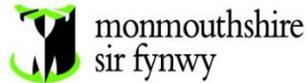


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Neuadd y Sir
Y Rhadyr
Brynbuga
NP15 1GA

County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Tuesday, 6 June 2017

Notice of meeting / Hysbysiad o gyfarfod:

Lower Wye Area Committee

**Wednesday, 14th June, 2017 at 10.00 am,
Chepstow Leisure Centre - Chepstow**

AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Election of Chairman	
2.	Appointment of Vice Chairman	
3.	Apologies for Absence	
4.	Declarations of Interest	
5.	Public Open Forum	
6.	To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2016	1 - 6
7.	To discuss Town and Community Council Representation	
8.	Community Governance Update	7 - 16
9.	Local Transport Issues	
10.	Strategies to involve Members of the Public	
11.	Implications for the Lower Wye Area following the announcement to remove Severn Bridge Tolls (Traffic, Air Quality, Local Health, Housing, Employment, Education and Transport Demands)	
12.	To confirm the date of the next meeting as 20th September 2017 at 10.00am	

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillors:

L.Brown
J.Becker
A. Webb
D. Dovey
D. Batrouni
R.J.W. Greenland
P. Murphy
P.Pavia
A. Watts

Public Information

Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

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Welsh Language

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

Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Outcomes we are working towards

Nobody Is Left Behind

- Older people are able to live their good life
- People have access to appropriate and affordable housing
- People have good access and mobility

People Are Confident, Capable and Involved

- People's lives are not affected by alcohol and drug misuse
- Families are supported
- People feel safe

Our County Thrives

- Business and enterprise
- People have access to practical and flexible learning
- People protect and enhance the environment

Our priorities

- Schools
- Protection of vulnerable people
- Supporting Business and Job Creation
- Maintaining locally accessible services

Our Values

- **Openness:** we aspire to be open and honest to develop trusting relationships.
- **Fairness:** we aspire to provide fair choice, opportunities and experiences and become an organisation built on mutual respect.
- **Flexibility:** we aspire to be flexible in our thinking and action to become an effective and efficient organisation.
- **Teamwork:** we aspire to work together to share our successes and failures by building on our strengths and supporting one another to achieve our goals.

Nodau a Gwerthoedd Cyngor Sir Fynwy

Cymunedau Cynaliadwy a Chryf

Canlyniadau y gweithiwn i'w cyflawni

Neb yn cael ei adael ar ôl

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

Pobl yn hyderus, galluog ac yn cymryd rhan

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

Ein sir yn ffynnu

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

Ein blaenoriaethau

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

Ein gwerthoedd

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

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 6

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Lower Wye Area Committee held
at Chepstow Leisure Centre, Wye Valley Room on Wednesday, 14th December, 2016 at
10.00 am**

PRESENT: County Councillor D. Dovey (Chair)

County Councillors: A. Webb, G. Down, P. Farley and P. Murphy

ALSO PRESENT:

Mrs. B. Moore – Shirenewton Community Council
Councillor S. Dovey – Chepstow Town Council
Mrs J. Saunders – Tintern Community Council

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Andy Smith – Strategic Investment and Funding Manager
Debbie McCarty – Whole Place Manager
Wendy Barnard – Democratic Services Officer

APOLOGIES:

County Councillors R.J.W. Greenland and P.A.D. Hobson

1. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

2. Public Open Forum

No matters were raised during the Public Open Forum.

3. To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 29th September 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on the 29th September 2016 were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

Matters Arising:

- **Capital Funding Requests:** It was agreed that responses should be within a set time. It was noted that there were still two missing applications for Capital Funding requests. It was agreed that Mrs. D. Hill-Howells should be contacted and requested to provide a response by e mail to all Committee Members and the matter to be included as an agenda item at the next meeting. It was advised that there is £5000 available until the review of area committees is completed.

The Committee was informed that Shirenewton Community Council had submitted an application under previous rules and an outcome is expected.

- **Tourist Information Centre:** The Committee received an update that since the last meeting, there had been a constructive meeting, attended by County Councillors P. Farley and D. Dovey, between Walkers are Welcome and other interested parties. The

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Lower Wye Area Committee held at Chepstow Leisure Centre, Wye Valley Room on Wednesday, 14th December, 2016 at 10.00 am

meeting facilitated useful dialogue regarding the Tourist Information Centre and some other developments. It was felt that progress had been made.

4. Update from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board on Chepstow Hospital and Health Care in South Wales

The Committee welcomed Mr. N. Wood, Chief Operating Officer and Mrs. P. Hapgood, Assistant Divisional Nurse, Community, from the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board to the meeting to provide an overview of community health facilities (Chepstow and South Wales) from the ABUHB's perspective.

The Clinical Future Strategies for the future development and delivery of health services in the region were introduced. It was explained that new and existing hospitals are being evaluated from an estate and service perspective to ensure they are fit for purpose for the future. It was explained that permission has been granted by the Welsh Government to construct a 462 bed Specialist and Critical Care Centre (SCCC) in Llanfrechfa. This will provide a highly specialised environment to support the treatment of patients who need complex and acute emergency care in the region and will open in 2021.

It was explained that Accident and Emergency services for ambulance patients will be provided in the SCCC with support from the regional hospitals for minor injuries (Ysbytty Ystrad Fawr, Ysbytty Aneurin Bevan, Nevill Hall and Royal Gwent Hospitals). It was noted that patients referred via their GP in Chepstow will still go to the Royal Gwent Hospital.

It was explained that the Health Board is currently consulting upon a "Care Closer to Home" strategy for the Greater Gwent region. In the county, it is proposed that as many services as possible will be delivered locally through integrated hubs in Monmouth and Chepstow.

It was confirmed that there will not be a Minor Injury Unit in Chepstow Hospital. A Member stated that a petition with 2500 signatures had been met with indifference and questioned why there had been no public consultation on this important matter. It was added that many residents in the Chepstow area travel to Lydney and District Hospital for minor injury services. It was suggested that the decision was revisited particularly in view of the changing needs of the population and the availability of public transport services.

It was confirmed that the Health Board is aware of the use of Lydney and District Hospital and that discussions are in progress with GPs in Monmouth and Chepstow to develop minor injury care locally in primary care centres. Reference was also made to the difficulties in accessing a GP in Chepstow, noting that when GPs are nearing retirement, it is difficult to arrange replacements.

The Health Board representatives acknowledged the concerns expressed regarding service changes and confirmed that engagement is a priority. It was explained that bigger, integrated centres that deliver more services can use the workforce more effectively. It was explained that there are challenges to overcome in relation to elderly and mental health patients, and also e.g. lack of availability of domiciliary care.

A Member queried how Greyhill Surgery, Caldicot, which provides a lot of services, fits into the strategy. It was explained that this is an example of a neighbourhood care network trialled by some GPs in the South Monmouthshire area. It was added that the development of resource centres around GP practices is proposed for the future; moving away from the old model of self-employed/GP owned surgeries.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Lower Wye Area Committee held at Chepstow Leisure Centre, Wye Valley Room on Wednesday, 14th December, 2016 at 10.00 am

A Member recalled a previous plan to bring services closer to communities that did not proceed. It was added that some services were removed adding that the SCCC was planned in 2008. It was commented that there had been enough discussion and consultation, and that action was now required. In response, it was explained that the SCCC had been proposed in 2003 but was only authorised by Welsh Government on 31 October 2016. Further, it was explained that without the SCCC, the plan to bring services closer is not deliverable citing insufficient capital investment in the Royal Gwent and Nevill Hall Hospitals from Welsh Government; £7 million annual budget. It was confirmed that the Care Closer to Home Strategy could have been delivered earlier if the decision on the SCCC made sooner. Now that the decision is received, the strategy can be implemented.

It was confirmed that 48 beds for care of elderly and a mental health ward have been removed from Chepstow Hospital but that re-enablement services remain the same. It was commented, in response to a query, that there are 8 radiographer vacancies across the Health Board and attempts to recruit sonographers who can interpret images have proved difficult. It was confirmed that radiography equipment is still in place in Chepstow.

Rumours that Ysbytty Aneurin Bevan is to close were quashed. The facility will not close and will continue to provide minor injury services, 96 beds for rehabilitation and care of the elderly, and will be a support ward to free up acute beds for Nevill Hall Hospital for the winter months.

In terms of stroke and rehabilitation, it was explained that an integrated partnership model has been adopted with discharge liaison nurses to aid quicker re-ablement. Additionally, for fall patients, care workers will start the relationship in hospital and will continue at home. It was confirmed that stroke and rehabilitation services will continue in Chepstow Hospital.

A Member queried why it takes so long to transfer x-ray results to the GP, especially as the images are digital. It was explained that an ultrasound/x ray has to be seen by a supervisor who will interpret the image noting that non-urgent, low priority images will take 2/3 weeks to return to the GP.

The proposals regarding mental health services in the area were queried noting that it can take over 6 months for a therapy referral, or for a patient to be seen, suggesting that it may be quicker to go to the voluntary sector or privately.

It was acknowledged that the Health Board has been poor at delivering primary mental health care. It was explained that it is a Welsh Government requirement that 80% of mental health patients should be seen within 28 days and therapy should be provided within a further 28 days. It was reported that a year ago only 30% of patients were being seen, or provided with therapy within the target times. This was due to underinvestment in therapies and reliance on the voluntary sector. The Health Board is building that service back up whilst managing the back log. Currently, 80% are seen within 28 days and 70% are provided with therapy within acceptable timescales.

It was reported that the wait for children's mental health services has reduced from 17/18 weeks to 16 weeks.

It was noted that there is a significant problem with patients who don't attend appointments (20% -30%). To combat this, text and e mail reminders are being sent for some services. This approach will be deployed for mental health appointments.

In response to a query, it was confirmed that there was no significant issue with collection of debts, nor a high level of overseas patients.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Lower Wye Area Committee held at Chepstow Leisure Centre, Wye Valley Room on Wednesday, 14th December, 2016 at 10.00 am

A Member acknowledged that Accident and Emergency Services in Nevill Hall Hospital and Royal Gwent Hospital are bottlenecks in the system, and queried if the closure of minor injuries units impacts on ambulance services. It was confirmed that there is a minor injuries unit in Ysbytty Aneurin Bevan and a wider facility at Ysbytty Ystrad Fawr, and two other Accident and Emergency facilities. It was added that numbers of patients being seen are stable and not increasing. The intention is to consolidate such services to a small number of sites and it was confirmed that most minor injuries are dealt with in Accident and Emergency. The view was expressed that major injuries are causing the blockage in the system hence the inability to move patients through and out of the system. It was added that the volume of admission of patients by GPs is considerable noting a 26% increase over the last two years. It was commented that volumes of frail elderly for short or long term admission have seen a significant increase.

It was confirmed that a trial at Nevill Hall Hospital for a 6-8 week period, has taken place where GP referred patients are rapid triaged and moved on. The Committee was advised that minor injury services don't always contribute to congestion in the system.

It was noted that the Health Board are looking to appoint 3 Physician Assistants which could relieve GP costs. It was suggested that a Sister led minor injury unit supported by a doctor on call released from local surgeries could be a useful solution.

The issue of additional demand for services from the 500 plus houses being constructed in Chepstow and Severnside, area was raised noting that there are applications for 600 further housing units.

Members of the Public in attendance at the meeting were satisfied that their main matters of interest had been covered. They added some information about their personal experience that the people delivering services were great but that the system was not, citing in particular that staffing levels appeared to be very low.

The Health Board representatives expressed their willingness to return to discuss services further and were thanked for their attendance.

5. Overview of Rural Development Funding

The Committee welcomed Mr. A. Smith, Strategic Investment and Funding Manager to the meeting to report on the delivery of the Rural Development Programme (RDP).

It was explained that the authority administers the Leader Funding element of the RDP for 2014-20 covering all eligible funding areas north of Newport and Monmouthshire known collectively as the Vale of Usk for which £2.7m revenue funding has been secured.

It was explained that a local development strategy was needed and, consequently, consultees were asked to determine priorities to define where the funding should be spent. It was concluded that the five main themes for Leader funding should be:

- Adding value to local identity and natural and cultural resources. (£492K).
- Facilitating pre-commercial development, business partnerships and short supply chains. (£492K).
- Exploring new ways of providing non-statutory local services. (£492K).
- Renewable energy at a community level. (£356K).
- Exploitation of digital technology. (£630K).

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Lower Wye Area Committee held at Chepstow Leisure Centre, Wye Valley Room on Wednesday, 14th December, 2016 at 10.00 am

It was explained that projects must be community led from the ground up and the main focus area is promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas with a focus on the following areas:

- (a) facilitating diversification, creation of new small enterprises and job creation;
- (b) fostering local development in rural areas;
- (c) enhancing accessibility to, use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas.

It was further explained projects must address one or more of the following cross cutting themes:

- a) Equal opportunities including Welsh Language.
- b) Sustainable development.
- c) Poverty and social exclusion.

It was confirmed that there was no maximum grant limit currently and award of funding is related to outputs from investment. It was explained that eligible activities are subject to 20% match funding (RDP 80%).

It was explained that there is a 2 stage Process starting with an idea form which is assessed by the relevant theme sub group (team of officers). If approved a full application is invited, again assessed and scored by the sub group with final approval of all projects by the full Local Action Group (LAG). It was noted that online voting has been introduced for the LAG to speed up the process.

A copy of the papers from the presentation were requested and to include contact details of appropriate officers.

In response to a query, it was confirmed that a Community Council is eligible to apply in both categories. It was commented that the name Vale of Usk may confuse some potential applicants as it suggests it is not for our area.

It was questioned if the expenditure was on track and noted in response that difficulty was being experienced in getting ideas from groups but work was being undertaken to encourage applications. In particular, it was reported that there is limited interest in renewable energy projects. It was noted that a marketing adviser has been engaged and a press release will be issued through the MCC website and via social media. It was suggested that the Tourist Information Centre would be a good conduit.

6. Petition - Reduced Speed Limit A466 Tintern - Old Station

A petition requesting support for a speed limit in the vicinity of the entrance of the Old Station, Tintern was received.

It was reported that the matter is ongoing and that a survey will be considered in January. It was commented that the speed limit should be extended to Brockweir Bridge.

It was noted that a road safety seminar was planned for the following week and any issues should be forwarded to County Councillor A. Webb.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Lower Wye Area Committee held
at Chepstow Leisure Centre, Wye Valley Room on Wednesday, 14th December, 2016 at
10.00 am**

7. To note the date and time of the next meeting as 13th March 2017 at 10.00am

The date and time of the next meeting was confirmed as 13th March 2017 at 10.00am. It was suggested that the venue should be The Old Station, Tintern.

The meeting ended at 11.40 am



SUBJECT: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE IN MONMOUTHSHIRE

MEETING: COUNTY COUNCIL

DATE: 20th March 2017

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE:

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Council's agreement to pilot a new set of arrangements for Community Governance in Monmouthshire.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that: (i) the ongoing review of community governance and whole place is finalised as early as possible to allow the new Council to reach agreement as to the shape and structure of community engagement;

(ii) That the community governance structure designed as a part of member working group is piloted in the Bryn Y Cwm area.

3. KEY ISSUES:

3.1 Community Governance is not easy to define but in essence, it is the way in which local communities are represented and governed at local authority level. It is the mechanism through which the involvement of statutory and voluntary agencies, community groups and by the efforts of local people themselves are held in an organized structure that facilitates engagement. It is also about the way in which individuals and groups within the community are listened to and able to influence decisions that affect them.

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

What is a Community Governance Review?

3.3 A community governance review enables the council to review and put in place or make changes to community governance systems and structures.

Why is the Council doing this review?

- 3.4 The aim of the Community Governance Review was to improve community engagement – this is important because we know that more cohesive communities are important to the Council being able to deliver its priorities. The outcomes of the review will provide clarity as to when, where and how local people can engage in discussions and influence decisions. It will provide explicit clarification as to the responsibility for decision making in certain arenas and the accountability that flows from those decisions.
- 3.5 The Council also wants to review the small amount of grant funding that is currently allocated through the Area Committees to ensure that this is being allocated in the most appropriate way.

What does good [community] governance look like?

Good governance is transparent

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

Good governance follows the rule of law

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

Good governance is responsive

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

Good governance is equitable and inclusive

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

Good governance is effective and efficient

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

Good governance is participatory

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

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

Current facets of Monmouthshire's Community Governance

What are Area Committees?

3.12 Monmouthshire Council operates a system of four area committees; Bryn-y-Cwm; Severnside; Lower Wye and Central Monmouthshire.

3.13 These may be given authority to exercise some of the council's powers. They are made up of the councillors representing the local area covered by the committee, and they may have other representatives "co-opted" to them. A co-optee is someone who has not been elected directly to the council, but who has a seat on the area committee to represent an organisation that has a legitimate interest in the way the area is governed.

3.14 The Area Committees have a small amount of capital grant monies to distribute (£5,000p.a.).

3.15 Appendix 1 includes a copy of the current constitution of Monmouthshire's Area Committee.

What are Area, Community or Neighbourhood Forums?

3.16 These are sometimes set up and run by local authorities to give communities a say on local issues. They consist of people working or living in an area but not the councillors elected for the area. We currently have two Community Forums in Monmouthshire; Bryn-y-Cwm and the Rural Forum (Central Monmouthshire).

What are Community Associations?

3.17 Members of a community set up community Associations locally. They usually have a democratically-elected management committee and they may include local councillors. They can influence the way local authorities and other organisations provide services in their area. They usually cover either a specific geographical area or a particular interest such as a sport or hobby. They do not have powers to raise money through a precept or the Council Tax, are often run by volunteers, and may be set up as a charity.

Town Teams

3.18 Town teams are a relatively new development in Community Governance and have become increasingly popular in recent times as the communities in a range of places have sought to become more involved in securing a viable future for their towns. These are outside of the control of the Authority and often have their own formal governance arrangements. The Caldicot Town Team is formally incorporated as a Community Interest Company.

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

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

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

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

3.21 The first meeting was largely a discussion about the nature of democracy and what MCC elected members' expectations of community governance

are. At the second meeting in June we discussed a set of specific proposals. These are included below.

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

- Provide a forum for local councillors to engage with residents about local issues
- Give local communities a stronger and more direct voice in decision making in their local area
- Enable members to have influence over decisions that are specific to their local area
- Develop and oversee the delivery of localised plans
- Engage with representatives of town and community councils
- Harness and channel community energy to deliver improved outcomes for the local area and its communities
- Bring together partner agencies to focus on locally specific issues

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

- Integrated
- Collaborative
- Long term
- Involving
- Preventative

3.24 In particular the principles of involving and collaboration were pertinent in this instance. Members considered seven different models during their discussions. These are shown at appendix 2.

Conclusions of the discussion

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

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

Positives	Negatives
Members are accountable	Scale of meeting (number of committee members)
Transparent co-opting arrangement	Can co-opted members vote?
Clear alignment to the constitution	Community representatives could be

	elected (C&T Council), representative or individual – how will this be determined?
Decision making strengthened and streamlined	Breadth of geographical cover
Single entry point to public	Disparity between the area committees effectiveness
Community voice greater than currently	

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

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

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

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

Relationships with Community and Town Councils

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

4. REASONS:

4.1 The adoption of the model set out in paragraph 3.25 was agreed unanimously by the member working group. In essence it provides an evolutionary development of the current area committee model but embraces several of the factors of good community engagement that were included in the last Local Government (Wales) Bill in November 2015.

4.2 The decision to pilot this model in Bryn Y Cwm is well based on the evidence of the review and the fact that Bryn Y Cwm has proven to be the most resilient example of Area working and the high level of social capital in the area and developed links to the local town and community councils.

4.3 The decision to pilot the work rather than a universal roll out is because of the ongoing work being led by Cath Fallon that is reviewing the broader organisational aspects of community engagement.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 There are no resource implications for the initial pilot phase in Bryn Y Cwm. Resources necessary to conclude the review of whole place and community engagement are met within existing budgets.

6. SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUALITIES:

6.1 This meets the principle of engagement and involvement – two key tenants of the wellbeing of future generations work.

7. CONSULTEES:

Senior Leadership Team
Cabinet
Strategic Transport Group
Lower Wye Area Committee
Bryn Y Cwm Area Committee
Severnside Area Committee
Central Monmouthshire Area Committee

8. AUTHOR:

Will McLean,

9. CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: 07834 435934

E-mail: willmclean@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1 - Article 10 of the Monmouthshire

The Council may appoint area committees as it sees fit, if it is satisfied that to do so will ensure improved service delivery in the context of best value and more efficient, transparent and accountable decision making.

The Council has recognised the need to engage the community in Area Working which in its early stages has involved establishing 3 Area Committees with the following roles and functions:

1. To help the Council shape major proposals affecting the area and to advise the Council about the implications for the area of its objectives, plans and policies.
2. To lead the development of the local community planning process and produce a Community Plan for each area in a way which promotes the council's overall policies as well as safeguarding local interest.
3. To ensure properly co-ordinated services on a local level.
4. To encourage effective collaboration with public, private and voluntary sector partners locally to help the Council meet the aspirations of local people.
5. To provide a forum for views of local communities and to encourage discussions and debate on matters of particular relevance to the area including participating in the process of Best Value Reviews as a formal consultee.
6. To make decisions on matters within the area that have been delegated by the Executive provided those decisions are within the Council's overall policies and budgetary allocations and do not adversely affect other areas of Monmouthshire.

Additional Representation

Each Area Committee may identify and agree 'communities of interest' within its area from which a representative may be invited to participate at meetings of the committee. Such invitees will not be co-opted members of the committee but may speak (not vote) on matters whenever the press and public are able to attend.

Appendix 2

Option 1 (Status Quo)

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

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

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

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

Option 3) Area Committee with no representation from public.

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

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

Option 4) Area committee with local area focus group

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

Option 5) Programme Board without Area Committee

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

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

3 members per programme board selected at Monmouthshire County Council AGM

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

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

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