrais Rhywiol (VAWDASV) i'r Cabinet cyn cael

ei mabwyslada ar draws Gwent i'r cynigydd a ffefrir..

Awdur: Sharran Lloyd: Rheolwr Datblygu Cymunedau a Phartneriaethau

Manylion Cyswllt: sharranlloyd@monmouthshire.gov.uk

i. **Gweithgor Cronfa Eglwys Cymru**

89 - 100

Is-adrannau/Wardiau yr effeithir arnynt: Pob un

Pwrpas: Pwrpas yr adroddiad hwn yw gwneud argymhellion i'r Cabinet ar yr Atodlen o Geisiadau ar gyfer cyfarfod 6 Gweithgor Cronfa Eglwys Cymru blwyddyn ariannol 2017/18 a gynhaliwyd ar 18^{fed} Ionawr 2018 a chyfarfod 7 a gynhaliwyd ar 1^{af} Mawrth 2018.

Awdur: David Jarrett, Uwch Gyfrifydd – Cymorth Busnes Cyllid Canolog

Manylion Cyswllt: davejarrett@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Paul Matthews
Chief Executive

PORTFFOLIOS CABINET

Cynghorydd Sir	Maes Cyfrifoldeb	Gwaith Partneriaeth ac Allanol	Ward
P.A. Fox (Arweinydd)	Strategaeth a Chyfeiriad Awdurdod Cyfan CCR Cyd Gabinet a Datblygu Rhanbarthol; Trosolwg Sefydliad; Gweithio Rhanbarthol; Cysylltiadau Llywodraeth; Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus; WLGA	Cyngor WLGA WLGA Bwrdd Cydlynu Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus	Porthysgewin
R.J.W. Greenland (Dirprwy Arweinydd)	Menter Cynllunio Defnydd Tir; Datblygu Economaidd; Twristiaeth; Rheoli Datblygu; Rheoli Adeiladu; Tai a Digartrefedd; Hamdden; Ieuenctid; Addysg Oedolion; Addysg Awyr Agored; Hybiau Cymunedol; Gwasanaethau Diwylliannol	Cyngor WLGA Twristiaeth Rhanbarth y Brifddinas	Devauden
P. Jordan	Llywodraethiant Cefnogaeth y Cyngor a Phenderfyniadau Gweithrediaeth; Craffu; Safonau Pwyllgor Rheoleiddiol; Llywodraethiant Cymunedol; Cefnogaeth Aelodaeth; Etholiadau; Hyrwyddo Democratiaeth ac Ymgysylltu: Y Gyfraith; Moeseg a Safonau; Perfformiad Awdurdod Cyfan; Cynllunio a Gwerthuso Gwasanaeth Awdurdod Cyfan; Cydlynu Corff Rheoleiddiol		Cantref
R. John	Plant a Phobl Ifanc Safonau Ysgolion; Gwella Ysgolion; Llywodraethiant Ysgolion; Trosolwg EAS; Blynyddoedd Cynnar; Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol; Cynhwysiant; Cwricwlwm Estynedig; Derbyniadau; Dalgylchoedd; Cynnig Ôl-16; Cydlynu gyda Choleg Gwent.	Cyd Grŵp Addysg (EAS) CBAC	Llanfihangel Troddi
P. Jones	Gofal Cymdeithasol, Diogelu ac Iechyd Plant; Oedolion; Maethu a Mabwysiadu; Gwasanaeth Troseddu Ieuenctid; Cefnogi Pobl; Diogelu Awdurdod Cyfan (Plant ac Oedolion); Anableddau; Iechyd Meddwl; Iechyd Cyhoeddus; Cydlynu Iechyd.		Rhaglan
P. Murphy	Adnoddau Cyllid; Technoleg Gwybodaeth (SRS); Adnoddau Dynol; Hyfforddiant; Iechyd a Diogelwch; Cynllunio Argyfwng; Caffaeliad; Archwilio; Tir ac Adeiladau (yn cynnwys Stadau, Mynwentydd, Rhandiroedd, Ffermydd); Cynnal a Chadw Eiddo; Swyddfa Ddigidol; Swyddfa Fasnachol	Consortium Prynu Prosiect Gwyrdd Cymru	Caerwent

S.B. Jones	Gweithrediadau Sir Cynnal a Chadw Priffyrdd, Rheoli Trafnidiaeth, Traffig a Rhwydwaith, Rheolaeth Stad; Gwastraff yn cynnwys Ailgylchu; Cyfleusterau Cyhoeddus; Meysydd Parcio; Parciau a Gofodau Agored; Glanhau; Cefn Gwlad; Tirluniau a Bioamrywiaeth; Risg Llifogydd.	SEWTA Prosiect Gwyrdd	Goetre Fawr
S. Jones	Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Datblygu Cymunedol Ymgysylltu â'r Gymuned; Amddifadedd ar Arwahanrwydd; Diogelwch y Gymuned; Cydlyniaeth Gymdeithasol; Tlodi; Cydraddoldeb; Amrywiaeth; Y Gymraeg; Cysylltiadau Cyhoeddus; Safonau Masnach; Iechyd yr Amgylchedd; Trwyddedu; Cyfathrebu		Llanofar

Nodau a Gwerthoedd Cyngor Sir Fynwy

Ein diben

Adeiladu Cymunedau Cynaliadwy a Chydnerth

Amcanion y gweithiwn tuag atynt

- Rhoi'r dechrau gorau posibl mewn bywyd i bobl
- Sir lewyrchus a chysylltiedig
- Cynyddu i'r eithaf botensial yr amgylchedd naturiol ac adeiledig
- Llesiant gydol oes
- Cyngor gyda ffocws ar y dyfodol

Ein Gwerthoedd

Bod yn agored. Rydym yn agored ac yn onest. Mae pobl yn cael cyfle i gymryd rhan mewn penderfyniadau sy'n effeithio arnynt, dweud beth sy'n bwysig iddynt a gwneud pethau drostynt eu hunain/eu cymunedau. Os na allwn wneud rhywbeth i helpu, byddwn yn dweud hynny; os bydd yn cymryd peth amser i gael yr ateb, byddwn yn esbonio pam; os na allwn ateb yn syth, byddwn yn ceisio eich cysylltu gyda'r bobl a all helpu - mae adeiladu ymddiriedaeth ac ymgysylltu yn sylfaen allweddol.

Tegwch. Darparwn gyfleoedd teg, i helpu pobl a chymunedau i ffynnu. Os nad yw rhywbeth yn ymddangos yn deg, byddwn yn gwranddo ac yn esbonio pam. Byddwn bob amser yn ceisio trin pawb yn deg ac yn gyson. Ni allwn wneud pawb yn hapus bob amser, ond byddwn yn ymrwmo i wrando ac esbonio pam y gwnaethom weithredu fel y gwnaethom.

Hyblygrwydd. Byddwn yn parhau i newid a bod yn hyblyg i alluogi cyflwyno'r gwasanaethau mwyaf effeithlon ac effeithiol. Mae hyn yn golygu ymrwymiad gwirioneddol i weithio gyda phawb i groesawu ffyrdd newydd o weithio.

Gwaith Tîm. Byddwn yn gweithio gyda chi a'n partneriaid i gefnogi ac ysbrydoli pawb i gymryd rhan fel y gallwn gyflawni pethau gwych gyda'n gilydd. Nid ydym yn gweld ein hunain fel 'trefnwyr' neu ddatrysyr problemau, ond gwnawn y gorau o syniadau, asedau ac adnoddau sydd ar gael i wneud yn siŵr ein bod yn gwneud y pethau sy'n cael yr effaith mwyaf cadarnhaol ar ein pobl a lleoedd.

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SUBJECT: Tree Policy
MEETING: Cabinet
DATE: 11 th April 2018
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

NON-PUBLICATION

Not Applicable

1. PURPOSE:

This report seeks approval from Cabinet for the adoption of a new Tree Policy that outlines the County Councils responsibilities regarding trees in its ownership.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

To approve the tree policy for adoption and publication.

3. KEY ISSUES:

Over the past few years, a range of factors has led to the County Council response to managing its tree stock to become out of date and not fit for purpose. Factors include:

- Changes in our understanding of the value of trees in our rural and urban environments and the benefits they bring to our society and economy prompts us to think differently about how we care for our trees.
- New legislation relating to the natural environment and the wellbeing of future generations requires us to re-appraise our management of our natural assets.
- Cuts to funding - Changes in staff and structures has led to a fragmentation in responsibilities for trees decision-making process.
- Cuts to funding - Proactive inspections and maintenance has all but gone leading to an increase in risk and potential future workloads and costs.
- Lack of written process/policies - changes in structures and job roles and natural turnover in staff has meant that historic knowledge of council operations and behaviours has been partially lost and without clarity or process and policies, decisions are not consistent
- The introduction of the My Council Services system has made it easier for residents to contact us regarding all issues including those related to trees. This has led to an increased workload.

Given the above, it is clearly time for a policy refresh to ensure that we provide up to date, fair and consistent service to our residents. To ensure that our service response to residents is efficient and that our decisions and actions are transparent and can be held to account, it is also

necessary to update our outward facing documentation that explains how and why we are managing our trees and what the level of service they can expect when issues/concerns are raised.

The Tree Policy outlines our responsibilities and actions in response to resident's concerns about trees and therefore requires the support and agreement from members.

4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

In the same way our understanding of trees has improved, so has our wider understanding and approach to managing open spaces and natural assets of which trees are a part. We are working on a broader Green Infrastructure Strategy to review our planned management of open spaces and natural assets. Given the volume of work in relation to trees a decision was made to expedite the development of the Tree Policy as the first step in that process. This will provide clarity and consistency in our current service provision relating to tree safety and reactive tree management.

This approach is enabling operational work to be carried out consistently whilst we take a more detailed look at our long-term strategy.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

An evaluation assessment has been included at Appendix A

6. REASONS:

The responsibility for trees sit across several department depending on the land on which they are situated, as such there is no single team responsible for decision making and this can lead to an inconsistent approach when it comes to managing trees and responding to residents and others' concerns about trees. Not all staff dealing with trees are necessarily experts in the area of tree management or have an understanding for the importance of trees in the public realm, wider public policy and drivers around tree management. This policy begins the process of ensuring that our approach is informed and consistent.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The adoption of the tree policy has no financial implications in itself, as its purpose is to provide clarity in decision-making. It is anticipated that the policy will provided a mechanism for controlling the amount of time taken in dealing with requests for tree work outside of our responsibility. However, as identified above, recent cuts to departmental budgets set in the context of increased number of tree related requests make delivery of tree management generally a challenge, and the development of proactive tree surveys will require additional planning and staff training.

The County Council has recently completed an Arboriculture Service Framework Agreement that supports the complaint purchasing of tree work services to ensure that we can, as far as possible, effectively meet cost management controls as a result of policy implementation.

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

A Well-Being Assessment is attached.

9. CONSULTEES:

In developing this policy, comments from across MCC departments including Wastes, and Street Services; Highways; Estates; Countryside; Health and Safety; and Insurance on problem areas along with a sense check against service requests made to WSS to ascertain common causes of concern.

This was followed by an internet sweep of publically accessible Local Authority Tree Policies was completed. Four Policies were selected that appeared to address the issues typical to Monmouthshire and were similar in standard and approach to use as benchmark the MCC Policy. These were: Newport City Council; Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council; Bristol City Council; Lancaster City Council. The policy also draws on work by the National Tree Safety Group and the publication *Common Sense Risk Management of Trees*.

The Policy was drafted and circulated widely across MCC departments including: Wastes, and Street Services; Highways; Estates; Countryside; Health and Safety; and Insurance.

The Policy has also been scrutinised by the Strong Communities Panel and there comments have been incorporated into the Policy.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Attached:
Tree Policy
Wellbeing Assessment

11. AUTHOR:

Mark Cleaver

12. CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: 01633 64(4541)

Mob: 07976 791031

E-mail: markcleaver@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Evaluation Criteria – Cabinet, Individual Cabinet Member Decisions & Council

Title of Report:	Tree Policy
Date decision was made:	
Report Author:	Mark Cleaver

What will happen as a result of this decision being approved by Cabinet or Council?

What is the desired outcome of the decision?

Greater transparency and consistency in deliver of service

What effect will the decision have on the public/officers?

The adoption of the tree policy will provide the public with information related to the level of service that can be expected from MCC and how to approach MCC regarding tree related issues.

Officers across MCC departments will have clear guidelines helping to make consistent, fair and appropriate decisions when considering public request for tree work

12 month appraisal

Was the desired outcome achieved? What has changed as a result of the decision? Have things improved overall as a result of the decision being taken?

What benchmarks and/or criteria will you use to determine whether the decision has been successfully implemented?

We expect to see the time spent dealing with individual tree enquires to reduce.

We expect to see greater consistency in responses to tree enquiries

We expect to see improved handling of tree safety assessment records with the introduction of assessment forms on MCS and later, Mobile Worker platforms

12 month appraisal

Paint a picture of what has happened since the decision was implemented. Give an overview of how you fared against the criteria. What worked well, what didn't work well. The reasons why you might not have achieved the desired level of outcome. Detail the positive outcomes as a direct result of the decision. If something didn't work, why didn't it work and how has that effected implementation.

What is the estimate cost of implementing this decision or, if the decision is designed to save money, what is the proposed saving that the decision will achieve?

No specific cost allocated to this decision as the Policy is designed to provide guidance to officers, members and the public on the level of service provided by MCC

12 month appraisal

Give an overview of whether the decision was implemented within the budget set out in the report or whether the desired amount of savings was realised. If not, give a brief overview of the reasons why and what the actual costs/savings were.

Any other comments

Policy on the Management of Trees and Hedges Owned by Monmouthshire County Council

Introduction

General Principles

Assessing Tree safety

Requests for Tree Safety Assessments

Trees requiring special consideration

Trees affecting Public Rights Of Way

Council Owned Hedges

Complaints Procedure

Useful Contacts

Appendix 1: Frequently asked questions

Appendix 2: Criteria for privately funded tree safety assessments

Introduction

This policy outlines how Monmouthshire County Council responds to reports, enquiries and complaints from the public about *Council owned* trees and hedges, and the rationale behind the decision making process that has to balance the needs of the individual, the wider community and that of future generations.

Monmouthshire County Council values the district wide tree cover and recognises the immense potential for human and environmental benefits associated with a healthy and sustainable tree population. The value that trees contribute is also recognised at a national level and is supported through the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. However, the number of trees and canopy composition across the county, Wales and the UK more broadly has declined in recent years. Evidence from Natural Resources Wales shows that Monmouthshire has a lower than average and declining urban tree canopy. Furthermore, tree planting at a national level is at an all-time low. It is within this context that our approach to managing trees is set.

In the development of this guidance, the Council recognises key legislation, national policy and issues relating to UK wide tree and forest health.

General Principles

Monmouthshire County Council only carry out essential management work to the local authority tree stock. The council consider the following reasons as essential management of trees as:

- To manage risk to people and property
- Where trees are seen to be damaging built infrastructure
- Where trees are reducing the safe access and egress of a public right of way

Trees have evolved to cope with a range of climatic and weather conditions. As self-optimising organisms, generally, they will remain healthy, stable and safe where their environment remains consistent. However, as living growing organisms, it is recognised that trees can develop defects or health issues that may lead to failure that poses a risk to people and property in close proximity. Monmouthshire County Council recognise this potential risk and their responsibility to assess trees for safety and may from time to time carry out maintenance work to manage risk. Where tree management work is necessary, this is completed in the most sympathetic manner to maintain the health of the tree and its contribution as a natural asset, whilst ensuring that individual trees do not pose a physical risk to people or property.

It is important to state that any pruning work has the potential to provide the opportunity for pathogens to enter via wounds and usually promotes vigorous re-growth leading to the need for future cyclical management at significant and ongoing cost. Therefore, pruning will only be carried out where this is necessary for the reason given above.

Assessing Tree safety

To provide context to the risk posed by trees, approximately 'one death in 10 million people per year are from falling or fallen trees and branches. As far as non-fatal injuries in the UK are concerned, the number of accident and emergency cases (A&E) attributable to being struck by trees (about 55 a year) is exceedingly small compared with the roughly 2.9 million leisure-related A&E cases per year. Footballs (262,000), children's swings (10,900) and even wheelie bins (2,200) are involved in many more incidents.'¹

To ensure that this level of risk remains low and that Monmouthshire County Council meets its duties as a responsible land owner and local authority, the County Council carry out tree safety inspections. The tree safety assessment method employed by County Council is the nationally recognised Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA). Information about QTRA can be found at <https://www.qtra.co.uk/>.

Where capacity is limited, the County Council may also employ specialist arboricultural contractors to carry out tree safety inspections.

Monmouthshire County Council staff carry out small-scale tree works. Where larger or more specialist work is required, contractors may be employed to carry out the work on the Council's behalf. Where contractors are used for safety assessments or tree works, they meet the Council's procurement policies relating to qualifications and competencies, health and safety systems and insurance.

The County Council receive enquiries, reports and complaints about trees in both public and private ownership. If a report is received identifying a dangerous tree, the County Council will first establish on whose land the tree is growing. Monmouthshire County Council can only confirm if the Council owns the land or if a Tree Preservation Order has been made on a privately owned tree, beyond this, the County Council cannot advise on trees in private ownership. Where the tree is confirmed as owned by the County Council, it will arrange an inspection and follow the Inspectors recommendations for management work.

Where a privately owned tree is identified as posing a risk to public users of highways and open spaces or it is impeding access to a public right of way or highway, the County Council can serve a notice on the landowner to carry out tree work to make the tree safe or clear access.

Requests for Tree Safety Assessments

Where a resident is unhappy with the recommendations from the QTRA survey and requests a second tree assessment, this will be offered at a fee, refundable should an issue be identified.

Where this is agreed, an alternative assessor to the first will carry out the second QTRA.

Charges for tree safety assessments will be based on the work required with a minimum cost of £100

Where a resident requests a more detailed arboricultural tree assessment beyond that that has been recommended by the QTRA method, the County Council can arrange this via an independent external contractor for a fee (to be agreed in advance) based on the cost of the supplier and reasonable administration fee.

Where a resident wishes to engage a private contractor to assess a tree, MCC will only consider the recommendations where they are presented in writing and the assessment meets the criteria set out in Appendix 2.

Should a privately funded tree assessment identify a safety issue that requires addressing, the County Council will consider re-imburement of the cost of the assessment only where the assessment meets the criteria outlined in Appendix 2 and the relevant department responsible has agreed the cost of the privately funded assessment in advance.

Trees requiring special consideration

In addition to the broad value that the tree population provides and its contribution to the social, economic and environmental fabric of Monmouthshire, certain trees may be singled out for special consideration. Many trees outside of County Council ownership are already recognised for special status by the use of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO). However, TPOs are not applicable to Local Authority owned trees. Therefore, to ensure that such trees are given due consideration, this policy outlines below how the County Council assesses its own tree stock for special consideration.

There are many names given to trees that identify them as having special value, these include Champion Trees; Notable Trees; Ancient Trees and Veteran Trees. In addition, trees and woodlands have been planted to commemorate special events or as part of historic landscapes and, more recently, for landscape restoration and enhancement. The value of these trees is often irreplaceable due, for example, to its historical or cultural connections or the age of the tree and its associated flora and fauna. This is particularly relevant where trees provide homes for protected species such as bats. Where this is the case, additional laws may be applicable.

In future proactive tree assessments, Monmouthshire County Council will identify trees that should be recorded as special. These trees will be mapped and details kept identifying their special characteristics to ensure that they receive the appropriate protection. Importantly, this does not mean that issues relating to health and safety will be given less priority, rather, that more specialist management options will be considered to ensure that the tree/s can remain in place for the longest possible duration. For example, it may be appropriate to cable brace or prop a designated special tree where ordinarily, the approach may be felling and replanting.

The criteria for designating special trees will be agreed by June 2018 and implemented as part of future tree inspections.

Trees affecting Public Rights of Way

Monmouthshire County Council do not own trees adjacent to public rights of way (PROW) and, as such, are not in a position to manage them in any way. However, if a tree or branch falls across a PROW blocking or impeding access, the County Council does have duty to clear it. Reports of trees or branches across a PROW can be reported as outlined in the contact section of this policy.

Hedges

Hedges are a line of woody species that may include trees that form a boundary between two parcels of land.

Monmouthshire County Council own very few hedges. As part of the County's commitment to the biodiversity and to being Bee Friendly, the County Council endeavour to manage these in accordance with the Hedgerow Manifesto:

<https://beefriendlymonmouthshire.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/bfmhedgerow-manifesto.pdf>

The majority of enquiries to the County Council about hedges relate to roadside hedges. The majority of roadside hedges and hedgerow trees *are not owned* by Monmouthshire County Council but by the adjacent landowner. The landowner has the responsibility to maintain their hedges and prevent them from affecting the safe use of the Public Highway. Where roadside hedges are immediately next to the Public Highway (where there is no grass verge), the County Council carry out a 1m high flail cut to the base of the hedge to remove annual growth regardless of the ownership. Issues arising with roadside hedges that require additional work are the responsibility of the landowner. The County Council Highways Department will serve notices on landowners where hedges are deemed to affect the safety of the highway

Except where significant safety issues are present, by law, hedges can only be cut outside of bird nesting season. Therefore, safety cutting is carried out from late Summer/Autumn.

Complaints Procedure

Monmouth County Council will consider complaints relating to how it has managed an enquiry, report or complaint about a tree or group of trees or hedge in its ownership. Complaints will be dealt with in line with the Whole Authority Complaints and Compliments Policy.

<http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2016/11/Whole-Authority-Complaints-and-Compliments-Policy-Feb-2016-Final-version.pdf>

Contacting Monmouth County Council about trees

The council can accept tree enquiries and reports of dangerous trees via:

Call Centre: 01633 644644 or contact@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Report a fault link on the website: <http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/>

My Monmouthshire App: <http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/my-monmouthshire>

1 – *Common Sense Approach to Managing Tree Risk* (2011) National Tree Safety Group. ISBN 978-0-85538-840-9

Appendix 1: Frequently Asked Questions

The list below outlines the nature of the most frequent requests made to Monmouthshire County Council for tree pruning, all of which are non-essential and requests for pruning or felling for these reasons will not be considered.

It is important to reiterate that any pruning work has the potential to provide the opportunity for pathogens to enter via wounds and usually promotes vigorous re-growth leading to the need for future cyclical management at significant and ongoing cost. Therefore, pruning will only be carried out where this is necessary.

Will the Council prune trees for cosmetic reasons, appearance or height – This is unnecessary, costly and may adversely affect the long-term health and structural integrity of trees. Therefore, Monmouthshire County Council do not prune trees for these reasons.

Will the Council prune trees to improve light / reduce shading – There is no statutory or common law right to light applicable to trees in the UK. Therefore, Monmouthshire County Council will not carry out tree works to allow natural light or reduce shading in relation to domestic property. However, where two or more evergreen or semi-evergreen trees in a line have the potential to be considered as a hedge, then Part 8 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 may be relevant. Where this is the case, the County will carry out an assessment on these grounds.

Will the Council prune trees to improve the effectiveness of Solar Panels – The fact that there is no statutory or common law right to light applicable to trees in the UK also affects the use of solar panels. The presence of existing trees and the impact that they may have, both at present and in the future, should be taken into account when considering the installation of solar panels and the County Council will not prune trees for this reason.

Will the Council prune trees to improve the effectiveness of TV aerial or Satellite Dish - The purchase of a TV licence or subscription to a service provider such as Sky, provides the purchaser with the right to operate the equipment that receives any available signal. However, there is no legal right to TV / satellite signal in the UK. Monmouthshire County Council will not carry out tree works in relation to loss or disruption of signal. Guidance should be sought from the service provider with regard to negating issues relating to reception.

Will the Council prune trees that have grown and are now blocking my view - As there is no right to a scenic view un-obscured by trees in the UK. Monmouthshire County Council will not carry out tree works solely to improve views to and from domestic or commercial premises. This includes areas where views may have previously have existed. Monmouthshire County Council do reserve the right to remove its own trees where it can be established that this will be for the benefit of *public* landscape and visual amenity, for example, in respect to historic parks.

Will the Council prune trees as they are shedding of leaves, fruits and debris - Reasonable debris such as leaves, fruits, nuts, flowers, residues, minor deadwood, and naturally occurring by-products of the trees life processes must be expected where trees occur. Monmouthshire County Council will not carry out tree works in relation to negating such matters.

Will the Council prune trees to reduce the nuisance caused by birds and insects - The excretions of birds and insects, primarily honeydew associated with aphids, are beyond the control of Monmouthshire County Council and, therefore, no tree works will be undertaken to prevent problems of this nature.

Will the Council prune trees because branches are overhanging my boundary - Monmouthshire County Council has no duty to prune overhanging branches except where they are in direct or potential conflict with an adjacent built structure. The owner or occupier of adjacent land does have a common law right to cut back overhanging branches to their boundary line. However, it should also be noted that anyone carrying out tree pruning under this right owe a duty of care to the owners of trees and should take reasonable precaution when enacting this right in order to ensure that the long-term health and structural integrity of trees is not compromised. Anyone wishing to enact his or her common law right to cut back trees to their boundary where Monmouthshire County Council owns the trees is encouraged to liaise with the County Council. This is to ensure that works do not compromise the health of the tree or breach protective designations. Furthermore, there is no automatic right to carry out work on a tree from Council owned land. Where access is required, the County Council must be contacted to agree access prior to any work being carried out.

Any tree management work carried out under this right should adhere to the following:

- All work is carried out in accordance with BS 3998:2010 Tree Work – Recommendations
- Work is carried out at a time that does not conflict with leaf burst or leaf fall
- All work is carried out in accordance with relevant wildlife legislation
- Any contractor employed is suitably qualified and insured
- Disposal methods of all arising are agreed with the County Council in advance but must be in a safe and environmentally friendly manner

Can I pay for pruning to be done to council owned trees– As stated, Monmouthshire County Council values the countywide tree population and will manage them appropriately. Therefore, the Council will not consider requests by individuals to pay for tree removal or pruning of County Council owned trees as this would be unnecessary and would have a negative impact on the local environment and its community.

Appendix 2: Criteria for privately funded tree safety assessments

- The surveyor must be qualified to undertake a survey to a minimum standard of BS-3998:2010
- A reference number for each tree or group to be recorded on a tree survey plan
- Species listed by common name
- The approx. height of the tree/s
- The stem diameter of the trees measured in accordance the standard
- The branch spread at four cardinal points
- Existing height above ground level of the first significant branch and canopy
- Life stage (e.g. young, semi-mature, early mature, mature, over-mature)
- General observations, particularly of structural and/or physiological condition
- An estimate of remaining contribution in years (<10, 10+, 20+, 40+)
- The preliminary management recommendations
- Photographs showing the whole tree and any specific issues highlighted.

The Supplier must, or ensure that any Sub-contractors involved in the provision of the Services, hold and maintain the following insurance cover with a reputable insurance company: Professional Indemnity, Public Liability and Employer's Liability. In each case with the minimum level of indemnity set at five million pounds (£5,000,000).

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Future Generations Evaluation (includes Equalities and Sustainability Impact Assessments)

<p>Name of the Officer</p> <p>Mark Cleaver</p> <p>Phone no: E-mail: markcleaver@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>Tree policy</p>
<p>Name of Service</p> <p>Waste and Street Services</p>	<p>Date Future Generations Evaluation form completed</p> <p>23/03/18</p>

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NB. Key strategies and documents that may help you identify your contribution to the wellbeing goals and sustainable development principles include: Single Integrated Plan, Continuance Agreement, Improvement Plan, Local Development Plan, People Strategy, Asset Management Plan, Green Infrastructure SPG, Welsh Language Standards, etc

- Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below?** Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal.

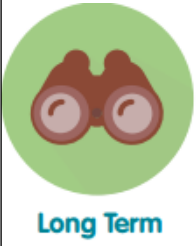
Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>Positive: Evidence shows that trees in the urban area contribute to the local economy through creating more resilient and pleasant places to live and work. The policy provides a</p>	<p>Officers from WSS, Countryside and Planning are working together to develop a green Infrastructure Strategy that takes into account issues such as tree planting to ensure succession in the tree population and to increase resilience in the face of the many treats posed to trees</p>





Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	<p>clear rationale for tree work to ensure that resources are not wasted on unnecessary felling or pruning.</p> <p>The policy also provides clarity so that members of the public understand how and why decisions are made and the contribution that trees make to the social, economic and environmental state of the County</p> <p>Negative:</p> <p>None</p>	<p>due to climate change and increasing tree diseases.</p> <p>An e-leaflet is being designed to promote trees in the County and to raise awareness of their value.</p>
<p>Page 4</p> <p>A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>Positive:</p> <p>Through ensuring that trees are managed for the right reasons in the right way, the County will support biodiversity and ecosystems</p> <p>Negative:</p> <p>The policy only deals with how we respond to issues raised by the public, and does not take a strategic approach to trees in general</p> <p>The Policy does not fully resolve how the county will deal with Special trees</p>	<p>See above</p> <p>The policy references the development of proactive assessment of the County Council’s ‘Special Tree’ resource and the development of a new Green Infrastructure Strategy that will take a positive and proactive approach to trees and other green Infrastructure/natural assets</p>
<p>A healthier Wales People’s physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>Positive:</p> <p>The policy sets out how the Council will ensure that it manages trees both to ensure that they remain safe and to ensure that the residents and visitors benefit from the positive ecosystem services that trees provide including improving well-being</p>	<p>The policy provides guidance on how to respond to concerns raised by trees and information that can be provided to residents to allay their concerns and clarity of how decisions have been made.</p> <p>The policy also gives voice for people who value trees and benefit from their presence, and who do not raise concerns until a tree has been cut down and it is too late.</p>

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	<p>Negative:</p> <p>A challenge of retaining trees in urban areas is that they will often be close to people, property and other built infrastructure. This be a source of complaint/concern. For example, leaves falling in gardens, concern that a trees near their property is unsafe.</p>	
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>Positive:</p> <p>Trees contribute to making urban and rural settings attractive places to live.</p> <p>The Policy set out how the Council will ensure that the trees do not pose a safety issue to the public</p> <p>Negative:</p> <p>None</p>	
<p>A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing</p>	<p>Positive:</p> <p>Trees play an important role in regulating the environment from absorbing pollution at a local level to storing carbon, contributing to global climate regulation. They are important for biodiversity and trees in the urban setting are particularly important for this.</p> <p>Negative:</p> <p>The policy does not address tree planting and ensuring that tree canopy cover is maintained or increased</p>	<p>As described above, the development of a Green Infrastructure Strategy will address tree planting and strategic planning for trees</p>
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language</p>	<p>Positive:</p> <p>Trees play an important role in regulating the</p>	<p>As described above, the development of a Green Infrastructure Strategy will address tree planting and</p>

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	<p>environment from absorbing pollution at a local level to storing carbon, contributing to global climate regulation. They are important for biodiversity and trees in the urban setting are particularly important for this.</p> <p>Negative:</p> <p>The policy does not address tree planting and ensuring that tree canopy cover is maintained or increased</p>	strategic planning for trees
<p>A more equal Wales</p> <p>People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances</p>	<p>Positive:</p> <p>The tree policy will ensure that all people in Monmouthshire will be treated equally with regard to the management of trees in their area.</p> <p>Negative: None</p>	

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

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p>The purpose of the Tree policy is to ensure that long term health of our tree stock and the benefits that they confer to society. The Policy is the start of a process towards a broader Green Infrastructure Strategy that will include the long term planning of our tree canopy and other natural assets that reflect the lifetime and management requirements of these assets</p>	

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p> <p>Collaboration</p>	<p>The Policy supports working across MCC departments and is the basis for working with housing associations who have taken on public open spaces as part of the social housing sector to ensure that a consistent and coherent approach to trees is achieved</p>	
 <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p> <p>Involvement</p>	<p>The Policy is targeted at frequent service requests to MCC and the Policy has been developed in consultation across MCC departments and has been scrutinized by the Strong Communities select committee to ensure that resident's views are represented.</p> <p>The Policy has also been sent to Monmouth Housing Association for comments</p>	
<p>Page 17</p>  <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p> <p>Prevention</p>	<p>The Policy provides clear guidelines as to the rationale for tree work on County Council owned trees and it primarily aimed at informing decision related to reactive service requests.</p>	<p>As the first step on a process to a new Green Infrastructure Policy, a process for a planned, proactive approach to planting and management of trees is being developed during 2018</p>
 <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p> <p>Integration</p>	<p>Trees play an important part in a resilient natural environment. Trees are also intrinsically linked to our social and economic wellbeing. However, evidence from NRW shows that our tree population is declining and this will have a negative impact on our wellbeing goals and potentially on issues such as mental and physical health, economic resilience and flooding. The tree policy recognizes these issues and is the first step at controlling this decline with the developing Green Infrastructure Policy set to identify actions to reverse this trend.</p>	

3. Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below. For more detailed information on the protected characteristics, the Equality Act 2010 and the Welsh Language Standards that apply to Monmouthshire Council please follow this link:<http://hub/corporatedocs/Equalities/Forms/AllItems.aspx> or contact Alan Burkitt on 01633 644010 or alanburkitt@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	<p>The Tree Policy provide clarity regarding the management of trees owned by the County Council and therefore should improve access to services as it provides transparency of decision making that will allow staff to be held to account.</p> <p>The process is based on the tree as a community asset with a potential lifespan equivalent of multiple generations. As the decision, making process is based on the tree and location and objective led, the status of the individual making the service request is not relevant other than as below.</p> <p>With regard to the protected characteristics, the QTRA process take account of the land use around the tree whether a school location with children or use by people with disabilities, for example, ensuring that tree management includes the impacts on the relevant group or individual.</p> <p>Access to MCC services in relation to enquiries about the County Council Trees is via the standard routes: Web site, App, phone, letter or contact center ensuring the greatest possible access.</p>		
Age			
Disability			
Gender reassignment			
Marriage or civil partnership			
Pregnancy or maternity			

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Race			
Religion or Belief			
Sex			
Sexual Orientation			
Welsh Language	As with all public facing documents, the policy will be translated into Welsh.		

4. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on important responsibilities of Corporate Parenting and safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect either of these responsibilities? For more information please see the guidance <http://hub/corporatedocs/Democratic%20Services/Safeguarding%20Guidance.docx> and for more on Monmouthshire's Corporate Parenting Strategy see <http://hub/corporatedocs/SitePages/Corporate%20Parenting%20Strategy.aspx>

19	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	The tree policy relates to Council owned trees and therefore takes place in public spaces. Individuals may request inspections and ask for trees to be looked at from the private garden. Where this takes place, staff follow the departmental safeguarding policy		
Corporate Parenting	As Above		

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

The policy has been informed by service request information and other tree related enquiries and comments from MCC staff involved in managing trees
 A sweep of other Local Authority tree policies was undertaken with four closely matching the issues highlighted being used as a benchmark.
 Further evidence has been taken from NRW's Urban Tree Canopy Study and from the National Tree Safety Group
 The policy has been reviewed by Strong Communities Select Committee for scrutiny and comments have been incorporated

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

This section should give the key issues arising from the evaluation which will be included in the Committee report template.

The Policy sets out a largely positive approach to improving service delivery. The evaluation identifies some areas where the policy does not meet the full aspirations of the Well-being goals and these short comings are well understood with work being carried out to address these, specifically planned inspections, identification of special trees and work towards a broader Green Infrastructure Strategy

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

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible	Progress
Update the planned inspection system and incorporate special tree identification	By October 2018	Mark Cleaver	
Development of new GI strategy	By November 2018	Colette Bosley	Funding for consultancy support secured from WG Tender agreed with CBA to carry our study and complete project

8. MONITORING: The impacts of this proposal will need to be monitored and reviewed. Please specify the date at which you will evaluate the impact, and where you will report the results of the review.

The impacts of this proposal will be evaluated on:	April 2019
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9. VERSION CONTROL: The Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stages of decision making, and then honed and refined throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and built in sustainable development wherever possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1	Cabinet		

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SUBJECT: Sale of County Hall, Cwmbran

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 11th April 2018

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE:

This report seeks approval for the disposal of the former County Hall site in Cwmbran to the preferred bidder.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1** That Cabinet accept the “subject to contract” offer for the purchase of Monmouthshire County Councils 50% share of the freehold interest in the former County Hall Site to the preferred bidder.
- 2.2** That the negotiation of the final contract be delegated to the Chief Officer for Resources in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Resources.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1** The site is jointly owned by Monmouthshire Council and Torfaen County Council and a Project board was established to manage the disposal of the surplus site. Monmouthshire took the lead on the demolition of the buildings and Torfaen Estates Department has handled the marketing of the site on behalf of the two councils.
- 3.2** There have been two failed attempts to sell the site. The first sale was agreed but subsequently failed as attempts were made to reduce the price to a level that was unacceptable. The second sale was agreed to a bidder that was unable to complete the sale due to financial difficulties.
- 3.3** The Property was placed back on the market in March 2017 and following a two month marketing period six offers were received.
- 3.4** Three bidders were shortlisted and invited to carry out further due diligence on the site which would allow their offer to be further refined. Bidders were allowed access to the site to undertake technical site investigations.
- 3.5** Following a reasonable period the three parties were asked for their “best and final offers”. The preferred bidder was selected from this process following evaluation of the bids by Torfaen Estates department.

- 3.6 The preferred bidder was then allowed a period of time to work with the planners in order to refine the site design and make allowances for the layout including the siting of the social housing and the exclusion zone around the ancient woodland area. The bidder also further refined the drainage strategies.
- 3.7 The preferred bidders refined the “abnormal costs” which saw them increase significantly most notably following issues with their drainage strategy as a result of consultation with the highways authority and clarification of the section 106 contributions.
- 3.8 Following this work a figure was arrived at which discounted the abnormal costs from the previous offer. Unfortunately this figure was below the price expectations which the councils had for the site. Further negotiations were undertaken with the preferred bidder to bring the land value in line with Council expectations and as a result the offer has been revised to a level that both Councils can agree.
- 3.9 The disposal process was considered by Economy and Development select committee who were asked to recommend the disposal to cabinet.

4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 4.1 Withdraw the site from the market – This would result in the site being land banked for a period of time to allow the market conditions to improve, particularly given its proximity to the new hospital facility. Given the uncertainties around timescales and the uplift in value that had been negotiated this option was discounted.
- 4.2 Withdraw from the preferred bidder and re-market the site – Given that the site had already been presented to the market on two separate occasions, it was considered that this was unlikely to yield any significant uplift in value and potentially blight the site in the short term. In addition Torfaen LPA are intending to introduce CIL which has the potential to reduce the receipt further.
- 4.3 Proceed with the disposal of the site to the preferred bidder – given that the land value has now been negotiated to a level that is comparable to other local transactions, this was determined to be the preferred option as it would enable both councils to realise a capital receipt and enable the provision of housing within the Torfaen area.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 5.1 See appendix 1

6. REASONS:

- 6.1 The site is a key site within Torfaen’s LDP and has been surplus since the building was demolished in 2013 following the vacation from the building in March 2012.

6.2 The capital receipt from the sale is earmarked to the Council's 21st century school programme. The offer from the preferred bidder has been made subject to planning consent, however they are will not commence this process until such time both Councils have agreed to accept the offer.

6.3 It is intended that an overage clause will be included within the documentation to safeguard any subsequent uplift in value as a result of increasing unit numbers.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

7.1 The sale of the asset will generate a gross capital receipt of £2,900,000, of which Monmouthshire will receive 50% (£1,450,000) following the deduction of costs which will be realised at the point of contractual completion following the grant of planning consent.

7.2 The previous sale that was negotiated was predicted to yield MCC £1,500,000 for the 50% share and that figure is contained within the MTFP, it was originally intended to be realised in 17/18 but because of the previous aborted sales and recent negotiations it will be now be forecast in 18/19 if Cabinet approve the report at a value of 50,000 less than is contained within the MTFP.

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

8.1 No impact, evaluation attached

9. CONSULTEES:

Economy and Development Select Committee
Head of Commercial and Integrated Landlord Services
Head of Operations
Cabinet Member for Resources
Assistant Head of Finance

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

10.1 Economy and Development Select Committee Minutes 5th January 2016 – [Click Here](#)

10.2 Economy and Development Select Committee Minutes 15th March 2018 – [Click Here](#)

11. AUTHOR:

Ben Winstanley MRICS
Estates Manager

12. CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: 01633 644965

E-mail: benwinstanley@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Evaluation Criteria – Cabinet, Individual Cabinet Member Decisions & Council

Title of Report:	Disposal of County Hall Cwmbran Asset
Date decision was made:	11th April 2018
Report Author:	Ben Winstanley

What will happen as a result of this decision being approved by Cabinet or Council?

Disposal of the former County Hall asset.

12 month appraisal

Was the desired outcome achieved? What has changed as a result of the decision? Have things improved overall as a result of the decision being taken?

What benchmarks and/or criteria will you use to determine whether the decision has been successfully implemented?

The site has been sold, Capital Receipt realised.

12 month appraisal

Paint a picture of what has happened since the decision was implemented. Give an overview of how you fared against the criteria. What worked well, what didn't work well. The reasons why you might not have achieved the desired level of outcome. Detail the positive outcomes as a direct result of the decision. If something didn't work, why didn't it work and how has that effected implementation.

What is the estimate cost of implementing this decision or, if the decision is designed to save money, what is the proposed saving that the decision will achieve?

It will realise a capital receipt of £1,450,000 less disposal costs.

12 month appraisal

Give an overview of whether the decision was implemented within the budget set out in the report or whether the desired amount of savings was realised. If not, give a brief overview of the reasons why and what the actual costs/savings were.

Any other comments



<p>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation</p> <p>Ben Winstanley</p> <p>Phone no: 01633 644965</p> <p>E-mail: benwinstanley@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>To dispose of the former County Hall in Cwmbran.</p>
<p>Name of Service</p> <p>Estates</p>	<p>Date Future Generations Evaluation:</p> <p>form completed</p>





NB. Key strategies and documents that may help you identify your contribution to the wellbeing goals and sustainable development principles include: Single Integrated Plan, Continuance Agreement, Improvement Plan, Local Development Plan, People Strategy, Asset Management Plan, Green Infrastructure SPG, Welsh Language Standards, etc


1. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal.

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>The sale will enable the development of housing including Social Housing in the area.</p>	
<p>A resilient Wales</p>		

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)		
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	The development provides open space for recreation.	
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	The development will provide social housing.	
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	N/A	
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	N/A	
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	N/A	

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

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Long Term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p>The sale will generate a capital receipt that is currently earmarked for investment in the 21st Century Schools program.</p>	
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>The site has been disposed of in collaboration with Torfaen Council.</p>	
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>The planning process will engage with interested stakeholders.</p>	
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>None to note</p>	

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	None to note	

3. **Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics?** Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below. For more detailed information on the protected characteristics, the Equality Act 2010 and the Welsh Language Standards that apply to Monmouthshire Council please follow this link: <http://hub/corporatedocs/Equalities/Forms/AllItems.aspx> or contact Alan Burkitt on 01633 644010 or alanburkitt@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	None to note		
Disability	None		
Gender reassignment	None		
Marriage or civil partnership	<i>None</i>		

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Pregnancy or maternity	<i>None</i>		
Race	<i>None</i>		
Religion or Belief	<i>None</i>		
Sex	<i>None</i>		
Sexual Orientation	<i>None</i>		
Welsh Language	<i>None</i>		

4. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on important responsibilities of Corporate Parenting and safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect either of these responsibilities? For more information please see the guidance <http://hub/corporatedocs/Democratic%20Services/Safeguarding%20Guidance.docx> and for more on Monmouthshire's Corporate Parenting Strategy see <http://hub/corporatedocs/SitePages/Corporate%20Parenting%20Strategy.aspx>

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	<i>None</i>		
Corporate Parenting	<i>None</i>		

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

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- A marketing exercise.
- Technical reports.
- Other transactional data within the area.

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

None

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

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible	Progress

8. MONITORING: The impacts of this proposal will need to be monitored and reviewed. Please specify the date at which you will evaluate the impact, and where you will report the results of the review.

The impacts of this proposal will be evaluated on:	
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VERSION CONTROL: The Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stages of decision making, and then honed and refined throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and built in sustainable development wherever possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1	Economy and Development Select Committee	15/03/2018	None
2	Cabinet	11 th April 2018	

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SUBJECT: DRAFT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE STRATEGY (VAWDASV)

MEETING: CABINET

DATE: 29TH MARCH 2018

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

NON-PUBLICATION

1. PURPOSE:

1.0 To present the draft Gwent Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Strategy to Cabinet prior to adoption across Gwent.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That Cabinet consider and agree to adopt the draft Gwent VAWDASV Strategy (Appendix A) as part of the Gwent regional collaboration in delivering the VAWDASV Act (2015).

2.1 That Cabinet agree to adopt the draft Strategy on the basis that the final copy will include recommendations from across the 4 other Local Authority scrutiny committees and Gwent partner scrutiny boards. The draft Strategy was taken to Monmouthshire County Council's Strong Communities Select committee on the 29th March, whereby the following recommendations were made:

- Inclusion of the national Live Fear Free helpline number and website/social media information
- That project specific information and location details be included for those readers who may not be familiar with the landscape

The Strong Communities Select committee welcomed the strategy and felt it was a positive way forward.

3. BACKGROUND:

3.1 The Gwent VAWDASV Strategy is required under the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 which calls for the public sector in Wales to work together in a consistent and cohesive way to improve the outcomes for individuals and their families subjected to VAWDASV.

3.2 The Gwent Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Board has been established to meet the requirements of the Act. The public and third sector partners that make up the Gwent board are: the five local authorities in Gwent, Gwent Police, and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Welsh Ambulance Service, Probation Services, Registered Social Landlords,

Supporting People Regional Collaborative Committee, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Gwent Adult and Children Safeguarding Boards, VAWDASV specialist sector partners and voluntary sector organisations.

3.3 The Gwent VAWDASV Strategy contributes to the National Strategy on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence – 2016 – 2021. The Gwent VAWDASV Strategy has been prepared by the Gwent VAWDASV Partnership Board of which the Monmouthshire County Council is a member

4. STRATEGY AIMS

4.1 The main aims of the Act are to:

- Improve the public sector's response to Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Give public authorities (Councils and Health Boards) a strategic focus on the issue
- Ensure the consistent provision of preventative, protective and supportive services

4.2 The draft Strategy (included in Appendix A) addresses the following areas:

- The Gwent VAWDASV Partnership Board and its Vision
- Current Provision across the region
- Needs assessment data and information
- Survivors as experts
- Engagement findings
- How we will act together to tackle VAWDASV: Our Strategic Priorities
- How we will monitor our progress: Our Strategic Delivery Plan

5. RECCOMENDATIONS

5.1 Cabinet are asked agree and adopt the draft strategy as the Gwent VAWDASV Strategy which will be delivered by all Gwent partners via the regional VAWDASV Partnership Board, under the governance of individual PSB's.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct financial or personal implications associated with this report.

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

7.1 The proposed Gwent VAWDASV Strategy contributes to the Wellbeing Goals set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Act is relevant to the prevention of Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence and support of survivors. The Act puts in place a "sustainable development principle" which requires public bodies to follow five ways of working to ensure they work collaboratively with people and communities, avoid repeating past mistakes and to tackle some of the long term challenges. The five ways of working in the context of VAWDASV are:

- Prevention: Understanding and preventing the occurrence of VAWDASV and preventing poor outcomes for victims, survivors and their families.
- Integration: Integrating activity across the statutory and third sector and ensuring the coordination of programmes of work such that they achieve the maximum benefit.
- Collaboration: Collaborating through the Gwent VAWDASV Partnership Board, the Strategic Delivery Group and Sub-groups and between the partner bodies.
- Involvement: Listening to victims and survivors to understand their experiences of the support offered to them to continually review and make improvements in responses. Involving all agencies that are able to make an impact on VAWDASV.
- Long Term: Considering the long term outcomes for victims, survivors and their families and in particular any children and young people exposed to VAWDASV.

7.2 The Strategy will have a positive impact across all the protected characteristics. The purpose of this strategy is to address inequalities inherent in all forms of Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. There are no identified inequality implications either intended or unintended as a result of this strategy. The strategy has been made available in Welsh throughout consultation. All required partner organisations will be responsible for their obligations under the Welsh Language Measure. Through on-going monitoring, evaluation and review the VAWDASV Partnership board will ensure issues around equality are consistently raised and delivery of the strategy adapted.

8. **CONSULTEES:**

8.1 The Strategy was promoted widely across the region as part of the statutory period of public and partner consultation.

8.2 The Strategy was also taken to Monmouthshire County Council Strong Communities Select on 29th March for consideration and for recommendations to be made to the strategy.

9. **BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

National Strategy on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence – 2016 – 2021

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VAWDASV

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
Trais Yn Erbyn Menywod, Cham-drin Domestig a Thrais Rhywiol

**Gwent Regional Violence Against
Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual
Violence Strategy 2017-2022**

DRYD

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1. FOREWORD

Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence are fundamental breaches of human rights, a consequence of the inequality between victims and perpetrators, where power and control is used in a way that damages lives, futures and the futures of people around those subjected to the actions of perpetrators. Every year lives are damaged needlessly in Wales, all forms of violence and abuse are unacceptable. Anyone who experiences violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence deserves an effective and timely response from all public services.

The enactment of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 (VAWDASV) requires the public sector in Wales to work together in a consistent and cohesive way to improve the outcomes for individuals and their families subjected to VAWDASV. The Act sits alongside the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 which requires public bodies to think about what actions and activities are required to improve the well-being of current and future generations. Collaboration, preventative activity, the involvement of individuals, and long-term incremental improvements in the services delivered are threaded throughout the legislative landscape.

The Gwent Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Board (The Partnership Board) is pleased to publish the region's first joint strategy to tackle VAWDASV by supporting victims and survivors, tackling perpetrators, ensuring professionals have the tools and knowledge to act, increasing awareness of VAWDASV and the support available, and helping children and young people to understand inequality in relationships and that abusive behaviour is always wrong.

This strategy contributes to the national strategy (National Strategy on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence – 2016 – 2021)¹ and will reflect the six objectives of the national strategy. The Partnership Board have determined that they will adopt the objectives of the national strategy as their overarching Strategic Priorities. It sets out to provide the leadership and direction that will promote consistency and best practice for the way in which violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence is prioritised and tackled across the region.

The South East Wales region, ostensibly considered as Gwent, comprises of five local authority areas: Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Newport, Torfaen and Monmouthshire. It benefits from having the same geographical footprint as Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and Gwent Police.

Gwent has a history of strong partnership working and as the first pilot region in Wales for strategic coordination of VAWDASV services there is significant work taking place under the new legislative framework. With its 'pathfinder' status Gwent has been given many opportunities for pioneering new ways of working and we are proud to be developing this regional strategy ahead of other areas and, in so doing, helping to inform national guidance.

¹ <http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/commsafety/161104-national-strategy-en.pdf>

The Partnership Board members are the core partners required to deliver a cohesive response to VAWDASV². Our aim is to work together in partnership to ensure the most efficient and effective response to preventing serious harm caused by such types of abuse.

People do not experience violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence in a vacuum and neither can services, nor wider society, tackle such issues in isolation. With a strong focus on preventative, protective and supportive mechanisms we will aim to work with survivors to ensure the meaningful delivery of this strategic plan. Strong leadership and accountability is required by us to ensure that the priorities identified are translated into actions that can make a real difference to the well-being and safety of people living in Gwent, both now and in the future.

The Partnership Board aims to lead the way in Wales and our collective vision is for survivors, their children and wider family to know how and where to get the help that they need, to provide that help, and to work towards a society in which no form of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence is tolerated.

Gwent Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Board

2. INTRODUCTION: POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

² The Partnership Board includes; the five local authorities, Gwent Police, and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Wales Ambulance Service Trust, Probation Services, Registered Social Landlords, Supporting People Regional Collaborative Committee, Fire and Rescue Service, Gwent Adult and Children Safeguarding Boards, VAWDASV specialist sector partners and voluntary sector organisations.

In Wales, the UK and internationally, violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence is considered to be a violation of human rights and a cause and consequence of inequality between women and men. It happens to women because they are women, and women are disproportionately impacted by certain forms of violence.

Whilst it is important that this Strategy acknowledges and communicates the disproportionate experience of women and girls this does not, in any way, negate violence and abuse directed towards men and boys, or violence and abuse perpetrated by women. This Strategy recognises that anyone (women, men, children and young people) can experience and be affected by domestic abuse, rape and sexual assault, sexual abuse, forced marriage, child sexual abuse, stalking and harassment, sexual harassment and exploitation. This can happen in any relationship regardless of sex, age, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disability, religion or belief, income, geography or lifestyle. A significant number of those who experience VAWDASV will have one or more 'protected characteristics', under the Equality Act 2010³ and will face additional vulnerabilities and increased barriers to support. This Strategy aims to tackle all forms of VAWDASV.

At a global, European and national level legislation and policy acknowledges that violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence operates as a means of social control that maintains unequal power relations between women and men and reinforces women's subordinate status. It is explicitly linked to systematic discrimination against women and girls. Failing to make the connections between the different forms of violence women and girl's experience, and how this is explicitly linked to the unequal position of women and girls in society, can hinder the effectiveness of interventions and prevention work. It is also important to recognise that different groups of women experience multiple inequalities which can intersect in ways that lead to further marginalisation.

Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence includes the following crime types:

- Sexual violence
- Domestic abuse
- Sexual harassment and stalking
- Trafficking and/or sexual exploitation
- Female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Forced marriage

³ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>

- So-called 'honour' based violence (HBV) and crimes

Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence has far reaching consequences for families, children, communities and society. The direct harm to the health and well-being of victims is clear, and at its most severe can, and does, result in death. However impacts are wide-ranging not just on health and wellbeing but include human rights, poverty, unemployment, homelessness and the economy. It is also important to note that this affects not only adults and children exposed to and who experience abuse in the home or in intimate or family relationships but wider family members also; the experience of abuse and violence can often also be perpetrated in public spaces impacting the wider community.

The International Context

This Strategy is intended to align with the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993), most recently enshrined within the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (2015), and the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence- The Istanbul Convention (2014).

The UN Declaration defines violence against women as:

- Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological, or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.
- This encompasses, but is not limited to:
 - (a) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation;
 - (b) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution;
 - (c) Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs.

Article 4 of the Istanbul Convention covers:

Fundamental rights, equality and non-discrimination

- 1 Parties shall take the necessary legislative measures and other actions to promote and protect the right for everyone, particularly women, to live free from violence in both the public and the private sphere.
- 2 Parties condemn all forms of discrimination against women and take, without delay, the necessary legislative and other measures to prevent it, in particular by:
 - embodying in their national constitutions or other appropriate legislation the principle of equality between women and men and ensuring the practical realisation of this principle;
 - prohibiting discrimination against women, including through the use of sanctions, where appropriate;
 - abolishing laws and practices which discriminate against women.
- 3 The implementation of the provisions of this Convention by the Parties, in particular measures to protect the rights of victims, shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, gender, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, state of health, disability, marital status, migrant or refugee status, or other status.
- 4 Special measures that are necessary to prevent and protect women from gender-based violence shall not be considered discrimination under the terms of this Convention.

The Welsh Context

The Welsh policy and legislative landscape has prioritised VAWDASV for a number of years and the objectives and aims of this Strategy encompass these responsibilities as they are placed on those working in the VAWDASV sector in the region.

In 2010, the Wales Right to be Safe Strategy set out an integrated, cross government programme of action to tackle all forms of violence against women and children. This was refreshed in November 2016 and published as the Welsh Government's [National Strategy on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, 2016 - 2021](#).⁴ Itself a requirement of the [Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

⁴ <http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/commsafety/161104-national-strategy-en.pdf> - pages 5 -8.
<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm>
<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/>
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/home?desktop=true>

This Regional Strategy will also support the delivery of a number of key priorities in the Welsh Government "[Taking Wales Forward](#)" five year plan, as well as the following relevant legislation: [The Well-Being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) sets out seven wellbeing goals relevant to the prevention of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence and support of survivors. The Act puts in place a "sustainable development principle" which requires public bodies to follow five ways of working to ensure they work collaboratively with people and communities, avoid repeating past mistakes and to tackle some of the long term challenges being faced. The five ways of working in the context of VAWDASV are:

- **Prevention:** Understanding and preventing the occurrence of VAWDASV and preventing poor outcomes for victims, survivors and their families.
- **Integration:** Integrating activity across the statutory and third sector and ensuring the coordination of programmes of work such that they achieve the maximum benefit.
- **Collaboration:** Collaborating through the Gwent VAWDASV Partnership Board, the Strategic Delivery Group and Sub-groups and between the partner bodies.
- **Involvement:** Listening to victims and survivors to understand their experiences of the support offered to them to continually review and make improvements in responses. Involving all agencies that are able to make an impact on VAWDASV.
- **Long Term:** Considering the long term outcomes for victims, survivors and their families and in particular any children and young people exposed to VAWDASV.

[The Social Services and Well-being \(Wales\) Act 2014](#) provides a legal framework for improving the well-being of people (adults and children) who need care and support, carers who need support, and for transforming social services in Wales. [The Population Needs Assessment](#)⁵ is a Gwent level area assessment that sets out seven core themes and identifies violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence as one of these. Close working will be established between the Greater Gwent Health, Social Care and Well-Being Partnership Board, the Gwent Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Board and the five Public Services Boards to align future work plans around early intervention and preventative services.

[The Housing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#) - enshrines in legislation the role of the local authority in preventing and alleviating homelessness.

The Welsh Government guidance which supports the practical delivery of the legislation advises local authorities and their partners that:

⁵ Social Services and Well-being Act Population Needs Assessment: Gwent Region Report DRAFT Nov 2016: page 54

“Local authorities should be led by the wishes and feelings of the victim of domestic abuse when determining accommodation arrangements. The first option, where appropriate, should be for the perpetrator to be removed from the property to enable the victim to remain in their home. The Local Authority must also consider improving the security of the applicant’s home to enable them to continue living there safely. Alternatively, the Local Authority must assist the victim in sourcing alternative accommodation, whether on a permanent or temporary basis”.⁶

[The Renting Homes \(Wales\) Act 2016](#) - sets out a new approach to joint contracts which will help survivors by enabling perpetrators to be targeted for eviction.

The [Wales Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACE\) study](#)⁷ examined the exposure in childhood to a range of ACE’s and presented research on the developmental well-being of children growing up in such households. Domestic abuse, emotional, physical and sexual abuse, parental separation, as well as parental incarceration, are all indicators that affect childhood development due to the stressors they cause. In addition those exposed to four or more ACE’s are more likely to adopt health harming behaviour in later life and are more likely to be future victims or perpetrators of crime and violence.

The UK Context

For non-devolved services the Strategy is supported by the Home Office Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Cross Departmental Strategy 2016-2020

The Gwent VAWDASV Partnership Board members include Gwent Police, the Office of the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner, Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Services and the Wales Community Rehabilitation Company. These arrangements build on the strong long-standing partnerships across the region between the devolved and non-devolved sector and reflect other strategic regional arrangements in the Public Services Boards, the Regional Transformation Board and Safeguarding Boards.

Associated legislation that supports delivery at a UK level includes:

- [Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003](#) (“the 2003 Act”) introduces FGM Protection Orders and an FGM mandatory reporting duty inserted into the 2003 Act by the Serious Crime Act 2015.
- [Crime and Security Act 2010](#) – which introduces Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) and the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS).
- [Welfare Reform Act 2012](#) – A paradigm change to the current social security system which will change the way welfare benefits are claimed and paid throughout the UK.
- [Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014](#) - which introduces Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPOs) and Sexual Risk Orders (SROs).
- [The Modern Slavery Act 2015](#) - Considers slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking, includes provision for the protection of victims.

⁶ Welsh Government 2016. Code of Guidance for local authorities on the allocation of housing and homelessness

⁷ Public Health Wales (2015) Wales Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study, PHW

- [Welfare Reform Act 2012](#) – A paradigm change to the current social security system which will change the way welfare benefits are claimed and paid throughout the UK.

Guidance that informs the delivery of this Strategy includes:

- The 2014 [National Institute for Clinical Excellence \(NICE\) guidelines: “Domestic violence and abuse: how health services, social care and the organisations they work with can respond effectively”](#). This guidance, which applies across England and Wales, highlights that domestic abuse is a complex issue requiring sensitive handling collaboratively with health and social care professionals.
- [FGM statutory guidance](#) ⁸ issued under section 5C(1) of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 and extends to England and Wales and includes updated procedural information.
- Updated statutory guidance on conducting [Domestic Homicide Reviews](#) (DHR). This considers the changing landscape and makes reference to new tools that have been implemented, such as the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme and Domestic Violence Protection Orders, as well as the new coercive and controlling offence introduced in the Serious Crime Act 2015. This statutory guidance is accompanied by key findings from analysis undertaken by Home Office researchers on a sample of 40 DHRs from across England and Wales completed between 2013 and 2016.⁹
- Updated [Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme guidance](#) – often referred to as “Clare’s Law” – which sets out procedures that could be used by the police to disclose information about an individual’s previous violent and abusive offending behaviour, where this may help protect their partner, or ex-partner, from violence or abuse.
- The 2016 [England and Wales National Statement of Expectations](#), sets out what local commissioners (Police and Crime Commissioners, Local Authorities or health commissioners) need to put in place to ensure their response to violence against women and girls is collaborative, robust and effective.

⁸https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/573782/FGM_Mandatory_Reporting_-_procedural_information_nov16_FINAL.pdf

⁹<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-homicide-review-lessonslearned>

3. THE GWENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE PARTNERSHIP BOARD AND ITS VISION

Board Membership

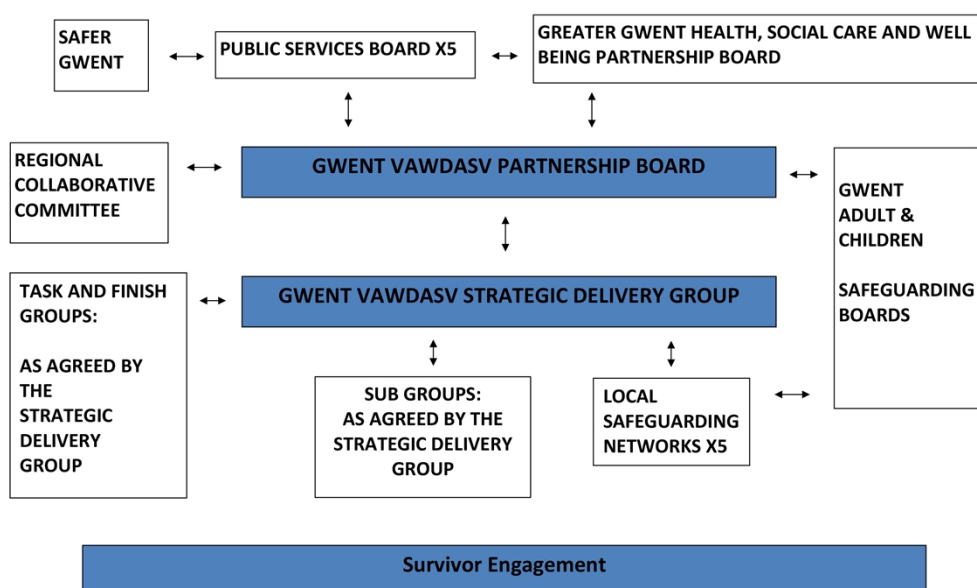
The Partnership Board has been established to provide a governance structure to develop, approve and monitor VAWDASV regional working. A key role of the Board is the development of the Strategy which is a statutory requirement placed on Local Authorities and Local Health Boards under Section 5 the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.

In recognition that effective responses to VAWDASV must, by necessity, involve the full range of partners including devolved and non-devolved organisations, third sector specialist organisations, survivors and those impacted by forms of VAWDASV, the membership of the Board reflects the widest possible perspective and range of information. Membership also includes representatives able to provide national context and oversight. A full list of Board Membership is available on request from Vawdasv.Gwent@newport.gov.uk.

Board membership is replicated as required across the Strategic Delivery Group which through its Sub Groups and Task Groups will work towards achieving the Strategic Priorities of the Board.

Ensuring regular victim/survivor/service-user engagement and input into all work streams not just participation at the Board level will be an essential requirement for informing the Partnership Board on the effectiveness of its work.

Board Structure



The Regional Context

The regional approach to addressing domestic abuse was developed in Gwent by the Welsh Government funded Gwent Domestic Abuse Pathfinder Project (Puckett 2014) which made recommendations around the need for 'a coherent regional strategic framework regarding accountability, need, service provision, resource allocation, training, performance and outcomes'.

The work now underway in Gwent, including that of the Gwent Domestic Abuse Pathfinder Project, has built upon strongly established regional partnerships. The Pan-Gwent Domestic Abuse Forum provided the baseline for where we are now and enabled such collaboration as the Welsh Domestic Abuse Modernisation Project¹⁰

The Gwent Regional Team was established in April 2015 to formalise regional collaboration; to bring together and further develop structures to implement new legislative requirements under the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse And Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.

Early development of the regional model was independently evaluated by Cordis Bright 2015¹¹ and based on a set of recommendations that has set the direction for continued regional working.

During this time Gwent has been an early adopter site for 'Ask and Act' targeted enquiry, developing policy and training ahead of national roll out. It is also in this role as a pathfinder region that Gwent develops its regional strategy ahead of national guidance.

The purpose of this strategy is to set out the regional integrated approach to stop violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence, to improve the health and well-being of individuals and families affected by abuse and hold to account those who perpetrate such abuse. It aims to build on existing successful partnerships and collaborative working opportunities in the region, and to further increase public awareness and assist local communities, individuals, family members and agencies to deliver a robust response to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence prevention across Gwent. The Partnership Board's ultimate goal is to move towards a society where everybody is able to live violence, abuse and fear free.

¹⁰ Welsh Domestic Abuse Modernisation Project: Report from the Gwent Pilot Group, February 2012

¹¹ South East Wales VAWDASV Board: Evaluation of the regional VAWDASV model: April 2016. Cordis Bright

It is intended that this Gwent strategic framework, and the associated actions and activities detailed within the accompanying delivery plan, will support the Welsh Government and UK Government legislative, strategic and delivery framework to achieve the prevention of violence and abuse, the protection of victims and the support of all those affected. The pillars of these devolved and non-devolved strategies have informed this Strategy. Over the next five years, services and commissioners in Gwent will support a transformation in service delivery and a step change in action to achieve a sustainable reduction in violence and abuse, to help survivors of abuse rebuild their lives and to prevent such abuse from happening in the first place.

Our aim for this strategy is to also influence, help shape and contribute to meeting key regional policy priorities. Accordingly, there exists a formal line of reporting for this Strategy and delivery plan from the Partnership Board to demonstrate the role that this strategy has in contributing to a number of key regional priorities for:

- The five Public Services Boards
- The SEW Children's Safeguarding Board
- The Gwent Adult Safeguarding Boards
- The Supporting People Regional Collaborative Committee
- Greater Gwent Health, Social Care and Well-Being Partnership Board
- Safer Gwent
- Gwent Substance Misuse Area Planning Board
- Gwent Criminal Justice Board

This Strategy mirrors the national strategy in organising the work that needs to be done along three key strands:

- ❖ **Prevention**
- ❖ **Protection**
- ❖ **Support**

In developing the Strategy the Partnership Board has considered current service provision, integrated the requirements of the Act and Welsh Government Policy, the result of the needs assessment of the area, a strategic analysis of needs, and involved victims and survivors. The associated Strategic Delivery Plan follows the six strategic aims of the National Delivery Plan

and sets them in a regional context for the area. In so doing the key objectives and activities required to enhance current service provision over the lifetime of the Strategy are captured.

The Partnership Board recognises, and is committed to, regional working with a view to increased consistency of provision, shared best practice including information sharing, the development of common commissioning principles, and harnessing the contributions of all partners in the strategic vision.

Draft

4. CURRENT PROVISION IN THE REGION

Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence services rest within the statutory and specialist sector. Statutory duties are organised through criminal justice services, local authority social services, housing services and local health board provision. The role of the specialist sector enhances statutory delivery bringing expertise and knowledge that is not possible in the statutory sector and an ability to effectively engage with victims and survivors.

Commissioned, and grant funded services, have historically evolved at the individual geographical level of the five constituent authorities in the region. Notably those services commissioned through the management of Welsh Government anti-poverty programme funding by local authorities. More recently regionalised planning of the Supporting People Programme, through the Regional Collaborative Committee and the VAWDASV fund has determined regionalised arrangements, including the Regional VAWDASV Team and commissioned homelessness prevention services. Other Welsh Government programme funding i.e. Flying Start, Families First, and the former Communities First funding has been managed at local authority geographies. Due to the prevalence of VAWDASV in the casework of social services departments, core local authority funding has also been used to commission specialist services from the third sector to enhance statutory provision. There is, however, no local authority funding or commissioning of sexual violence services. Devolved and non-devolved funding models have presented an immediate risk to the sustainability of Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) as identified in the needs assessment that underpins this strategy.

The Greater Gwent Health Social Care and Well-being Partnership Board is the statutory regional board under the Social Services and Well-being Act and has identified VAWDASV as a key strand in its Area Plan (under development).

Specialist Sector

There are currently 10 specialist sector providers in the region delivering a range of services that address violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. As the specialist sector has historically been operating on smaller geographies some services operate in smaller areas than the whole region, others more latterly provide services across the area.

1. Barnardos
2. BAWSO
3. Cyfannol Womens Aid
4. Hafan Cymru
5. Llamau
6. New Pathways
7. Newport Women's Aid

8. Phoenix Domestic Abuse Services
9. Victim Support/Connect Gwent
10. SEWREC

The specialist sector has developed in response to need over many years and while services may serve similar client groups the mechanisms and specialisms differ in each provider. In addition to the local sector provision, national services also exist. A current directory of services available in the region is held on the Gwent Adult Safeguarding Board website at:

http://www.gwasb.org.uk/fileadmin/documents/Handout_7_-_Gwent_VAWDASV_services_directory_3_amended_16.12.16_HG.pdf

The VAWDASV needs assessment and strategic analysis includes further information on specialist services.

There are multi-agency centres in each of the five local authorities that have been supported by Welsh Government capital funding. Historically this was managed by local authority Community Safety Partnerships and hence there is a 'centre', often termed a 'one-stop shop', in each local authority that provides a focus for support services to operate out of, and a centre for victims, survivors and their families to receive services and programmes of support from the specialist sector. The benefits of multi-agency centres is that they are close to populations and therefore will continue to be important in the delivery of the Strategy going forward. Multi-agency centres across the region are either owned and provided by the local authority or the specialist sector.

Other grant funding includes that which is devolved through the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Home Office. Aligned to criminal justice provision, the support for victims and the reduction in attrition of witness evidence in order to increase the conviction of perpetrators, the funding supports specialist Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVA) and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) positions. The Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner (along with Welsh Government) has funded a regionalised approach to IDVA provision including support for posts across Gwent and a regional IDVA manager located within the Regional VAWDASV Team.

Specialist criminal justice support for victim/witnesses through ISVA and IDVA positions also exist within specialist sector arrangements, including the local Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), located in Risca.

Public Sector

Outside of the specialist sector public services across Gwent provide support and intervention as part of universal services.

Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) operate in each of the five local authority areas. Chaired by Gwent Police Detective Inspectors, with a fortnightly frequency of

meetings, the MARACs discuss high risk cases referred from all partners to establish what further support is needed and to coordinate that support through the MARAC.

Domestic Abuse Conference Calls (DACCs) are an early prevention mechanism with the aim of identifying interventions for victims who come to the attention of Gwent Police prior to MARAC threshold levels. The call has been replaced by a Microsoft Sharepoint package that currently delivers the necessary information on victims to all partners. DACCs are managed from the Gwent Police Public Protection Unit.

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (“MAPPA”) operate in Gwent. These are designed to protect the public, including previous victims of crime, from serious harm by sexual and violent offenders. They require the local criminal justice agencies and other bodies dealing with offenders to work together in partnership in dealing with these offenders.

WISDOM (Wales Integrated Serious and Dangerous Offender Management) is a multi-agency team consisting of Probation, Police, Psychologists and other local partners working together to risk of serious harm through offending by integrating agencies in the management and supervision of offenders. Priority domestic abuse perpetrators fall within the WISDOM definition of high risk of causing serious harm and are the focus of the Gwent pilot.

Violence against women, in its definition includes; female genital mutilation, forced marriage, so called ‘honour based’ violence and trafficking of women and has lead police officers within the Gwent Police Force structure to link closely to specialist Black Minority Ethnic (BME) support providers and national coordination mechanisms.

Connect Gwent, the Gwent Police victims’ hub draws together specialist victim support services in a centrally managed location so that the most appropriate support can be identified and delivered to victims of crime. Connect Gwent receive all victims details electronically direct through Police systems and hence provide a further coordinating mechanism for VAWDASV victims where consent is given.

Probation services, through the Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service and the Wales Community Rehabilitation Company, provide bespoke interventions and support for offenders with VAWDASV in their backgrounds.

VAWDASV within the local health board is given focus through safeguarding structures. Mandated targeted enquiry exists through midwifery and health visiting services. The Aneurin Bevan University Health Board will also form part of the Gwent early adopter site for Ask and Act. More widely within the health board the links to the causative factors of VAWDASV e.g. mental health, substance misuse and the effects of VAWDASV (i.e. injury, counselling needs) are acutely felt.

The impacts on adults, children and young people exposed to VAWDASV are all too evident. Local Authority Social Care Services provide care and support to adults and children at risk of abuse or neglect. All forms of VAWDASV feature significantly as presenting issues. Ask and Act policy framework will support earlier disclosure and appropriate referral into services.

Housing Related Support

Across Gwent the Supporting People Programme invests approximately £1.8 million in services for women and men who have experienced VAWDASV. These services include refuge provision, specialist refuge provision, floating support, drop in services, family support, specialist BME services, and target hardening. In addition the programme funding across the region enables people to receive other support that reduces their risk of becoming homeless including direct financial support and support for people with needs that often co-occur with VAWDASV e.g. mental health, substance misuse, debt etc.

The Supporting People planning framework adopted across the region considers population needs through the Gwent Needs Mapping Exercise, performance information, stakeholder input, service user feedback, best practice, and legal and policy drivers. Plans exist at the regional level and within Local Commissioning Plans. A regional refuge equipped to address more complex needs is being developed in the South of Gwent to receive referrals from across the region.

Registered Social Landlords, and in Caerphilly council 'Caerphilly Homes', have their own programmes of support that prioritise VAWDASV victims and provide target hardening so that they may stay in their own homes.

Perpetrator Services

Programmes to deter the continued and escalating abusive behaviour of perpetrators exist within Gwent although, as with the rest of the UK, some of these are relatively new and have strict criteria for inclusion. Within Gwent, in addition to court mandated programmes run by the Wales Community Rehabilitation Company (probation service), there are community based perpetrator programmes. These consist of a Barnardos programme based in Caerphilly and Newport (since January 2017) which are both funded by Social Services working with perpetrators where there is a recognised risk to children, and one operated by Phoenix Domestic Abuse Services in Blaenau Gwent which is open access for local residents and at cost for others. Programmes for young perpetrators (under 18 years of age) are run in Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly and Newport usually through the local Youth Offending Services. These programmes focus on a mixture of intimate and adolescent inter-familial abuse. Work needs to be undertaken to understand perpetrator work in relation to early intervention and other forms of VAWDASV within all types of relationships.

Training

The region has been one of the Welsh Government early adopter sites for Ask and Act and as such has begun the roll out of Group 1, 2 and 3 of the National Training Framework to relevant authority staff across Gwent. A suite of VAWDASV multi-agency training is delivered across the region raising awareness on specialist topics: Domestic Abuse; Sexual Violence; Working with Male Victims; 'Honour-Based Violence'; Understanding Perpetrators; Effects upon Children; Coercive Control; referral into MARAC.

Healthy Relationships

Across the region there are a range of healthy relationship programmes being delivered to children and young people both within educational and community settings. Whilst there are a number of organisations delivering preventative work, within schools healthy relationship sessions are predominantly delivered as part of the Hafan Cymru Spectrum Programme funded by Welsh Government. In addition schools across Gwent have their own provision and online resources around respectful and healthy relationships that they can access at their own pace. The Gwent Education Safeguarding Leads have been critical partners in identifying pilot sites within education for the early adoption of Ask and Act.

5. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

This Strategy has been informed by a VAWDASV needs assessment for the region, and an associated strategic analysis. The full assessment document and strategic analysis is available on request from Vawdasv.Gwent@newport.gov.uk. The Partnership Board commissioned Welsh Women's Aid to undertake the needs assessment, building on the 2014 work done as part of the Gwent Domestic Abuse Pathfinder Project. Further work has been done to analyse the results of the needs assessment through a strategic analysis to help define the strategy and delivery plan for the region.

The needs assessment is linked to the Greater Gwent Health, Social Care & Well-being Partnership [Population Needs Assessment](#) required under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. There is a commitment to ensure that this strategy and its underpinning needs assessment will be used as the basis for forward planning and to inform the Area Plan for the region.

Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence in Gwent

It should be noted that a detailed demography and population profiles for individual local authorities is included in the five Public Services Board's well-being assessments under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Included within the Board's assessment and analysis are snapshots from the abbreviated profile and population projections for the region contained within the Social Services and Well-being Act Population Needs Assessment: Gwent Regional Report (2016)¹² In addition the Safer Gwent Strategic Assessment¹³, national data, and proxy data e.g. number of children on the child protection register has been included in the full assessment document

¹² [http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Council-and-democracy/PopulationNeedsAssessment\(eng\).aspx](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Council-and-democracy/PopulationNeedsAssessment(eng).aspx)

¹³ <http://onewportlsb.newport.gov.uk/documents/One-Newport/Safer-Gwent-Strategic-Assessment-2016-DRAFT-v3.pdf>

Commissioning to meet needs

Whilst it is important to recognise that this is not a commissioning strategy, its content and associated strategic delivery plan will inform the development of regional commissioning guidelines. It is important to consider key commissioning principles, drivers and barriers in terms of delivering the strategic priorities. Currently the Partnership Board does not directly hold any budget for commissioning VAWDASV services. Services are commissioned by a wide range of funding sources and directly from funding providers to those services themselves, rather than through any centrally held procurement arrangements. Likewise, Board partners commit significant core funding to mitigate the effects of VAWDASV across the population. However, in developing this strategy the knowledge and expertise resides in the Board's partners, and its operational groups. It will be the aim of the Partnership Board to use this expertise at the earliest opportunity to guide commissioning across the region.

For example, in order to deliver a mixed market of specialist support services for violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence survivors it is essential that we consider at an early stage the approach we will take and the principles we will adhere to when doing this. Our commissioning principles will be informed by the 10 procurement principles of [The Welsh Public Procurement Policy](#)¹⁴.

This also takes into account the feedback that we have had from providers and survivors in terms of stability, consistency and continuity of services and will contribute to the delivery of strategic priorities.

Accordingly we will develop commissioning principles based on:

- Using the data and information contained within this strategy to inform our thinking in the development of a regional commissioning strategy.
- Developing specifications that take into account the delivery of our strategic priorities for violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence in Gwent.
- Considering the sustainability of funding for services and contributing to the Welsh Government scoping on a sustainable funding model for VAWDASV
- Where possible, providing stability to the sector in terms of the duration of the contract(s) and funding for the lifetime of the contract for violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence services
- We will work collaboratively with our partners and stakeholders within the violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence sector and other associated sectors (for example, education) in the development and commissioning of a mixed market for violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence services.

Furthermore, during workshops with providers to map out and understand current and potential future referral pathways and survivor journeys a number of barriers were identified. This led to the focus groups determining that it is essential that any eligibility criteria associated with accessing service provision is based solely on a need to access any violence against women,

¹⁴ Wales Procurement Policy Welsh Government 2015:

domestic abuse and sexual violence service rather than a level of risk, complexity or the availability of services.

Draft

6. SURVIVORS AS EXPERTS

This strategy recognises the vital importance of collaborating with survivors and service users, who are ‘experts by experience’ in terms of what has worked for them, their pathways through services and how easy (or difficult) it has been to find the right service and move towards independence and freedom from abuse.

‘Putting our opinion forward is most important’ *‘Our feedback matters’*

‘I can make a difference to others’ *‘I have a voice’*

(Strategy consultation – survivors)

Local survivor engagement has informed the development of this Strategy and will continue to be an important aspect for delivery for the Partnership Board. Without the input and opinion of service users providers cannot shape service provision to be responsive to the very individual needs of victims and survivors. Service user perceptions provide the continuous opportunity to inform, refine and improve services.

To underpin and inform the development of this strategy, two focus groups were held in Gwent with survivors who have been involved in services within the Region. The purpose of the focus groups was to map the experiences of survivors and service users of specialist services in Gwent and to assess the coverage and availability of services.

Following publication of the draft strategy the Regional Partnership consulted widely in the form of a survey monkey questionnaire and focus groups held with survivors. This has been critical to further develop the strategy, and has significantly informed the intentions and understanding of our 6 strategic priorities as outlined in chapter 8.

National survivor consultation has also informed this document taking the key findings of the Welsh Government “Are you listening and am I being heard?” report¹⁵. This work was informed by 66 survivors who attended focus groups, having experienced a range of violence and abuse including domestic abuse, sexual violence, forced marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), ‘honour-based violence’, sexual exploitation, trafficking and child sexual abuse.

It is important to note that there was limited consultation with male survivors during the development of the strategy which has highlighted significant gaps in knowledge. The Partnership Board will endeavour to consult widely with all survivor groups including male victims and others who are affected by VAWDASV (including community support networks). Survivor consultation underpinned by best practice guidance for the Region, will continue to inform the delivery of this strategy.

Output from Consultations with Survivors

¹⁵http://www.welshwomensaid.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2016/03/Are_you_listening_and_am_I_being_heard_FINAL_July_2016.pdf

The detail associated with the focus groups, together with the outputs and outcomes from other survivor consultation is included at **Appendix 2**, however, a summary of key points is provided below.

- Survivors identified a number of key concerns in terms of the levels of awareness and knowledge when trying to get help, assistance and advice that were common across statutory services, encounters with GPs, ambulance and paramedics, and housing organisations.
- Survivors felt that their experience may have been different if professionals had received appropriate training in order to be able to identify violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence and know who to inform.
- Some survivors felt that in their encounters with (for example) social services (adults and children/young people), survivors reported that (it) frequently felt like "...a secondary source of victimisation..." and reported experiences of "bullying" in terms of their choices and decisions they needed to make.
- The perception of some survivors was that services were sometimes disjointed with eligibility, access, and referral pathways not always clear, whilst services for women from black and minority communities were only available in certain areas and not always accessible throughout Gwent. However, it should be noted that this is not the perception of all survivors who were consulted.
- Survivors expressed their fear of disclosing to Social Services in case their children were removed from their care. This view is also reinforced by perpetrators to exert further control over their victims.
- Survivors recognised that the National Strategy includes priorities for action that if implemented would challenge the behaviours and actions of perpetrators, and they felt that this is very positive. They identified a number of actions in terms of how they felt perpetrators should receive harsher consequences for violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence offences and actions to address issues at an earlier age to prevent abusive behaviours.
- Survivors felt that it is essential that trained staff from independent specialist violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence services are co-located in a wide range of public services
- Survivors (along with other stakeholders) identified a range of suggestions for improving services in Gwent, details of which are provided at **Appendix 2**.

7. ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS

Engagement and consultation was carried out with survivors (see Section 6 Survivors as Experts), specialist service providers, generic service providers, commissioners, stakeholders and Partnership Board members.

Participants were highly engaged in providing both positive and negative observations of the current and future landscape. To achieve this level of engagement considerable effort was made to engage with contributors and to arrange one-to-one appointments and/or focus groups. Contributors were also offered the option of filling in a questionnaire.

The information gathered during this process formed a broad spectrum of opinion. Issues highlighted can be matched to the Welsh Government six national strategic objectives (see Chapter 8) and are presented within **Appendix 2**.

Key concerns are outlined below:

- Lack of understanding amongst professionals leading to reduced confidence in professional contacts.
- Both recognition and concern over the preventative and pastoral role of education in dealing with issues of VAWDASV.
- The effectiveness of services aimed at holding perpetrators to account and the consistency and availability of provision across the region.
- The persistent difficulty to prioritise and define early intervention.
- Consistency and sustainability of training.
- The lack of an integrated referral pathway into services and how to ensure that services are sustainable long term.
- Perceived victim blaming by statutory services

The findings from this engagement process are fully integrated within the Partnership Boards Strategic Priorities going forward.

8. HOW WE WILL ACT TOGETHER TO TACKLE VAWDASV: OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence impacts upon all services, not least adult and children's social services, housing, criminal justice, education, the police, health services, and voluntary and community organisations. This strategy will further enable a coordinated community response within Gwent in order to reduce the prevalence and impact of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence and increase the awareness and ability to act swiftly and effectively within communities and professionals.

The Partnership Board want to ensure that all agencies and organisations within the region respond effectively to the challenges and issues both within their own organisations and in collaboration with partners and stakeholders to prevent harm, reduce risk and increase the immediate and long term safety of people living within the region.

In line with The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, we intend to deliver on the actions within this strategy using the "sustainable development principle" and follow five ways of working to ensure we work collaboratively with people and communities, avoid repeating past mistakes and tackle some of the long terms challenges we face.

Accordingly we will achieve this by:

- **Prevention:** Recognising that early intervention is the primary overarching principle to tackling VAWDASV and improving outcomes for victims and those closest to them, particularly children in families.
- **Integration:** Consider how the violence against women domestic abuse and sexual violence objectives impact upon each of the well-being goals¹⁶, and on the objectives and priorities of other key statutory services strategies.
- **Collaboration:** Members of The Partnership Board will work collaboratively with partners and stakeholders to ensure that the actions, objectives and targets of this strategy are met.
- **Involvement:** We will ensure that we engage and involve the right people at the right time with a focus on survivor engagement.
- **Long Term:** We will approach regional commissioning and the implementation of an agreed sustainable funding model pragmatically and ensure that the short term needs of survivors continue to be met whilst any longer term reconfiguration is undertaken

We will also ensure the efficient **integration** of services in terms of the effective management and delivery of specialist violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence services so that service beneficiaries receive a continuum of preventive, safe and supportive services, according to their needs that is consistent throughout the region.

¹⁶ [The Well-Being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)

The seven well-being goals contained within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 underpin the objectives which are enshrined within the key thematic purpose of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 (the Act):

- ❖ **Prevention**
- ❖ **Protection**
- ❖ **Support**

Preventing violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence is the predominant outcome that the Partnership Board will focus its efforts on. The associated Delivery Plan will align its milestones and targets against the above themes and the strategic priorities.

Preventing violence and abuse

Violence against women and girls has been described as 'perhaps the most pervasive violation of human rights across the globe'¹⁷ yet it is entirely preventable.

The priorities identified within this strategy and accompanying Strategic Delivery Plan will ensure that The Partnership Board continues to build upon the collaborative approach to preventing violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence from happening, by challenging the attitude and behaviours which foster it, intervening early, where possible, to prevent its recurrence, reducing the impact of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence and working toward a future where it is eliminated.

- We will actively work together with schools, government, health, the police/criminal justice system, local authorities, and the community to work in a coordinated and collaborative way to raise the awareness of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence to stop abuse before it begins.
- We want to be confident that all professionals within our area are equipped with the knowledge to effectively respond to any disclosures of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Protection

Protection of survivors is a critical aspect of the coordinated response to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence and The Partnership Board is committed to working collaboratively to protect those who are experiencing violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence from suffering further harm, and protect any children within the family.

- Through collaborative working with partners we will ensure that alleged perpetrators of abuse in Gwent are dealt with appropriately and that survivors and their children are given protection against further abuse.

¹⁷ <http://www.un.org/press/en/1999/19990308.sgsm6919.html>

- We want to further develop the evidence base on different manifestations of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence to help inform regional targeted and innovative approaches.
- We will consider the evidence base for what works in the context of perpetrator programmes, identify and disseminate good practice.

Support

Providing effective support services for people who have been affected by violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence is complex, as people's experiences and needs can be vastly different. However, we will work with partners to promote a supportive culture that is underpinned by a range of services that respond to individuals and their families.

Specialist services in Gwent have adopted an empowerment approach which seeks to restore the control to survivors that is stolen by violence. The support they provide creates an environment in which survivors can exercise choice and self-determination.

Gwent has a range of excellent services established over many decades. Access to such services is a right for survivors when suffering domestic violence or abuse, when at risk of forced marriage or female genital mutilation, when subject to abuse related to sexual violence, prostitution, and all other forms of gender based violence. The Partnership Board will ensure that this good practice is replicated across the region and that the availability of services is consistent.

- We want anyone experiencing violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence to be aware of the support that is available within Gwent and have the confidence to access them
- We want survivors to be able to access the service that they need, delivered in the right place and at the right time on their recovery journey

Strategic Priorities

The Partnership Board has set a clear rationale for identifying the six Strategic Priorities based upon the evidence provided:

Strategic Priority 1: Increase awareness and challenge attitudes of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence across Gwent.

Survivors felt that there were people in all services who lacked the necessary knowledge, understanding and empathetic attitude to encourage confidence to disclose violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. We need to increase awareness for all staff within public services; we need also to challenge public perceptions. We need members of the community to spot the signs and know where there is support available. At the same time we need to send a clear message that these forms of abuse are not acceptable.

'The media, family, schools and employers all need awareness'.

'People need practical advice on safe ways to contact the police or other agencies'.

'[We] need to get this issue into public consciousness'

(Strategy consultation responses – survivors)

Strategic Priority 2: Increase awareness in children and young people of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and that abusive behaviour is always wrong

Survivors felt that there was not enough education about healthy relationships and gender equality to prevent future abusive behaviour particularly where children had already been subjected to violence and abuse in their own homes. Raising awareness of safe and healthy relationships enables young people to differentiate between what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour. It is also important that we educate children and young people to know that help is available, as well as how to access that support.

'I met him when I was 13. He used to stand outside the school'.

'Schools have firework safety sessions every year, but we need to do something with VAWDASV which is happening every day of the year'.

(Strategy consultation responses - survivors)

Strategic Priority 3: Increase focus on holding perpetrators to account and provide opportunities to change their behaviour based around victim safety

There is a need for increased understanding of the current provision across Gwent and development of best practice guidance for commissioning services which prioritises victim safety. If we do not hold perpetrators to account we give them no incentive to change their behaviour. At the same time we need to provide a clear message about what behaviour/s are acceptable in our society. Some survivors felt that perpetrator programmes did not always consider the safety of victim/survivor and any children as a primary focus. Work with perpetrators cannot happen in isolation and needs to be rooted in victim safety and prevention. If the cycle is to be broken, there is a huge role to play for all services.

'The cord is cut once you go to court...if a perpetrator is found not guilty in court they can walk down any street and knock on any door...the victim has to change their whole life'.

'Perpetrator programmes are 'enigmas that need much more research'.

(Strategy consultation responses – survivors)

Strategic Priority 4: Make early intervention and prevention a priority

Providers tell us that there are many lost opportunities to make every intervention an effective and preventative one. Domestic Homicide Reviews highlight missed opportunities to intervene. We need professionals and members of the community, to recognise signs, to safely ask questions and take appropriate action. A focus on prevention is important if we are to break the cycle of abuse and will mean working holistically to tackle VAWDASV, including working with perpetrators, undertaking awareness raising work across all communities including children and young people. Providers have expressed concern about prioritising early intervention and prevention alongside other competing priorities for the public sector. We must ensure early intervention and prevention is core business across all Strategic Priorities.

'Support can be good from GPs but you need to be able to have a voice. It takes time to build a relationship which is difficult in 10 minutes'.

"Survivors spoke of the need to promote early awareness to by-standers so 'individuals feel empowered to speak up'".

(Strategy consultation – survivors)

Strategic Priority 5: Relevant professionals are trained to provide effective, timely and appropriate responses to victims and survivors

It is clear from the evidence that disclosures are made by survivors and their families to a range of public services. Survivors felt there was a need for more consistency between services e.g. police, housing and support services. Some survivors felt that staff in both statutory and other professional services were not trained and/or did not have the confidence to pick up on issues raised, albeit that this may be indirect. The National Training Framework (NTF) aims to strengthen the response amongst those offering specialist or universal services. It aims to bring quality assurance and consistency with respect to training professionals around VAWDASV issues. Through the NTF we will improve responses across public services, promoting early intervention and providing a gateway for victims to access appropriate forms of help and support.

'Professionals kind of know what you're going through but they don't acknowledge it because then they would need to do something with the information'.

'Referral process is like walking on hot coals'.

'I went to the GP every Monday after an incident and I just wanted him to ask why are you here? What is happening?'

(Strategy consultation – survivors)

Strategic Priority 6: Provide victims with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs led, strength based, gender responsive services throughout the region.

Providing support to people affected by VAWDASV can be complex and people's experience and needs can be vastly different. Survivors will choose to engage with services in a variety of

ways; there needs to be a range of services that are accessible and can respond effectively and universally to these needs. Survivors felt that there were not enough experts based in key disclosure points like police stations, hospitals and GP surgeries, The Needs Assessment highlighted some of the gaps and capacity issues in specialist service provision. Providers of services raised concerns over insecure funding. Services that are strength- based increase resilience, independence and a life free from abuse. Public services, community and voluntary organisations and independent specialist services all have a key role to play. We will focus on working collaboratively to develop a framework for service delivery that is sustainable, informed by survivors and enables clear referral pathways into specialist services.

'You can't overturn a situation on your own when you're already vulnerable. Living in fear all the time you are a nervous wreck. [You] don't always have control over your responses'

'You have to stand on the other side of the glass and explain why you are there – people in the waiting room can hear...we need opportunities to speak alone'

'Referral process is like walking on hot coals'

'Once you've told someone you need to leave straight away'

'Getting help was the best thing that's ever happened to me'

(Strategy consultation – survivors)

There will be critical challenges to achieving these which the underpinning engagement work and Needs Assessment has articulated.

9. HOW WE WILL MONITOR OUR PROGRESS: OUR STRATEGIC DELIVERY PLAN

The Partnership Board will provide the governance structure to develop, approve and monitor this joint regional strategy as required by Local Authorities and Local Health Boards under the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.

There will be formal lines of reporting from the Partnership Board into Public Services Boards, Safeguarding Boards and other regional partnerships with opportunities identified to influence and inform regional strategic planning. The cross-working and aligned work plans across adults and children's safeguarding structures will assist in the delivery of this strategy.

Measuring the progress of the Strategy

Welsh Ministers are required to publish annual reports of the progress made towards achieving both the objectives in the National Strategy and achievement towards the purpose of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015. Section 11 of the Act also requires Welsh Ministers to 'publish national indicators that may be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the purpose of this Act.' The national indicators will measure collective national progress in achieving the purpose of the Act.

Regionally, these National Indicators present agencies and partnerships in Gwent with a renewed opportunity to work towards a quality assured coordinated and coherent measurement framework and to mainstream violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence data across wider policy areas, in a way that aligns with these national indicators.

The Partnership Board will identify regional outcomes and indicators to measure progress and success in delivering this Strategy which, along with the National Indicators, will help public bodies, other stakeholders and communities to understand the extent to which our priorities are being achieved.

Regional data will also be used to inform national progress reports, referred to above, which will help demonstrate how effective we have been in achieving the Strategic Priorities set out in this regional and National Strategy.

In recognising its role as the 'Pathfinder Region' the Partnership Board will commit to influencing and contributing to the national VAWDASV agenda.

The Strategic Delivery Plan

The Strategic Delivery Plan which accompanies this strategy is a working document that outlines The Partnership Boards commitment to the next 12 months activity. The 6 Strategic Priorities detailed within the Delivery Plan will contribute to the pursuit of the **prevention** of violence and abuse, the **protection** of victims and the **support** of all those affected.

The statutory responsibilities under the VAWDASV (Wales) Act 2015 will be discharged through the VAWDASV Partnership Board and annual reporting against this Regional Strategy and its Delivery Plan will be submitted to Gwent Public Services Boards and incorporated into Well-being plan reporting.

In developing this strategy and its underpinning research, the on-going work and the focus of the Partnership Board has been defined. The work undertaken to date has provided the region with an overview of provision whilst revealing gaps in knowledge and data and that will be necessary to address in the immediate and longer term.

Through its Strategic Delivery Plan the Board has set clear objectives that address each of the 6 Strategic Priorities and the means by which to achieve these. The Partnership Board will be committed to building on successful work with the specific aim of strengthening and progressing provision collaboratively across all areas.

The Partnership Board through its Strategic Delivery Group will be responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the Strategic Delivery Plan. This document is available on request from Vawdasv.Gwent@newport.gov.uk. Through its communication framework the Partnership Board will ensure that information relating to this Strategy reaches the relevant audience by a variety of different methods which are relevant to their needs.

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Appendix 1

UNDERSTANDING THE LANGUAGE USED

1. Definitions of abuse (Gwent Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Board Terms of Reference).

Violence Against Women

The United Nations defines "Violence against Women" as a "form of discrimination against women and a violation of human rights and shall mean all acts of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."

Domestic Abuse

According to the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 domestic abuse means 'abuse where the victim of it is or has been associated with the abuser. This can be committed by an intimate partner, ex-partner, spouse, civil partner or family relative' (a full definition of intimate and familial relations can be accessed within the Act).

The abuse can be physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or financial abuse.

This is in line with the Home Office's definition of domestic abuse as 'any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality'.

The Serious Crime Act 2015 legally defines the offence of coercive and controlling behaviour within intimate or familial relations as domestic abuse. 'Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assaults, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish or frighten their victim'.

Rape and sexual violence

Sexual violence is any unwanted sexual act or activity. *According to the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 sexual violence means sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, or threats of violence of a sexual nature. The act further defines sexual exploitation as something that is done to or in respect of a person which warrants an offence under Part 1 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. This includes the following definitions:*

- Rape is when a person intentionally penetrates the vagina, anus or mouth of another person with his penis when that other person does not consent to the penetration, and/or he does not reasonably believe that the other person consents.
- Assault by penetration is the intentional sexual penetration of the vagina or anus of another person with a part of the person's body or anything else, when that other person

does not consent to the penetration, and/or he does not reasonably believe that the other person consents.

- Sexual assault is a person intentionally touching another person sexually in a manner to which the other person does not consent to the touching, and/or the person does not reasonably believe that the other person consents.
- Child sex offences including rape or any sexual activity with a child, familial child sex offences and meeting a child following sexual grooming.

Sexual harassment

According to the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 harassment means a course of conduct (including speech) by a person which he or she knows or ought to know amounts to harassment of the other. For incidents that took place after 1st October 2005 there are two types of sexual harassment – unwanted contact on the grounds of your sex and unwanted physical verbal or non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature.

Gender Based Violence

According to the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 gender-based violence means:

- *Violence, threats of violence or harassment arising directly or indirectly from values, beliefs or customs relating to gender or sexual orientation.*

This includes 'Honour based violence' which can be distinguished from other forms of violence, as it is often committed with some degree of approval and/or collusion from family and/or community members. Examples may include murder, un-explained death (suicide), fear of or actual forced marriage, controlling sexual activity, domestic abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse), child abuse, rape, kidnapping, false imprisonment, threats to kill, assault, harassment, forced abortion. This list is not exhaustive.

- *Female genital mutilation which is an act that is an offence under sections 1, 2 or 3 of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003.*

FGM also known as female circumcision or female genital cutting, is defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as "all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons" as defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

- *Forcing a person (whether by physical force or coercion by threats or other psychological means) to enter into a religious or civil ceremony of marriage (whether or not legally binding).* This is commonly known as Forced Marriage. The pressure put on people to marry against their will can be physical (including threats, actual physical violence and sexual violence) or emotional and psychological (for example, when someone is made to feel like they're bringing shame on their family). Financial abuse (taking your wages or not giving you any money) can also be a factor.

2. Glossary

Victim/Survivor: The term used to describe the person who is potentially experiencing violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. Other terms encompassed may include; 'service user' 'client' and 'patient' and reflect the terms used by different organisations to define their relationship to the person at risk. In practical terms it is suggested that the person experiencing these issues selects the term they prefer, where a term is required.

Public Service: Public services are services delivered for the benefit of the public, supported via government, to serve people in a particular society or community. This can include services delivered through the third sector, through social enterprise or through services that are contracted out.

Local Authority: A county council or county borough council

Relevant authorities: county councils and county borough councils, Local Health Boards, fire and rescue authorities and NHS trusts

VAWDASV specialist sector: Third sector organisations whose core business is violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA): Trained specialist worker who provides short to medium-term casework support for high risk victims of domestic abuse.

Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA): Trained specialist worker who provides support to victims/survivors of rape and sexual assault.

BME/BAME – Black and Minority Ethnic or Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic is the terminology used to describe people of non-white descent.

Ask and Act: A process of targeted enquiry across the Welsh Public Service in relation to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Target Hardening: Target hardening is a means with which to make a property safer for the resident and reduce the risk of attack in this case by the perpetrator of domestic abuse. *(It should be part of a 'spectrum' of services made available to help to protect victims of domestic abuse alongside support in the community, access to refuge provision, involvement of the police or other statutory services and programmes for perpetrators of domestic abuse - Domestic Abuse and Housing in Wales Factsheet (CIH Cymru 2013)*

Draft

<p>Name of the Officer Sharran Lloyd</p> <p>Phone no: 01633 644344 E-mail: Sharranlloyd@mopnmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>To adopt the Gwent VAWDASV Strategy which aims to support delivery of statutory and non-statutory partner's requirements under the Violence against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act 2015.</p>
<p>Name of Service</p> <p>Community & Partnerships Development Team</p>	<p>Date form completed</p> <p>29/3/18</p>

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4 Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal.





Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>Yes, the strategy will call on the expertise of all Gwent partners to collaborate to ensure that people are protected and supported from VAWDASV and able to contribute to normal society</p>	<p>The Strategy will explore the actions required by public bodies and ensure there is effective collaboration</p>
<p>A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>The Strategy has not considered this action as it is targeted specifically at domestic abuse victims and perpetrators</p>	<p>Consideration will be given when developing the delivery plan for the strategy and explore how these issues factor into this work and agenda</p>

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A healthier Wales People’s physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>The strategy will enable less people to become victims of VAWDASV and prevent the harm caused or suffered by victims and their families. This will reduce the impact on health services</p>	
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>The Strategy will support the ability for all people to spot the signs of VAWDASV and be able to take action, this will ultimately make this subject everyone’s business and enable us to effectively make VAWDASV unacceptable within our communities</p>	
<p>A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing</p>	<p>The Strategy will support the ability for all people to spot the signs of VAWDASV and be able to take action, this will ultimately make this subject everyone’s business and enable us to effectively make VAWDASV unacceptable within our communities – and also enable people and communities to come together to provide networks of support</p>	
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation</p>	<p>The Strategy will target awareness raising within all sectors of our communities and enable people to be more aware and breakdown the barriers to challenging VAWDASV within all communities, populations and activities</p>	
<p>A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances</p>	<p>Whilst it is important that this Strategy acknowledges and communicates the disproportionate experience of women and girls it recognises that anyone (women, men, children and young people) can experience and be affected by domestic abuse, rape</p>	

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	and sexual assault, sexual abuse, forced marriage, child sexual abuse, stalking and harassment, sexual harassment and exploitation. This can happen in any relationship regardless of sex, age, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disability, religion or belief, income, geography or lifestyle. A significant number of those who experience VAWDASV will have one or more 'protected characteristics', under the Equality Act 2010 and will face additional vulnerabilities and increased barriers to support. This Strategy aims to tackle all forms of VAWDASV.	

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

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? Describe how.	If not, what has been done to better meet this principle?
 <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p> <p>Long Term</p>	<p>This VAWDASV Strategy seeks to consider the long term outcomes for victims, survivors and their families and in particular any children and young people exposed to VAWDASV.</p> <p>We will approach regional commissioning and the implementation of an agreed sustainable funding model pragmatically and ensure that the short term needs of survivors continue to be met whilst any longer term reconfiguration is undertaken</p>	

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? Describe how.	If not, what has been done to better meet this principle?
 <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p> <p>Collaboration</p>	<p>The Gwent VAWDASV Partnership will work collaboratively with partners and stakeholders to ensure that the actions, objectives and targets of this strategy are met.</p>	
 <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p> <p>Involvement</p>	<p>Integral to the development and on-going review of this strategy is: Listening to victims, survivors and their families to understand their experiences of support offered to them to continually review and make improvements in responses; Involving all partner agencies that are able to make an impact on VAWDASV.</p>	
 <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p> <p>Prevention</p>	<p>Understanding and preventing the occurrence of VAWDASV and preventing poor outcomes for victims, survivors and their families. This strategy recognises that early intervention is the primary overarching principle to tackling VAWDASV and improving outcomes for victims and those closest to them, particularly children.</p>	
 <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p> <p>Integration</p>	<p>At present VAWDASV is having an adverse impact on people within our communities. It is anticipated that the strategy will have a positive impact on the quality of life and wellbeing of the potential victims and enable them to access the help and support they need from all agencies</p> <p>The wider community will benefit from a reduction VAWDASV and the destruction this causes to families within our communities</p>	

3. Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below. For more detailed information on the protected characteristics, the Equality

Act 2010 and the Welsh Language Standards that apply to Monmouthshire Council please follow this link:

<http://hub/corporatedocs/Equalities/Forms/AllItems.aspx> or contact Alan Burkitt on 01633 644010 or alanburkitt@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	The Strategy will have a positive impact across all the protected characteristics. The purpose of this strategy is to address inequalities inherent in all forms of Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. There are no identified inequality implications either intended or unintended as a result of this strategy		
Disability	The Strategy will have a positive impact across all the protected characteristics. The purpose of this strategy is to address inequalities inherent in all forms of Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. There are no identified inequality implications either intended or unintended as a result of this strategy.		
Gender reassignment	The Strategy will have a positive impact across all the protected characteristics. The purpose of this strategy is to address inequalities inherent in all forms of Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.	There are no identified inequality implications either intended or unintended as a result of this strategy	

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Marriage or civil partnership	The Strategy will have a positive impact across all the protected characteristics. The purpose of this strategy is to address inequalities inherent in all forms of Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.	There are no identified inequality implications either intended or unintended as a result of this strategy	
Pregnancy or maternity	The Strategy will have a positive impact across all the protected characteristics. The purpose of this strategy is to address inequalities inherent in all forms of Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.	There are no identified inequality implications either intended or unintended as a result of this strategy	
Race	The Strategy will have a positive impact across all the protected characteristics. The purpose of this strategy is to address inequalities inherent in all forms of Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.	There are no identified inequality implications either intended or unintended as a result of this strategy	
Religion or Belief	The Strategy will have a positive impact across all the protected characteristics. The purpose of this strategy is to address inequalities inherent in all forms of Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.	There are no identified inequality implications either intended or unintended as a result of this strategy	
Sex	The Strategy will have a positive impact across all the protected characteristics. The purpose of this strategy is to address inequalities inherent in all forms of Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence	There are no identified inequality implications either intended or unintended as a result of this strategy	

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Sexual Orientation	The Strategy will have a positive impact across all the protected characteristics. The purpose of this strategy is to address inequalities inherent in all forms of Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.	There are no identified inequality implications either intended or unintended as a result of this strategy	
Welsh Language	The Strategy will have a positive impact across all the protected characteristics. The purpose of this strategy is to address inequalities inherent in all forms of Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.	There are no identified inequality implications either intended or unintended as a result of this strategy	

Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on important responsibilities of Corporate Parenting and safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect either of these responsibilities? For more information please see the guidance <http://hub/corporatedocs/Democratic%20Services/Safeguarding%20Guidance.docx> and for more on Monmouthshire's Corporate Parenting Strategy see <http://hub/corporatedocs/SitePages/Corporate%20Parenting%20Strategy.aspx>

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	The Strategy and VAWDASV act are entrenched in the safeguarding of all people who are experiencing VAWDASV and aims to strengthen how we address the issues and protect those people more effectively. The Strategy aims to end the 'post code lottery' of support across the region and ensure that all people who need help or support have consistent and timely services to provide the right level of help and assistance at the right time to keep them safe from harm	There are no negative impacts foreseen with this Strategy	

Corporate Parenting	This Strategy has the potential to reduce harm and keep children safe by eradicating VAWDASV at its earliest point, and where it does occur, ensure we are providing timely, proportionate and appropriate support when needed. This will support our corporate parenting by raising awareness of the issues of VAWDASV and ensuring we are taking the necessary steps to protect and prevent harm	There are no negative impacts foreseen with this Strategy	
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5. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

Detailed demography and population profiles for individual local authorities is included in the five Public Services Board's well-being assessments under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Included within the VAWDASV Board's assessment and analysis are snapshots from the abbreviated profile and population projections for the region contained within the Social Services and Well-being Act Population Needs Assessment: Gwent Regional Report (2016) In addition the Safer Gwent Strategic Assessment, national data, and proxy data e.g. number of children on the child protection register has been included in the full assessment document

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

All Public bodies, including Monmouthshire County Council are under the duties of the Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence act (2015) The main aims of which are to:

- Improve the public sector's response to Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Give public authorities (Councils and Health Boards) a strategic focus on the issue
- Ensure the consistent provision of preventative, protective and supportive services

The draft Strategy addresses the following areas:

- The Gwent VAWDASV Partnership Board and its Vision
- Current Provision across the region
- Needs assessment data and information
- Survivors as experts
- Engagement findings
- How we will act together to tackle VAWDASV: Our Strategic Priorities
- How we will monitor our progress: Our Strategic Delivery Plan

All of these elements are extremely positive and it is anticipated will strengthen our approach to making all forms of VAWDASV unacceptable within our communities and populations, which can only be a positive outcome. The VAWADSV Act has enabled public and third sector partners to come together and collaborate in a meaningful way to implement the duties of the act, but most importantly to ensure we are supporting and protecting any victims and their families from the damaging and impactful effects of VAWADSV in any form.

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

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible	Progress
The draft Strategy will be updated with all scrutiny partners recommendations	The Regional VAWDASV team	The VAWDASV Partnership Board	The final copy of the strategy will be available in May 2018

8. MONITORING: The impacts of this proposal will need to be monitored and reviewed. Please specify the date at which you will evaluate the impact, and where you will report the results of the review.

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The impacts of this proposal will be evaluated on:	The Strategy will be monitored via the regional VAWDASV Board and reported to the Monmouthshire Public Services Board
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9. VERSION CONTROL: The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stages of decision making, and then honed and refined throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and built in sustainable development wherever possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1	Cabinet approval and adoption	11/4/18	

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SUBJECT:	WELSH CHURCH FUND WORKING GROUP
MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	11th April 2018
DIVISIONS/WARD AFFECTED:	All

1. PURPOSE:

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 6 of the 2017/18 financial year held on the 18th January 2018 and meeting 7 held on the 1st March 2018.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

2.1 We resolved that the following grants be awarded as per the schedule of applications.

SCHEDULE OF APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED 2017/18 – MEETING 6.

- (1) Abergavenny Arts Festival requested £4,000 to assist in the funding of the Arts Festival in June 2018. This includes funding for Lectures and Exhibitions by well-known artists as part of the festival.

Recommendation – £2,000 awarded to enable the Arts Festival to proceed and promote the cultural profile of the area.

SCHEDULE OF APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED 2017/18 – MEETING 7.

1. Monmouth off Street Project requested £1,000 for the funding of a Fresh Drinking Water Fountain at Bailey Park in Abergavenny

Recommendation: £546 was awarded for the purchase of the water fountain to provide a public amenity for visitors to the park

2. Llanwenarth Baptist Church requested £698 for the Replacement of two projectors that had become technologically unfit for purpose

Recommendations: £698 was awarded to replace the two projectors at this community facility

3. Rogiet Park Run requested £2,000 for the purchase of storage container to store logistical equipment required to stage the park runs.

Recommendation: This application wasn't supported

4. St. Peter's Church at St. Pierre Parochial Church Council requested £3,000 for assistance in the replacement of obsolete and under-pew heating.

Recommendation: £1,500 was awarded to contribute to the replacement of the under-pew heating at the church

5. 3rd Caldicot Brownies requested £400 to assist in the running of an Activity Day at Caldicot Castle to promote all levels of scouting within the Monmouthshire area.

Recommendation: £400 was awarded to promote a Community activity group.

6. 1st Gilwern Scout Group requested £3,000 for the installation of Safety Flooring in the kitchen and other communal areas at their community hall.

Recommendation: £1,500 was awarded to assist in the installation of safety flooring

7. St. Cybi's Church, Llanybi, requested £7,000 for assistance with the replacement of the church pipe organ that had become uneconomical to refurbish.

Recommendation: £3,500 was awarded to allow for the purchase of a second hand pipe organ with the associated installation costs.

8. Ready Steady Go requested £750 to assist with Initial charity start-up costs for a Children's Autism activity club

Recommendation: £750 was awarded to finalise the funding for this Community self-help group

9. St. Mary's Church, Magor, requested £2,000 to assist in rectifying incorrect historical electrical wiring

Recommendation: £1,500 was awarded to carry out essential health and safety work at this place of worship.

10. Tintern Village Hall requested £2,000 to assist in the purchase of a modular stage for community use.

Recommendation: £2,000 awarded to provide a valuable community facility with a community asset.

3. To approve the Welsh Church Fund allocation of funding criteria for 2018/19

The funding criteria for 2018/19 was agreed for inclusion within the Trust Fund Budget report 2018-19 which was approved by cabinet on the 7th March 2018.

4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Options available to the Committee are driven by the information only supplied by the applicants

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

No evaluation criteria is applicable to the grant awarded by the trust

6. REASONS

Meetings took place on Thursday 18th January 2018 and Thursday 1st March 2018 of the Welsh Church Fund Cabinet Working Group to recommend the payment of grants as detailed in the attached schedule (Appendix 2).

County Councillors in attendance:

At meeting 6

County Councillor A. Webb (Chair)
County Councillor D. Evans (Vice Chair)
County Councillor S. Woodhouse
County Councillor B. Strong

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

D. Jarrett Central Finance Officer
W Barnard Committee Administration

At meeting 7

County Councillor D. Evans (Vice Chair)
County Councillor S. Woodhouse
County Councillor B. Strong

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

D. Jarrett Central Finance Officer
W Barnard Committee Administration

6.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 1 Meeting 6 – Application by Abergavenny Arts Festival: County Councillor S. Woodhouse declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest as a Member of the Spreading the Word Committee.

6.2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

County Councillor A. Webb (Chair) meeting 7

6.3 CONFIRMATION OF REPORT OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meetings of the Welsh Church Fund Working Group held on Thursday 14th December 2017 and Thursday 18th January 2018 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively.

.RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

A total of £2,000 was allocated at Meeting 6 of the Welsh Church Fund Committee and £12,394 at meeting 7. A remaining balance of £11,397 will be carried forward for distribution within the 2018-19 financial year.

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

There are no Future Generations, equality, safeguarding, corporate parenting or sustainable development implications directly arising from this report. The assessment is contained in the attached appendix.

8. CONSULTEES:

Senior Leadership Team
All Cabinet Members
Head of Legal Services
Assistant Head of Finance
Central Finance Management Accountant

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Welsh Church Fund Schedule of Applications 2017/18– Meetings 6 and 7 (Appendix 2)

10. AUTHOR:

David Jarrett – Senior Accountant – Central Finance Business Support

11. CONTACT DETAILS

Tel. 01633 644657
e-mail: daveJarrett@monmouthshire.gov.uk



Future Generations Evaluation (Includes Equalities and Sustainability Impact Assessments)

<p>Name of the Officer D Jarrett</p> <p>Phone no: 4657</p> <p>E-mail: davejarrett@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>To assess the Grant Allocation Processes of the Welsh Church Fund for the meetings of the Welsh Church Fund Working Group on the 18th January 2018 and the 1st March 2018.</p>
<p>Name of Service</p> <p>Finance</p>	<p>Date Future Generations Evaluation</p> <p>18th January 2018 / 1st March 2018</p>

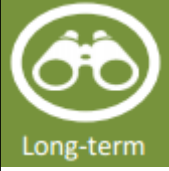
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1 Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal.

Well Being Goal	How does the proposal contribute to this goal? (positive and negative)	What actions have been / will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>Positive in relation to developing the skills and proficiencies of applicants</p>	
<p>A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>Positive in the teaching of biodiversity and ecological issues through the provision of educational resources</p>	
<p>A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>Positive in that people's mental health and physical health is enhanced by a collective activity / process.</p>	

Well Being Goal	How does the proposal contribute to this goal? (positive and negative)	What actions have been / will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	Positive in relation to connecting the community and its constituents	
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	Positive in relation to social well-being. Also, helping the environmental well-being of the community through preservation of history.	
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	Positive in relation to the promotion of culture in the community	
A more equal Wales People can fulfill their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	Positive in respect of helping people to achieve their potential irrespective of individual circumstances	

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

Sustainable Development Principle	How does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle?	What has been done to better to meet this principle?
 Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future	Not applicable to Welsh Church Fund Trust	

Sustainable Development Principle	How does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle?	What has been done to better to meet this principle?
 <p>Collaboration Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	Not applicable to Welsh Church Fund Trust	
 <p>Involvement Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	Not applicable to Welsh Church Fund Trust	
 <p>Prevention Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	Not applicable to Welsh Church Fund Trust	
 <p>Integration Positively impacting on people, economy and environment and trying to benefit all three</p>	Not applicable to Welsh Church Fund Trust	

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

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	Encouraging the socializing of differing age groups through social provision	None	
Disability	No impact	None	
Gender reassignment	No impact	No impact	
Marriage or civil partnership	No impact	No Impact	
Race	No impact	No Impact	
Religion or Belief	Encouraging religion through education at the point of delivery through the provision of enhanced facilities	None	
Sex	No impact	No impact	
Sexual Orientation	No impact	No Impact	
Welsh Language	No impact on Welsh Language	No impact on Welsh Language	

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4. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on important responsibilities of Corporate Parenting and safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect either of these responsibilities? For more information please see the guidance note <http://hub/corporatedocs/Democratic%20Services/Equality%20impact%20assessment%20and%20safeguarding.docx> and for more on Monmouthshire's Corporate Parenting Strategy see <http://hub/corporatedocs/SitePages/Corporate%20Parenting%20Strategy.aspx>

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	Not applicable		
Corporate Parenting	Not applicable		

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

The evidence and data used for the assessment of each applicant to the Welsh Church Fund is supplied by the applicant upon submission of their application. The data and information supplied or subsequently requested is used to form the basis of the Committees' decision on whether to award a qualifying grant.

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

The grant aid supports and highlights the positive effect that decisions the Welsh Church Fund Working Group have on the applicants funding requests from Voluntary Organisations, Local Community Groups, Individuals and Religious Establishments. All awards are made in the belief that the funding is utilised for sustainable projects and cultural activities that benefit individuals, organisations, communities and their associated assets. All grants are awarded within the Charitable Guidelines of the Trust

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

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible	Progress
Award grants	April 2018	Welsh Church Fund	On target

8. Monitoring: The impacts of this proposal will need to be monitored and reviewed. Please specify the date at which you will evaluate the impact, and where you will report the results of the review.

The impacts of this proposal will be evaluated on:	The Payment of grants awarded to the successful applicants
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WELSH CHURCH FUND - APPLICATIONS 2017/18
MEETING 2: 27th July 2017

APPENDIX 3

<u>ORGANISATION</u>	<u>ELECTORAL DIVISION</u>	<u>Signed by Councillor</u>	<u>REQUEST</u>	<u>DECISION</u>	<u>NATURE OF REQUEST</u>	<u>APPROX COST</u>	<u>DATE Received</u>	<u>D of I*</u>	<u>Comments</u>
NEW APPLICATIONS AWAITING DECISION			£	£		£			
1 St Mary's Church, Llanvair Discoed	Caerwent	P Murphy	£1,000	£1,000	Assistance required to help in replacing the guttering and downpipes to the church Nave and Chancel as the current guttering is broken and leading to damp within the church	£8,000	03/07/2017	No	The church provides support, comfort and religious services to the community through regular worship, visiting the sick and lonely.
2 St John's Parich Church Council	Devauden	B. Greenland	£2,500	£1,500	Funding assistance required for the restoration and repair of the entrance gates and supporting concrete plinths	£4,500	01/07/2017	No	The Parish Church holds Village Fetes, hogroasts and carol services for the local community.
3 Jonathon Griffiths	Llanbadoc	V.Smith	£1,000	£500	Request for assistance in studying a PhD in 'History & Philosophy of Science' at University College London. The candidate is looking to do a prospective 100,000 dissertation on 'ancient Greek scientific theories of the world's destruction'	£50,745	11/07/2017	No	The applicant has also contacted the: Roger Edwards Educational Trust and the James Pantyfedwen Foundation(Aberystwyth) for funding
4 St Peter's Church	Cantref	P. Jordan	£1,000	£1,000	Funding assistance required for the restoration and repair of the roof and bell tower which is now deemed unusable due to Health & Safety reasons	£159,998	20/07/2017	No	The total project costs are estimated at £520,000 and this will entail replacing the roofs of the chancel and the nave in their entirety
5									
Late Application									
Deferred Applications									
SUB TOTAL Meeting 1			£5,500	£4,000					
Meeting 1 Award				6,660					
Meeting 2 Award				4,000					
Meeting 3 Award				0					
Meeting 4 Award				0					
Meeting 5 Award				0					
TOTAL AWARDED FOR 2016/17 TO DATE				10,660					
BUDGET 2017/18				31,400					
BALANCE B/F TO 2017/18				£15,051					
Monmouthshire's Allocation for 2017/18				£46,451					
REMAINING BALANCE			£35,791						

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