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County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Wednesday, 8 July 2020

Notice of meeting

County Council

Thursday, 16th July, 2020 at 2.00 pm

REMOTE MEETING

AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
3.	Public Questions	
4.	Receipt of petitions	
5.	Report of the Chief Executive	
5.1.	Call In and Urgency Report	1 - 2
6.	Report of the Chief Officer for Resources	
6.1.	Section 151 Officer Covid 19 Update	3 - 6
7.	Reports of the Head of Policy and Governance	
7.1.	Climate Emergency Strategy Update	7 - 20
7.2.	Electoral Review - Council Proposed Scheme	21 - 42
8.	Notices of Motion:	
8.1.	Submitted by County Councillor M. Groucutt	

This council notes and welcomes the very well organised and wholly peaceful rallies recently organised by young people in Abergavenny, Monmouth and Chepstow. It reflects a positive engagement in seeking to improve our society. We congratulate the organisers for their efforts in enabling these events to take place. As a consequence, many hundreds of people were able to show that, whatever the era and whatever the place, Black Lives Matter

8.2. Submitted by County Councillor V. Smith

That Monmouthshire County Council should support the construction of a Severn Barrage to ensure security of energy and economic benefit through construction. A transport route across a barrage would benefit area connectivity

8.3. Submitted by County Councillor D. Batrouni

That this Council supports free car parking in all our town centres, in particular Chepstow, Abergavenny and Monmouth, until December 2020. We believe this will give a much-needed boost to our local businesses through this Covid-19 pandemic by encouraging residents to shop locally

8.4. Submitted by County Councillor D. Batrouni

That this Council opposes the scheme proposed by Cabinet to offer loans to our schools to cover their deficit positions. The Council believes that instead of saddling our schools and future generations with more debt, the Cabinet should properly fund our schools by making a commitment to increase (at the very least) school budgets in line with inflation

9. Members' Questions

9.1. From County Councillor P. Pavia to County Councillor J. Pratt, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Neighbourhood Services

Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on the closure of the Old Wye Bridge in Chepstow?

9.2. From County Councillor P. Pavia to County Councillor R. John, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and MonLife

Will the Cabinet Member make a statement about plans to educate Monmouthshire's children from the start of the new academic year 2020-21?

9.3. From County Councillor P. Pavia to County Councillor R. Greenland, Cabinet Member for Enterprise

Will the Cabinet Member make a statement regarding the review of COVID public-safety proposals implemented by the Council in our towns and village centres the week commencing 22 June 2020?

10.	To confirm the minutes of the meeting of County Council held on 4th June 2020	43 - 50
11.	EXEMPT Report of the Chief Executive	
11.1.	To exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A to the Act.	51 - 52
11.2.	Chief Officer Appointment	53 - 54

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillors:

P. Clarke
D. Batrouni
J.Becker
D. Blakebrough
L.Brown
A.Davies
D. Dovey
L.Dymock
A. Easson
R. Edwards
D. Evans
M.Feakins
P.A. Fox
R.J.W. Greenland
M.Groucutt
L. Guppy
R. Harris
J. Higginson
G. Howard
S. Howarth
R.John
D. Jones
L.Jones
P. Jones
S. Jones
S.B. Jones
P. Jordan
M.Lane
P. Murphy
P.Pavia
M. Powell
J.Pratt
R.Roden
V. Smith
B. Strong
F. Taylor
T.Thomas
J.Treharne
J.Watkins
A. Watts
A. Webb
K. Williams
S. Woodhouse

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Welsh Language

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Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Our purpose

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Objectives we are working towards

- Giving people the best possible start in life
- A thriving and connected county
- Maximise the Potential of the natural and built environment
- Lifelong well-being
- A future focused council

Our Values

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

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

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

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

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SUBJECT:	CALL IN AND URGENCY
MEETING:	COUNCIL
DATE OF REPORT:	16 JUL 20
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report follows the decision by Cabinet to deal with an urgent matter on 27 May 2020, thus waiving the option of call in, and triggering the constitutional requirement to submit a report to Council explaining the reason for the urgency thereafter.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Council is requested to note this report.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 On 27 May 2020 Cabinet received a report entitled "Covid 19 – Proposal to Utilise Gilwern Outdoor Education Centre for Emergency Homeless Accommodation". Cabinet approved the recommendations therein.
- 3.2 The call-in procedure allows a matter decided by the Executive to be discussed by an appropriate Select Committee if 3 Councillors so request within 5 clear working days of the decision being published (within 2 clear working days of the decision). There is then a further 15 days in which the Chair of the Select Committee should hold a meeting.
- 3.3 This procedure shall not apply when a matter is considered to be urgent. A decision is urgent if the delay articulated above would prejudice the Council's or the public's interests.
- 3.4 In this case, the Welsh Government issued "*Coronavirus (COVID-19): Local Authority Support for Rough Sleepers*" that required Local Authorities to immediately, safely house those rough sleeping or displaced as a result of the state of emergency. This requirement saturated MCC's normal accommodation options and so an additional resource had to be identified at speed.
- 3.5 It was submitted to the Proper Officer (in the absence of Select Committees sitting at the time owing to the Covid emergency), that the potential for delay that the call-in procedure provides would have resulted in a risk of MCC not meeting the requirement set out in the above document issued by Welsh Government. Accordingly, he agreed to treat the matter as urgent.
- 3.6 Cabinet approved the request that the matter be treated as urgent.

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING)

- 4.1 Given the nature of this report no implications have been identified.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 5.1 The report is to note only and is mandated by the constitution. Do nothing was not an option.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Nil

7. CONSULTEES

7.1 There has been no formal consultation on this report as it is mandated by the Constitution though the Monitoring Officer has been consulted.

8. AUTHOR

Paul Matthews – Chief Executive

paulmatthews@monmouthshire.gov.uk

SUBJECT:	SECTION 151 OFFICER COVID-19 UPDATE
MEETING:	COUNCIL
DATE:	16th July 2020
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	County wide

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To provide an update on the financial impact of COVID-19 on the Council.
- 1.2 To outline the timetable for a budget recovery plan to be developed.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To receive an update and recognise the significant uncertainty surrounding the Council's financial position.
- 2.2 To recognise the need to limit spending wherever possible until such time that financial uncertainties become clear and a budget recovery plan is agreed.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Since entering 2020 the Council has faced significant and unprecedented challenges notably:
 - The flood response and recovery resulting from Storms Ciara and Dennis in February 2020;
 - The COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of the lockdown restrictions that were put into effect on 23rd March 2020
- 3.2 Each of these draws significantly on the Council's resources, both in terms capacity and finances and places an unprecedented strain on the Council.
- 3.3 As the Council transitions from the response phase of the pandemic it is important that members are kept informed as impacts are being assessed.
- 3.4 Putting the Council's finances into context, pre COVID-19 pandemic, the Council had:
 - Brought forward budget savings proposals for 2020/21 of £8.5m to manage budget pressures of £9.5m and alongside a disappointing Welsh Government settlement where the extent of pressures on services were not recognised;

- To benefit from a significant one-off VAT receipt and flexible use of capital receipts to arrest a £3.76m net over spend against services in 2019/20; and
- Finalised its draft accounts for 19/20 with useable capital receipts of only £3.2m, a Council Fund balance of £8.5m and useable earmarked reserves of £6.4m (of which there is planned use that will reduce earmarked reserves to £5.4m at the end of 2020/21).

3.5 The Council was already facing financial challenges. The pandemic has accentuated the challenge:

- Services and existing capacity has been redirected and redeployed to ensure that the Council met its core purpose of protecting life. This has seen additional unbudgeted costs being incurred.
- Many income generating services have had to stop in order to comply with UK and Welsh Government guidance. The income loss and shortfall is significant and ongoing.
- There is delay in the implementation of some budget savings proposals for 2020/21 as a result of people directed elsewhere to respond to the pandemic.

3.6 A report will be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on the 29th July that will provide a 'point in time' assessment and forecast for 2020/21. Forecasts are being prepared on assumptions that are uncertain. The forecasts will be supplemented by sensitivity analysis and risk assessments. In order to highlight the extent of the financial challenge, the range is anywhere between a £3 million and £10.4m over-spend for 2020/21.

3.7 The key risk and uncertainty continues to be the amount of compensatory Welsh Government funding that the Council will receive. Announcements by both Welsh Government and UK Government have been made and have confirmed levels of commitment to support local authorities. There is a lack of clarity as to when Welsh local authorities will have certainty around the level of funding to be received.

3.8 Council is unlikely to have all of its costs and pressure met by Welsh Government. The question therefore become one of how significant is the shortfall that needs to be managed in year and will Welsh local authorities obtain any flexibilities to spread the burden over more than one financial year.

3.9 Beyond Welsh Government funding an assessment is also being undertaken of reserve balances and available capital receipts. Clearly this will require a review of the Council's existing reserve strategy and regard will not only need to be given to the current year situation but also to the medium and long term. Reserve balances are finite and act as only a limited buffer to fund one-off costs.

3.10 Cabinet has asked officers to bring forward a budget recovery plan together with a proposed set of budget savings proposals. Draft proposals will be taken through select committees for scrutiny in September before being considered by Council in October.

- 3.11 It should finally be noted that local authorities have a statutory duty to balance their budgets and, under the framework set out in the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the S151 officer, needs to issue a S114 notice if she / he thinks spending is likely to exceed resource levels.
- 3.12 COVID-19 strategic aims approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 1st July commits Council to remaining financially sustainable. Officers have every intent to develop a budget recovery plan and subsequent budget savings proposals to deliver against that strategic aim. However, Welsh Government plays a pivotal role in this in ensuring that the financial challenge faced by the Council is surmountable rather than insurmountable. Recourse to application of a S114 notice should be and will be seen very much as a last resort and is not considered necessary at this time.

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

- 4.1 This report is an information update report and carries no decisions. There are no resultant equality or future generation impacts to be considered.
- 4.2 Any such impacts will be fully considered subsequently when Council receives the budget recovery plan and revised budget proposals.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 5.1 This report provides an update on the current financial situation and the challenges facing the Council now and over the medium term.
- 5.2 Options will be considered when determining the appropriate response to addressing the budget shortfalls contained in the report. These will be subsequently considered by Council and upon receipt of the budget recovery plan and revised budget proposals for 2020/21.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 6.1 This report provides an update to Council and is not requiring a decision. As a result there is no decision to subsequent evaluate.

7. REASONS:

- 7.1 To provide Council with a timely update on the current financial circumstances and challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and that will in turn lead Council in needing to plan and plot a revised course to ensure it remains financially sustainable into the future.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 The resource implications are contained in the body of the report and throughout.

- 8.2 A fuller detailed forecast and assessment of the in-year financial position will be provided to Cabinet on 29th July. And subsequently a budget recovery plan and revised budget savings proposals brought back to Council in October.
- 8.3 There are resultant consequences for the MTFP and the budget process for 2021/22 and these will be developed in parallel in the coming months and to feed into the normal budget cycle and process.

9. CONSULTEES:

Cabinet
Strategic Leadership Team

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None

11. AUTHOR:

Peter Davies – Chief Officer for Resources (Acting S151 Officer)

12. CONTACT DETAILS:

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SUBJECT:	CLIMATE EMERGENCY STRATEGY UPDATE
MEETING:	COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE:	16 JULY 2020
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To provide an update on progress towards the Council's commitment to reduce its carbon emissions to net zero by 2030.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Council notes progress made towards reducing council carbon emissions, including those areas where progress has been slower than anticipated.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 In May 2019 Council voted unanimously to declare a Climate Emergency and passed the following motion:
- That this council will ensure it will reduce its own carbon emissions to net zero before the Welsh Government target of 2030.
 - That this council will develop a strategy and associated costed action plans to aim to deliver these targets as soon as practicable.
 - That this council revise the Corporate plan, Well-being plan, Local development plans and other relevant plans and policies in support of above.
 - Publicise this declaration of a climate emergency to residents and businesses in the county and encourage, support and enable them to take their own actions to reduce their carbon emissions in line with a 2030 target.
 - Work with partners across the county and other councils and organisations to help develop and implement best practice methods in limiting global warming to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- 3.2 The motion set a clear policy position with objectives, subsequently agreed by Council in October 2019 providing further detail on how this would be achieved. The objectives are set out in an appendix to this report. A detailed action plan was produced and will remain a live and flexible document to which further actions are added as new ideas and opportunities are identified.
- 3.3 A member-led Climate Emergency working group, chaired by the cabinet member with representatives from all political groups, relevant officers and members of the community, has been established. It has been agreed that this is an effective way to ensure this agenda is progressed with the necessary pace and ambition with the involvement of all political groups. The working group met for the first time in January and has used technology to continue meetings during the Coronavirus lockdown. The approach has

enabled valuable input and ideas from community representatives, meetings have been attended by senior officers leading on the actions.

- 3.4 At its most recent meeting the working group received a progress update with all actions tracked and progress summarised using a RAG rating. There is clear progress against 53 of the 68 actions including confirmation that the council has:
- Ordered two new electric vans for schools catering and commenced installation of EV charging points at Deri View and Kymin View.
 - Installed 4200 LED street lights, bringing the total to 9000. The remaining 1400 lights are now being converted to LED.
 - Provided financial support towards a repair café in Monmouth
 - Reduced mowing of green infrastructure with over 3 million square metres managed in a more sustainable manner with less mowing therefore reduced levels of CO₂.
 - Commenced a tree planting programme throughout the County.
 - Funding secured to pilot the use of a small number of e-bikes to encourage active travel
- 3.5 The group also examined areas where progress has been slower than anticipated or has been unable to start. This includes: a lack of feasibility in local schemes to encourage the transition to electric taxis at the current time; limited progress on an anti-idling campaign at school gates due to COVID-19 and plans to open a re-use shop and Caerwent Household Waste recycling centre have been paused for the same reason. Overall the main reasons for projects not progressing can be grouped into 4 main types:
- A lack of available funding or uncertainty of funding due to COVID-19
 - Work being paused or unable to start due to COVID-19
 - Work is dependent on other partners
 - Timings mean that progress cannot be made yet e.g. suitable technology not yet available, progress tied to LDP etc.
- 3.6 It is clear that COVID-19 has caused some delays to progressing our Climate Emergency aspirations, and created some uncertainty over funding. However, it has also resulted in a growing recognition nationally and internationally of the need to build climate change into a green recovery. The benefits include:
- Improved air quality due to reduction in driving and flying
 - Recognition that home working can be an effective alternative to office-based work reducing the need for daily commuting
 - Recognition that most meetings can easily be carried out virtually without the need to drive
 - An increase in walking and cycling
 - A closer awareness of nature and the wildlife around us
 - Benefits to pollinators through reduced and delayed grass cutting
 - Greater home cooking from scratch and less food waste
 - More support for local shops
 - Huge numbers of volunteers supporting their communities
 - Increased levels of recycling and home composting
- 3.7 These benefits have been considered by the Working Group and also by Community Climate Champions, and the Council and our communities are actively considering ways in which we can embed these benefits as we transition from the response to recovery phase of the pandemic.

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

- 4.1 The Climate Emergency Action Plan has significant positive contributions to make to the Wellbeing Goals. In particular it has strong benefits for a Prosperous Wales, by developing a low carbon economy and thinking carefully about sustainable procurement. There are also benefits for a Resilient Wales, based on changes to the way we manage green spaces. A Healthier Wales will be enhanced by improvements to air quality from more sustainable travel and more walking and cycling. There is also significant potential to contribute to Cohesive Communities, by working collaboratively and in partnership with our communities. There are no negative impacts on the Well-being Goals.
- 4.2 There are no significant positive or negative impacts on the protected characteristics, safeguarding or corporate parenting. The principles of Long term, Prevention, Integration, Collaboration and Involvement have been used throughout the development of the Action Plan.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL:

- 5.1 Not required since the report is a progress report for information only.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA:

- 6.1 In order to evaluate the success of the Climate Emergency Action Plan, the recently established Climate Emergency working group meet quarterly to hear updates on progress and identify where action needs to be taken.

7. REASONS:

- 7.1 To make Councillors aware of the progress as well as challenges in delivering the Climate Emergency Action Plan to deliver on the Climate Emergency motion that was agreed by Council.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 The actions within the Climate Emergency Action Plan all have different resource implications and will be funded in different ways. Some are zero cost, some will be grant funded, some will be funded by prudential borrowing and invest to save schemes. It is anticipated that where additional funds are needed these will be subject to subsequent decision making processes.

9. CONSULTEES:

Cabinet
Strategic Leadership Team
Climate Emergency Working Group

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan, October 2019

11. AUTHORS:

Hazel Clatworthy, Sustainability Policy Officer
Matthew Gatehouse, Head of Policy and Governance

4. CONTACT DETAILS:

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Climate Emergency Objectives

<p>Energy and Buildings</p> <p>Reduce the amount of energy that is used for buildings and street lighting</p>	<p>Renewable Energy</p> <p>Speed up the move from fossil fuels to renewable energy</p>
<p>Green Spaces</p> <p>Create and manage green spaces to absorb carbon & provide resilience to climate change</p>	<p>What we Buy</p> <p>Reduce carbon by thinking carefully about when and what we buy and the whole life costs</p>
<p>Waste</p> <p>Reduce waste by encouraging people to reduce, re-use and recycle more</p>	<p>Active Travel</p> <p>Encourage and make it easier for people to walk and cycle rather than drive</p>
<p>Greener Transport</p> <p>Reduce the impact of vehicles and encourage the use of electric and hydrogen vehicles</p>	<p>Public Transport</p> <p>Encourage people to use public transport rather than cars</p>
<p>Education and involvement</p> <p>Help people understand climate change and what they can do to make a difference</p>	<p>Climate Adaptation</p> <p>Preparing and adapting for the impact of climate change.</p>

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<p>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation</p> <p>Hazel Clatworthy Phone no: 01633 644843 E-mail: hazelclatworthy@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>To update members on progress towards the Climate Emergency Action Plan and the establishment of the Climate Emergency working group.</p>
<p>Name of Service area</p> <p>Policy and Performance</p>	<p>Date</p> <p>16th July 2020</p>

1. **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.

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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 Climate Emergency Action Plan will have positive impacts for all age groups. In particular there may be benefits for young people by increasing active travel to school.		
Disability	There will be positive impacts on all protected characteristics.		
Gender reassignment	There will be positive impacts on all protected characteristics.		
Marriage or civil partnership	There will be positive impacts on all protected characteristics.		

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	There will be positive impacts on all protected characteristics.		
Race	There will be positive impacts on all protected characteristics.		
Religion or Belief	There will be positive impacts on all protected characteristics.		
Sex	There will be positive impacts on all protected characteristics.		
Sexual Orientation	There will be positive impacts on all protected characteristics.		
Welsh Language	Press releases and web resources on the Climate Emergency are all bilingual. The Welsh language will be considered where required.		
Poverty	There should not be any adverse impacts on low income households. Measures to save energy in the home and improve access to public transport may well benefit low income households.		

2. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	The action plan directly contributes to the Prosperous Wales vision of a low carbon society and action on climate change. There is the potential for green economy jobs to be developed.	
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	The action plan contributes to more sustainable management of green spaces and includes measures which will build resilience of ecosystems.	
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	Transport measures will improve air quality and increasing walking and cycling will improve physical and mental health.	
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	Many of the actions will involve working closely with local communities to produce local community benefits. Transport measures should increase connectivity between communities, particularly for those without a car.	
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	Reducing carbon emissions in Monmouthshire will provide a small contribution towards reducing levels of climate change, which are having global impacts including flooding, drought and sea level rise.	
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	Where appropriate the Welsh language will be used for Climate Emergency communications.	

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	We are keen to work with the Community Climate Champions and other partners, of all ages and all backgrounds, to help us achieve our ambitions.	

3. 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 Action Plan sets out how we aim to achieve a target of zero carbon by 2030. This is a plan for the long term, but it requires quick and immediate action now, to reduce the devastating impacts of climate change in the longer term.</p>	
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>The Climate Emergency Working Group comprises of Council officers, members and members of the community. Many of the actions in the Action Plan are being delivered through collaboration.</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 data-bbox="136 517 297 544">Involvement</p> <p data-bbox="349 296 510 480">Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p data-bbox="544 256 1308 560">Members of the Community Climate Champions group were invited to express an interest in representing the community on the Climate Emergency Working Group. Those on the group include Transition town representatives, town and community councils, a community interest company and energy agency. Many of the specific actions have included involvement e.g. asking for ideas for active travel measures.</p>	
 <p data-bbox="136 836 297 863">Prevention</p> <p data-bbox="349 600 510 895">Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p data-bbox="544 600 1308 703">The whole aim of reducing our carbon emissions is to prevent (or at least reduce the scale of impact) of runaway climate change.</p>	
 <p data-bbox="136 1203 297 1230">Integration</p> <p data-bbox="349 951 510 1214">Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p data-bbox="544 943 1308 1238">.We are in touch with other local authorities across Wales and the UK who have declared a Climate Emergency. We are awaiting guidance from Welsh Government on how they want us to measure and report on zero carbon, so are working closely with them. We are also in touch with Town Councils who are considering/have declared a Climate Emergency to think about how we can work together in an integrated way.</p>	

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

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Social Justice	There should not be any adverse impacts on low income households. Measures to save energy in the home and improve access to public transport may well benefit low income households..		
Safeguarding	There are no safeguarding implications	..	
Corporate Parenting	There are no safeguarding implications		

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

Evidence for the urgency to tackle climate change has come from the IPCC report: <https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>

Local information about energy and climate change has come from our Wellbeing Assessment: <http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2017/05/well-being-assessment-v3.0.pdf>

Data and statistics on energy use, emissions etc has come from the Estates Team.

Some ideas for potential projects have come from: <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/insight/33-actions-local-authorities-can-take-climate-change> and <https://gweddill.gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/190321-prosperity-for-all-a-low-carbon-wales-en.pdf>

Discussions with community groups such as Extinction Rebellion Abergavenny and Transition Towns have helped to inform our approach.

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 Climate Emergency Action Plan has significant positive contributions to make to the Wellbeing Goals. In particular it has strong benefits for a Prosperous Wales, by developing a low carbon economy and thinking carefully about sustainable procurement. There are also benefits for a Resilient Wales, based on changes to the way we manage green spaces. A Healthier Wales will be enhanced by improvements to air quality from more sustainable travel and more walking and cycling. There is also significant potential to contribute to Cohesive Communities, by working collaboratively and in partnership with our communities. There are no negative impacts on the Wellbeing Goals. There are no

significant positive or negative impacts on the protected characteristics, safeguarding or corporate parenting. The principles of Long term, Prevention, Integration, Collaboration and Involvement have been used throughout the development of the Action Plan.

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

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

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1	Council	16 July 2020	

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MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

<p>SUBJECT: ELECTORAL REVIEW – COUNCIL PROPOSED SCHEME MEETING: COUNTY COUNCIL DATE: 16TH JULY 2020 DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: COUNTYWIDE</p>
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1. PURPOSE:

To seek approval for the Council's preferred option for submission as part of the consultation being undertaken by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales ("the Commission").

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That members approve the proposed scheme attached at appendix 1 to be submitted to the Commission as a formal proposal for their consideration into the future electoral arrangements for Monmouthshire.

3. BACKGROUND:

3.1 Section 21(3) of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 provides that the Commission in carrying out its duties must seek to ensure effective and convenient local government. This is the paramount and primary function of the Commission and one of the duties provided for by the Act is the conduct of reviews of the electoral arrangements of principal areas.

3.2 Section 29 of the Act puts a duty upon the Commission to review the electoral arrangements for each principal area including:

- The total number of councillors to be elected to the council
- The number and boundaries of the electoral wards
- The number of councillors to be elected for each electoral ward in the principal area, and
- The name of any electoral ward

3.3 Section 30 of the Act requires the Commission to:

(a) seek to ensure that the ratio of local government electors to the number of members of the council to be elected is, as nearly as may be, the same in every electoral ward of the principal area; and

(b) have regard to:

(i) the desirability of fixing boundaries for electoral wards which are and will remain easily identifiable; and
(ii) the desirability of not breaking local ties when fixing boundaries for electoral wards.

3.4 On the 23 June 2016, Welsh Government's Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government required the Commission to complete electoral reviews for all 22 local authorities ahead of the scheduled

ordinary council elections in 2022. As a result of concluding the community boundary review, Monmouthshire County Council was the last authority in the review programme to commence the electoral review.

- 3.5 The Commission formally commenced its statutory consultation period on the 7th July 2020 welcoming representation from stakeholders as to how the future electoral arrangements in Monmouthshire may look. This consultation runs until 28th September 2020. Following this, the Commission will look to prepare a draft electoral scheme and put this out for consultation once prepared.
- 3.6 Any individual member or political group is able to respond to the Commission independently and in addition to the Council response. The attached scheme takes account of the County area as a whole so individual members or groups who have different views for their own individual wards are able to submit their own views independently.

4. KEY ISSUES:

- 4.1 The Commission will formally be commencing their electoral review on the 7th July 2020. In line with their policy and practice document, the Commission held a briefing session with group leaders and officers on the 13th January 2020 and a seminar for all County Councillors and Community/Town Councils on the 16th January 2020.
- 4.2 In considering an electoral review for an area, the Commission have to give consideration to their Council Size Policy document which states that Monmouthshire should have 46 Councillors based on the current electorate and ideal councillor:elector ratio.
- 4.3 In considering the arrangements the Commission also need to give due regard to the forecasted five year electorate figures and the impact this will have on the level of representation at ward level. When taking this into consideration, the working group propose a scheme that returns 47 elected members within the criteria set by the Commission and provides for single member wards in as many wards as possible.
- 4.4 In considering the electoral wards, the Commission are required to use the community ward boundaries as the building blocks for the new county seats. County wards must contain a whole community ward within it and cannot draw new boundaries that differ to the community ward boundaries. The Commission can however make consequential changes to the community boundaries following an electoral review where it considers is appropriate.
- 4.5 The Commission are required to use the community boundaries that are in effect at the time of the commencement of the electoral review. The community boundary review agreed by this Council and the Commission is currently awaiting Welsh Government to create an order for those changes to take effect. The consultation sought views on whether the Commission should use the current arrangements, or the impending proposed community boundaries with the result being that the

Commission will use the proposed community boundaries to draft their electoral scheme.

- 4.6 In arriving at the attached proposed council scheme, a member from each political group represented on the Council was appointed to a working group tasked with formulating a proposed scheme on behalf of their group and one that sits within the criteria set out by the Commission. The proposals have been put forward by councillors and ensures that the proposals remain politically neutral.
- 4.7 County Councillors received sight of the proposed scheme in March 2020 for consideration and opportunity to feedback views to the working group. Seminars were also held on the 7th July 2020 and 13th July 2020 for members to discuss the proposals and understand the implications further, as well as one to one sessions to discuss their wards in more detail.
- 4.8 Due to the extent of the changes to the current electoral arrangements as a result of the community review, it is not possible to detail every change and this scheme should be read in conjunction with the approved community boundary review to understand fully the position of the boundary. The new community boundaries are available on the Councils intranet for members to review at property level if required.
- 4.9 In considering the current wards against the criteria however, a number of wards sit outside the criteria for the electoral review based on current and/or projected electorates. These wards are Govilon, Mitchel Troy, Usk, Portskewett, Chepstow Castle and Llanbadoc. Proposed resolutions to these wards are contained in the attached scheme which would result in wards falling within the Commissions criteria.
- 4.10 The working group also devised a number of options for the proposed electoral arrangements in Chepstow and sought local member feedback as to the preferred option. In consulting the members, no consensus was reached on the preferred option and therefore the working group propose the option that returns the most single member wards for the area which is in-line with the general consensus amongst members, as well as the Commissions criteria, that single member wards should be retained where possible.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Approve the scheme

In approving this Council wide scheme the Council ensure that they are submitting a council wide scheme to the Commission for them to consider in preparing the arrangements for Monmouthshire. In submitting a scheme to the Commission the Council ensure they have made clear to the Commission their desires into the future electoral arrangements for the area.

Even if a council wide scheme is approved, individual members and political groups are able to submit their own representations to the Commission should they wish to give a different perspective on certain areas.

Do not approve the scheme

If Council do not consider they are in a position to approve this county wide scheme then the Council will not collectively be submitting representation to the Commission for their consideration and will not be making clear to the Commission a view that is desirable for the future electoral arrangements of the area. As above, if no county wide scheme is agreed, then individual members and political groups are encouraged to submit their own representations for the Commission to consider.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications resulting from the proposal, although any agreed increase in the number of Elected Members would require funding at the rates determined by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, for which the cost implication may require senior roles.

7. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

The electoral review will aim to ensure that as near as practicable, each vote cast at a County Council election carries the same weight and ensure electors have an equitable level of representation on the Council.

8. SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS:

All elected members will be required to undertake the necessary safeguarding and corporate parenting training necessary to their role within the Council.

9. CONSULTEES:

All elected councillors

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

- The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013
- Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales – Electoral Reviews: Policy and Practice 2016
- Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government – Written Statement – 23 June 2016
- Monmouthshire Community Boundary Review – Final Recommendations – Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales – 31st January 2019

11. AUTHOR:

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Appendix 1

Monmouthshire County Council

Electoral Review – Proposed scheme for submission to Local Democracy and Boundary Commission

Draft – July 2020

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Considerations and context of proposals

The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission will be responsible for preparing for consultation the draft and final proposals in relation to the new County Council boundaries ahead of the 2022 local council elections. Monmouthshire County Council will be a consultee in their process and invite the Council to put forward a scheme for the new County Council arrangements as part of their review.

The community wards will be used as the basis for forming the County wards. The community wards are not the current ward boundaries but the ones proposed as part of the review of community/town council boundary and electoral arrangements that will be adopted in 2022 and are [available here](#). An entire community ward must be contained within a County Council seat but a community council area could be split between county seats where its warded.

As part of the review in to the Community/Town Council boundary and electoral arrangements, Council agreed to form a working group with a member from each political party tasked with drafting the proposals and recommendations. This group has carried forward and undertaken a review of the County Council arrangements in proposing this scheme to Full Council for approval.

What happens if Council agree the report?

If Council agree the proposals contained in this report, it will be submitted to the Commission as the Councils formal scheme for recommendation for the Commission to consider as part of its review.

What happens if Council do not agree the report?

If Council does not agree to the proposals contained in this report then no formal scheme will be put forward by the Council for the Commission to consider as part of its review. Individual members and political groups will be still be able to put forward their own recommendations to the Commission regardless of whether a scheme is adopted or not.

What needs to be considered as part of the proposals?

The Commission have published it criteria that needs to be considered as part of the review and presented this information at a Members Seminar in January 2020. It is summarised as follows:

- Ideal Council size of 46 councillors.
- Ideal Councillor:elector ratio of 1:1599
- Have regard to the five year forecast of electorate changes in the area
- Have clearly identifiable boundaries that do not break local ties
- Any wards with a variance higher than + or – 25% of the desired ratio will be unlikely to be considered by the Commission and preference would be given to options that would reduce the variance further.

It should be noted that the upper limit of 46 Councillors is not fixed and may be adjusted either way depending on how the proposals fit best. Due to the forecast increase in electorate as well, the application of the ratio to different levels of electorate will impact differently on how the proposals are to be perceived. This scheme proposes 47 members due to the impact of the forecast electorate compared to the current electorate and provides for single member wards where possible.

What about the LDP and the proposals for development with that?

As part of the review the Commission are required to have regard to the electorate forecasts for the next five years. It is unlikely that proposals contained within the new LDP will have an effect on the five year electorate forecast and will therefore be included as part of the next review the Commission will undertake as part of its rolling 10 year review programme.

Rural Caerwent

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
St. Brides Netherwent	Caerwent	308	1798	1	112%		308	1798	112%
Caerwent	Caerwent	660					660		
Dinham	Caerwent	438					438		
Llanvair Discoed	Caerwent	214					214		
Crick	Caerwent	178					178		

It is proposed that the above community wards will create the Caerwent County ward. The proposed Caerwent ward looks similar to the current arrangements pending changes to the community wards as part of the Community boundary review. The forecast electorate for the area would see a variance to the County average of +12% which is within the criteria set out by the Commission.

Croesonen

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Croesonen	Llantilio Pertholey	1551	1551	1	97%		1551	1551	97%

It is proposed that the above community ward will create the Croesonen County ward. The proposed Croesonen ward looks similar to the current arrangements pending changes to the community wards as part of the Community boundary review. The forecast electorate for the area would see a variance to the County average of -3% which is within the criteria set out by the Commission.

Crucorney

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Bwlch, Trewyn and Oldcastle	Crucorney	52	1652	1	103%		52	1712	107%
Forest and Ffwddog	Crucorney	130					130		
Llanvihangel Crucorney	Crucorney	364					364		
Cwmyoy	Crucorney	116					116		
Pandy	Crucorney	365				30	395		
Grosmont	Grosmont	516				30	546		
Llangattock Lingoed	Grosmont	109					109		

It is proposed that the above community wards will create the Crucorney County ward. The proposed Crucorney ward looks similar to the current arrangements pending changes to the community wards as part of the Community boundary review. The forecast electorate for the area would see a variance to the County average of +7% which is within the criteria set out by the Commission. Much of this ward is surrounded by the external County Council boundary and already covers a large geographical area and the group believe that extending this area further or

merging with another ward as a multi-member seat would make the ward unmanageable to fairly represent the residents due to its size.

Devauden

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Kilgwrrwg	Devauden	106	1312	1	82%		106	1342	84%
Llanvihangel Tor-Y-Mynydd	Devauden	117					117		
Devauden	Devauden	477				30	507		
Itton	Devauden	248					248		
Llangwm	Llantrisant Fawr	233					233		
Llansoy	Llantrisant Fawr	131					131		

It is proposed that the above community wards will create the Devauden County ward. The proposed Devauden ward looks similar to the current arrangements pending changes to the community wards as part of the Community boundary review. The forecast electorate for the area would see a variance to the County average of -16% which is within the criteria set out by the Commission. Consideration was given by the working group as to the effect of Llangwm and Llansoy on the County arrangements given that under the community review they are to be merged with the wards of Llantrisant Community Council that fall within the Llangybi ward.

The preference of the group would be that whole community council areas are contained within a single County seat however moving Llangwm and Llansoy to the Llangybi ward would leave the Devauden forecast at -39% of the county average. Including all of the Llantrisant community within Devauden would leave Llangybi with an average of -27%. Both scenarios sit outside the criteria to be considered as part of the review and only increase the variance rather than improve it.

Consideration was also given to including part of the Shirenewton county seat within Devauden if Llangwm and Llansoy wards moved to the Llangybi seat. Llangybi ward would then be +17% of the county average with the Earlswood and Newchurch ward of Shirenewton replacing the electors that had moved to Llangybi from Devauden and leaving that with an average of -20%. Though this would have reduced the Shirenewton average to -6% from +14% as proposed below.

Given that no option produce a better scenario or more equitable share of the vote spread between the County seats, the group propose to leave the arrangements as they currently are with the Llantrisant community being split between Llangybi and Devauden county seats.

Gobion Fawr

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Llanvapley	Gobion Fawr	95	1674	1	105%		95	1694	106%
Llanfair Cilgydyn	Gobion Fawr	186				10	196		
Llangattock-nigh-Usk	Gobion Fawr	374					374		
Llanddewi Rhydderch	Gobion Fawr	341				10	351		
Bryngwyn	Llanarth	185					185		

Clytha	Llanarth	194				194		
Llanarth	Llanarth	164				164		
Kemeys Commander and Llanccayo	Llanarth	135				135		

The existing Llanover County ward encompasses the Llanarth and Llanover communities and was subject to significant change as part of the community review. The Llanover ward was moved to the community of Goetre Fawr and therefore requires a new name for the County and Community Council. Additionally, the Kemeys Commander and Llanccayo ward was moved into Llanarth Community due to the disbanding of the Gwehelog Community and the Llanvapley ward moved to Gobion Fawr from Llanarth though remaining within the Llanover County seat.

Combining the new communities of Gobion Fawr and Llanarth to replicate the current arrangements produces the above arrangements that are +6% to the county average which is within the criteria set by the Commission for the review and ensure whole communities are contained within a single County seat.

The name Gobion Fawr was put forward by the current Llanover Community Council as part of the community review given that the Llanover ward had been removed from the Llanover Community. It is proposed to continue this name through to the County seat but the group are open to suggestions for alternatives.

Goetre Fawr

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Llanover	Goetre Fawr	232	1857	1	116%		232	1857	116%
Goetre Wharf	Goetre Fawr	357					357		
Goytre	Goetre Fawr	1122					1122		
Nant-Y-Derry	Goetre Fawr	146					146		

The Goetre Fawr community now includes the Llanover ward as a result of the Community review and the Little Mill ward moved to the community of Llanbadoc which currently sits within the Goetre Fawr county seat. The new Goetre Fawr community as outlined above creates a County ward that is +16% of the county average and is within the criteria set by the Commission for the review and ensures a whole community area falls within the County seat. Retaining the Little Mill ward in the Goetre Fawr seat would not only split community area between county seats but would also increase the county average for Goetre Fawr to +43% which would be outside the criteria set by the Commission.

Llanelly Hill

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Darrenfelen	Llanelly	496	3315	2	104%		496	3315	104%
Clydach	Llanelly	456					456		
Gilwern	Llanelly	2363					2363		

It is proposed that the above community wards will create the Llanelly Hill County ward. The proposed Llanelly Hill ward looks similar to the current arrangements pending changes to the community wards as part of the Community boundary review. The forecast electorate for the area would see a variance to the County average of +4% which is within the criteria set out by the Commission and would be a two member ward.

Llangybi Fawr

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Coed-Y-Paen	Llangybi	128	1502	1	94%		128	1522	95%
Llandegfedd	Llangybi	161					161		
Llangybi	Llangybi	486				20	506		
Llangattock Nigh Caerleon	Llangybi	95					95		
Llanhennock	Llangybi	136					136		
Tredunnoch	Llangybi	149					149		
Gwernesney	Llantrisant Fawr	119					119		
Llantrisant	Llantrisant Fawr	228					228		

It is proposed that the above community wards will create the Llangybi County ward. The proposed Llangybi ward looks similar to the current arrangements pending changes to the community wards as part of the Community boundary review. The forecast electorate for the area would see a variance to the County average of -5% which is within the criteria set out by the Commission.

Options were considered for Llangybi given that the Llantrisant Fawr community is split between the Llangybi and Devauden wards and are explained under the Devauden heading above but it is considered that the above formation provides the best option and ensures equity in terms of the average variance across the area.

Llantilio Crossenny

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Cross Ash	Skenfrith	284	1683	1	105%	30	314	1713	107%
Llanvetherine	Skenfrith	143					143		
Skenfrith	Skenfrith	139					139		
Llangattock Vibon Avel	Whitecastle	79					79		
Llanvihangel-Ystern-Llewern	Whitecastle	87					87		
Newcastle	Whitecastle	166					166		
Rockfield and St Maughans	Whitecastle	374					374		
Whitecastle	Whitecastle	258					258		
Penrhos	Whitecastle	153					153		

Whilst there were significant changes to the community arrangements that sit within the existing Llantilio Crossenny ward, most of the changes are contained within the existing Llantilio Crossenny county ward with the exception of

Llanvetherine moving into the communities contained within Llantilio Crossenny from Grosmont within the Crucorney county ward. In proposing the new community areas that currently sit within the Llantilio Crossenny county area as outlined above, whole community areas are contained within a county council seat and give a county average of +7% which is within the criteria set by the Commission.

Mardy

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Pantygelli	Llantilio Pertholey	143	1258	1	79%		143	1694	106%
Mardy	Llantilio Pertholey	799				436	1235		
Sgyrrid	Llantilio Pertholey	316					316		

The community review resulted in minimal external boundary changes to the Mardy ward with some internal ward changes that doesn't affect the County arrangements for the ward. There is significant development taking place within the Mardy ward that will increase the electorate by 436 electors in the five year forecast. Whilst the proposed arrangements would result in an average of -21%, the effect of the future electorate would result in an average of +6% which decreases the overall variance and is in-line with the criteria set by the Commission.

Raglan

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Llandenny	Raglan	239	1745	1	109%		239	1835	115%
Kingcoed	Raglan	149					149		
Raglan	Raglan	1075				90	1165		
Gwehelog	Raglan	282					282		

As a result of the community boundary review, Pen-y-Clawdd and Llangovan ward which currently sits in the Raglan county ward moved to the Mitchel Troy Community and due to the disbanding of the Gwehelog Community, the Gwehelog ward will now form part of the community of Raglan. In adjusting the county boundary for the Raglan ward to match the new Raglan community, the above arrangements are proposed for the new Raglan county ward. The proposal has a county average of +15% which falls within the criteria set by the Commission for the review.

Rogiet

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Rogiet	Rogiet	1400	1400	1	88%	22	1422	1400	88%

The community review had little effect to the current arrangements for the Rogiet county seat. Consideration was given by the group to the surrounding communities and whether merging those would give greater parity and reduce the variance however this would lead to splitting communities and not having easily identifiable boundaries. It is therefore proposed to retain the current Rogiet ward using the Rogiet community boundary which would have a variance of -12% to the county average.

Shirenewton

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Pwllmeyric	Mathern	353	1782	1	111%	34	387	1816	114%
Mounton	Mathern	41				41			
Mathern	Mathern	420				420			
Shirenewton and Mynyddbach	Shirenewton	659				659			
Earlswood and Newchurch	Shirenewton	309				309			

The community boundary review resulted in minor external changes to the ward boundary of Shirenewton and internally resulted in the merging of Earlswood and Newchurch wards and Shirenewton and Mynyddbach wards. Apart from these small changes there is no other impact on the county ward to the existing arrangements.

Other options were considered for these wards as part of the review for Devauden, Shirenewton and Llangybi but no alternatives provided clear boundaries and resulted in better electoral parity than the current arrangements.

It is therefore proposed that the Shirenewton ward contains the above community wards and would result in an average of +14% to the County average based on future electorates which is line with the criteria set by the Commission.

St Arvans

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
St Arvans	St Arvans	602	1540	1	96%		602	1562	98%
Llandogo	Wye Valley	382				382			
Tintern	Wye Valley	556				22	578		

St Arvans county seat was greatly affected by the community boundary review. Trellech Grange moved from the Tintern Community into Trellech Community. Chapel Hill and Penallt wards were merged with St Arvans and Tintern wards. The Llandogo ward previously of the Trellech community was moved in to a new Wye Valley community alongside the Tintern ward.

Whilst significant changes occurred, using the current County ward footprint of St Arvans which included the St Arvans and Tintern communities and overlaying the new Wye Valley community alongside the St Arvans community would result in the above arrangements and have a county average of -2% which is within the criteria set out by the Commission for the review.

Wards Likely to change

Rural

Llanfoist & Govilon

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Llanfoist	Llanfoist Fawr	1396	1860	1	116%	230	1626	2176	136%
Llanellen	Llanfoist Fawr	464				86	550		
Govilon	Llanfoist Fawr	1123	1123	1	70%		1123	1123	70%

As part of the community boundary review, the Llanwenarth Citra ward which currently sits within the Llanfoist County ward was moved to the Abergavenny community area and is being proposed to form part of the County ward alongside Cantref. The remaining Llanfoist and Llanellen wards which make up the remainder of the existing Llanfoist County seat would have a future electorate county average of +36% which sits outside upper limit of + or – 25% of the average. Similarly, the Llanwenarth Ultra county seat consisting of the Govilon ward has a county average of -30%, again this is outside the limits of the review of the Commission.

In combining all wards together into a 2 member seat, the ward would then see a county average of +3%. All wards form part of the Llanfoist community area so the County ward would then encompass the whole community area that sits underneath it. This proposal would result in a position that falls within the criteria required by the Commission for this review. The resulting electorate and arrangements are set out below.

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Llanfoist	Llanfoist Fawr	1396	2983	2	93%	230	1626	3299	103%
Llanellen	Llanfoist Fawr	464				86	550		
Govilon	Llanfoist Fawr	1123					1123		

Mitchel Troy & Trellech United

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Cwmcarvan	Mitchel Troy	170	1151	1	72%		170	1181	74%
Dingestow	Mitchel Troy	202				30	232		
Wonastow	Mitchel Troy	60					60		
Pen-y-Clawdd	Mitchel Troy	110					110		
Mitchell Troy	Mitchel Troy	355					355		
Tregare	Mitchel Troy	254					254		

The current Mitchel Troy ward had little change as a result of the community boundary review but now includes the Pen-y-Clawdd ward previously of the Raglan community. Including this ward with current arrangements for the

Mitchel Troy county ward would result in a county average of -26% as seen in the table above. This is currently outside the criteria set by the Commission for the review.

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Catbrook	Trellech United	308	1940	1	121%		308	1986	124%
The Narth	Trellech United	361					361		
Penallt	Trellech United	444				20	464		
Whitebrook	Trellech United	83					83		
Trellech Town	Trellech United	436					436		
Llanishen	Trellech United	226				26	252		
Trellech Grange	Trellech United	82					82		

The Trellech United ward had some small internal changes to the wards as a result of the community boundary review but more significantly had Trellech Grange move within its community area from Tintern, and Llandogo moved out of Trellech into the new Wye Valley community. A new county seat that encompasses the new Trellech community is detailed above and would result in a county average of +24%, just within the criteria set by the Commission, but would likely be an area that would be considered in greater detail given the inequality between Mitchel Troy and Trellech as neighbouring seats.

Name	County Electorate	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Mitchel Troy	1151	3091	2	97%	30	1181	3167	99%
Trellech United	1940				46	1986		

One option to reduce the parity between the two areas was to merge them into a multimember ward giving a county variance of -1% for the ward. Whilst this reduces the parity significantly between the two wards, it was considered that geographically this ward was too large to propose and had limited connections between wards on outer edges of the areas. Additionally the proposal crosses community areas unlike the proposal for a multimember ward in Llanfoist. It was therefore considered that this proposal was not a viable option.

Another option to reduce the parity between the two areas would be that the Penallt ward of Trellech United moves to within the county boundary of Mitchel Troy. The resultant change would see a county average for Mitchel Troy of +3% and Trellech United having -5% compared to the current variance of -26% and +24%.

The working group considered this option as part of the community boundary review proposals and felt that the ward could be positioned in either Mitchel Troy or Trellech United community given the access between the areas along the Lydart to Mitchel Troy road (C49-12), but ultimately left the Penallt ward in the Trellech community due to the existing ties the area has with the community.

If a change is required to the two County wards as a result of the variance, then the council would propose that Penallt ward of the Trellech community has a consequential change to the community arrangements and move to within the community of Mitchel Troy. This ensures that whole communities are contained within a single County seat where possible and ensures clear and identifiable boundaries and areas of responsibilities.

The resultant statistics of Penallt moving from Trellech to Mitchel Troy are highlighted below.

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Cwmcarvan	Mitchel Troy	170	1595	1	100%		170	1645	103%
Dingestow	Mitchel Troy	202				30	232		
Wonastow	Mitchel Troy	60					60		
Pen-y-Clawdd	Mitchel Troy	110					110		
Mitchell Troy	Mitchel Troy	355					355		
Tregare	Mitchel Troy	254					254		
Penallt	Trellech United	444				20	464		

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Catbrook	Trellech United	308	1496	1	94%		308	1522	95%
The Narth	Trellech United	361					361		
Whitebrook	Trellech United	83					83		
Trellech Town	Trellech United	436					436		
Llanishen	Trellech United	226				26	252		
Trellech Grange	Trellech United	82					82		

Llanbadoc & Usk

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Glascoed	Llanbadoc	221	1131	1	71%		221	1161	73%
Llanbadoc	Llanbadoc	219					219		
Monkswood	Llanbadoc	251					251		
Little Mill	Llanbadoc	440				30	470		

The existing Llanbadoc County seat is split between the communities of Llanbadoc and Gwehelog. As previously mentioned, the Gwehelog community has been disbanded with the Gwehelog ward forming part of a proposed Raglan county seat and the Kemeys Commander and Llancayo ward within Gobion Fawr. The current Llanbadoc ward was divided by the County ward of Usk and the river Usk which split the communities of Llanbadoc and Gwehelog. An additional change under the community review resulted in the Little Mill ward being transferred from Goetre Fawr in to the Llanbadoc community. A new county seat that matches the proposed Llanbadoc community would result in a county average of -27% which outside the criteria the Commission set for the review.

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Usk	Usk	1947	1947	1	122%	40	1987	1987	124%

There were minimal changes to the Usk ward as a result of the community review however the future electorate forecast for the ward will see the county average rise to +24%. Whilst this is within the criteria set by the Commission, given that it neighbours a ward that would be significantly lower than the average it's likely that these areas would be considered in greater detail.

Given that Usk with highest number of electors is not warded and has to be taken as a whole entity, to ensure the county seats consist of whole communities, it is proposed that the Llanbadoc and Usk communities combine in to a 2 member ward. This would result in a county average of -2% which is within the criteria set by the Commission as part of the review.

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Glascoed	Llanbadoc	221	3078	2	96%		221	3148	98%
Llanbadoc	Llanbadoc	219				219			
Monkswood	Llanbadoc	251				251			
Little Mill	Llanbadoc	440				30	470		
Usk	Usk	1947				40	1987		

Portskewett

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Sudbrook	Portskewett	401	1900	1	119%	442	843	2924	183%
Portskewett Village	Portskewett	1317				582	1899		
Leechpool	Portskewett	182					182		

There was little changes to the Portskewett area as a result of the community review and none that would have an effect on the level of electors within the area. There are however significant developments proposed within the Portskewett community that will significantly increase the forecast electorate for the area. The current electorate level would see a county average of +19% and a future forecast of +83%. Using the current electorate level the proposals are within the criteria set by the Commission and the future electorate average significantly above the level set by the Commission.

Various options were considered by the working group in introducing wards from neighbouring communities including Caldicot, Mathern and Shirenewton however each of the proposals simply pushed the issue of electoral parity to another area and also led to communities being split with confusion of boundaries and areas of responsibility.

For that reason, the group consider the Portskewett County boundary should remain as it is and mirror the Portskewett community however it is clear that this option will need additional representation in the near future due to the scale of the developments within the community and the increase in electorate within the area those developments will have. Implementing a 2 member ward in Portskewett will have a county average of -41% at the point of election however a future electorate average on a 2 member ward would result in a county average of -9%. The working group note from electoral reviews for other local authorities that in some cases areas with significant future development

have not been given the level of representation to cater for the forecast (See Newport City Council Electoral Review – Llanwern ward). Therefore the working group are unclear as to what level of representation to recommend but are clear in that the boundaries of the Portskewett ward should mirror that of the Portskewett community.

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Sudbrook	Portskewett	401	1900	2	59%	442	843	2924	91%
Portskewett Village	Portskewett	1317				582	1899		
Leechpool	Portskewett	182					182		

TOWNS

Abergavenny

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Cantref	Abergavenny	1526	1688	1	106%		1526	1688	106%
Llanwenarth Citra	Abergavenny	162				162			
Pen Y Fal	Abergavenny	1538	1538	1	96%	102	1640	1640	103%
Grofield	Abergavenny	1823	1823	1	114%	94	1917	1917	120%
Landsown	Abergavenny	1740	1740	1	109%	50	1790	1790	112%
Park	Abergavenny	1546	1546	1	97%	36	1582	1582	99%

The community review made significant changes to the community ward boundaries of Abergavenny and also resulted in the Llanwenarth Citra ward moving into the Abergavenny community from Llanfoist. Merging the Llanwenarth Citra ward with Cantref and having the County seats coterminous with the other four community wards would result in five single members with a variance ranging from -1% to +20% which falls within the criteria set by the Commission for the review.

The working group considered other options for the area which resulted in a smaller variance between the wards such as merging Grofield ward with Pen-Y-Fal or Park. Whilst this lead to increased parity, the group consider that as the proposals for single members fall within the + or – 25% variance threshold and that the parity is only increased based on the future electorate, to ensure clear and identifiable boundaries and areas of responsibility that single member ward would be the best option for the Abergavenny area.

Monmouth

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Wyesham	Monmouth	1725	1725	1	108%	92	1817	1817	114%
Osbaston	Monmouth	1714	1714	1	107%		1714	1714	107%
Drybridge	Monmouth	1772	3522	2	110%	140	1912	3662	115%
Town	Monmouth	1750				1750			
Overmonnow	Monmouth	1470	1470	1	92%	392	1862	1862	116%

The community review made significant changes to the wards of Monmouth and also sees a significant increase in the electorate within the community. The table above mirrors the existing warding arrangements applied to the new ward boundaries with the Town and Drybridge wards combined into a multi-member ward whereas they are currently combined as a single member ward. Whilst the above arrangements are within the criteria set by the Commission for the review, the new boundaries result in a large increase in the electorate for the Town ward and justifies that ward being split from Drybridge and having a single member County ward for both Drybridge and Town.

Whilst the proposals for all community wards to be single member county wards results in a slightly higher variance (+7% to +20% compared to +7% to +16%) the clear boundaries and areas of responsibility that single member wards provide would be the preferred option and ensures the proposals still fall within the criteria set by the Commission for the review. Additionally, when using the current electorates, the variance is closer to the County average but the

proposals still ensure that the wards fall within the criteria based on the future electorates as well. The proposed electorates and representation for single member wards is detailed below.

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Wyesham	Monmouth	1725	1725	1	108%	92	1817	1817	114%
Osbaston	Monmouth	1714	1714	1	107%		1714	1714	107%
Drybridge	Monmouth	1772	1772	1	111%	140	1912	1912	120%
Town	Monmouth	1750	1750	1	109%		1750	1750	109%
Overmonnow	Monmouth	1470	1470	1	92%	392	1862	1862	116%

Chepstow

As a result of the community boundary review, the consequential changes to the County wards proposed by the Commission at that time resulted in two multi-member wards covering the entire Chepstow area. The working group would prefer where possible to adopt single member wards rather than large multi members seats, however in proposing single member wards, due to the Mabey Bridge development in the Chepstow Castle ward the variance would result in a county average of +58% which is outside the criteria set by the Commission for the review.

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Thornwell	Chepstow	1388	1388	1	87%		1388	1388	87%
Larkfield	Chepstow	1066	1659	1	104%		1066	1659	104%
Maple Avenue	Chepstow	593					593		
Bulwark	Chepstow	1873	1873	1	117%		1873	1873	117%
St Kingsmark	Chepstow	1535	1535	1	96%		1535	1535	96%
Chepstow Castle	Chepstow	1369	1369	1	86%	1158	2527	2527	158%
Mount Pleasant	Chepstow	1572	1572	1	98%		1572	1572	98%

Various other options for the area were considered, such as merging Mount Pleasant ward with Chepstow Castle, but some of these resulted in the variance still being outside the scope of the review with county averages of +27 and +28%.

The working group arrived at two options that have been presented to the Chepstow County Councillors to put forward their preferred option. The two options are detailed in the tables below. The first see two multi-member wards and one single member ward with an average county variance that is closer to the desired ratio. The second proposes an additional single member ward but an increase in the variance to the County average, though it still falls within the criteria set by the Commission.

Name	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Thornwell	1388	3854	2	121%		1388	3854	121%
Bulwark	1873					1873		
Maple Avenue	593					593		
Larkfield	1066	4007	3	84%		1066	5165	108%

Chepstow Castle	1369				1158	2527		
Mount Pleasant	1572					1572		
St Kingsmark	1535	1535	1	96%		1535	1535	96%

Name	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Thornwell	1388	3854	2	121%		1388	3854	121%
Bulwark	1873					1873		
Maple Avenue	593					593		
Larkfield	1066	2435	2	76%		1066	3593	112%
Chepstow Castle	1369				1158	2527		
Mount Pleasant	1572	1572	1	98%		1572	1572	98%
St Kingsmark	1535	1535	1	96%		1535	1535	96%

Upon being put to the local councillors, there was no consensus amongst the members as to a preferred option. Individual members have been encouraged to submit their own scheme to the Commission for their consideration that fall within the criteria.

For the purpose of a Council wide scheme, the working group put forward the second option above that returns the most single member wards as a general consensus amongst the elected members is single member wards should be retained where possible.

Magor with Undy

As a result of the community boundary review, Magor with Undy was significantly changed from having four wards with large differences in electorates to 3 wards of similar sizes. As a result of the change, the Commission proposed a ward of Undy and Magor West represented by two members, and a Magor East ward with a single member. The preference of the working group was to retain three single member County wards however due to the electorate forecast in Magor East the county variance would be +39% which is outside the scope of the review set by the Commission as detailed below.

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
Magor East	Magor with Undy	1777	1777	1	111%	450	2227	2227	139%
Magor West	Magor with Undy	1643	1643	1	103%		1643	1643	103%
Undy	Magor with Undy	1333	1333	1	83%	532	1865	1865	117%

The working group therefore propose that if three single member wards cannot be implemented due to the future forecast of electorate for the area, then Magor East and West should be combined as a multi-member ward with Undy as a single member ward. This retains the historic links between Magor and Undy as separate areas whilst ensuring that the county variance, whilst still high, falls within the criteria for the review of + or – 25%.

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
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Magor East	Magor with Undy	1777	3110	2	97%	450	2227	3870	121%
Magor West	Magor with Undy	1643				1643			
Undy	Magor with Undy	1333	1333	1	83%	532	1865	1865	117%

Caldicot

As with other towns, as a result of the community boundary review Caldicot had its boundaries changed significantly and new community wards created within the area. Consequential changes to the County boundaries were proposed by the Commission as a result of the community boundary review which resulted in the arrangements below. In considering the arrangements, the working group agreed that the consequential arrangements to the County wards would be the best proposals going forward in having five single members that are coterminous with the community ward boundaries except for the case of the Severn ward that combines The Village and Severn community wards in to a single member County ward.

Name	Community	Electors	County Electorate	Councillors	% Variance	5 year forecast	5 Year Electorate	County Future Electorate	% Variance
West End	Caldicot	1382	1382	1	86%		1382	1382	86%
Severn	Caldicot	736	1752	1	110%		736	1752	110%
The Village	Caldicot	1016				1016			
Caldicot Castle	Caldicot	1349	1349	1	84%	260	1609	1609	101%
Dewstow	Caldicot	1459	1459	1	91%		1459	1459	91%
Caldicot Cross	Caldicot	1567	1567	1	98%	32	1599	1599	100%

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 10

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of County Council held
at Remote Teams Meeting on Thursday, 4th June, 2020 at 2.00 pm**

PRESENT: County Councillor S. Woodhouse (Chairman)
County Councillor S.B. Jones (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: D. Batrouni, J.Becker, D. Blakebrough, L.Brown, A.Davies, D. Dovey, L.Dymock, A. Easson, R. Edwards, D. Evans, P.A. Fox, R.J.W. Greenland, M.Groucutt, L. Guppy, R. Harris, J. Higginson, G. Howard, R.John, D. Jones, L.Jones, P. Jones, S. Jones, P. Jordan, M.Lane, P. Murphy, P.Pavia, M. Powell, J.Pratt, R.Roden, V. Smith, B. Strong, F. Taylor, T.Thomas, J.Treharne, J.Watkins, A. Watts, A. Webb and K. Williams

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Matt Phillips	Head of Law/ Monitoring Officer
Paul Matthews	Chief Executive
Peter Davies	Chief Officer, Resources
Will McLean	Chief Officer for Children and Young People
John Pearson	Local Democracy Manager
Nicola Perry	Senior Democracy Officer
Frances O'Brien	Chief Officer, Enterprise
Julie Boothroyd	Chief Officer Social Care, Safeguarding and Health
Matthew Gatehouse	Head of Policy and Governance
Mark Hand	Head of Place-making, Housing, Highways and Flood

APOLOGIES:

County Councillors M.Feakins

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first remote meeting of County Council in accordance with the new emergency legislation.

Council observed a minute silence in respect of those who have recently passed, including Monmouthshire colleague Rob Gallivan, and Former Chairman of the Council Bob Wilcox.

The Chairmen commended the work of officers, staff and volunteers during the Covid19 crisis.

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Public Questions

None.

4. Chairman's announcement and receipt of petitions

Council received the Chairman's announcement.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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There were no petitions.

5. Report of the Chief Officer for Resources

5.1. Re-Fit Programme: Phase 1

Council received a report to secure financial approval for Re:fit Programme Phase 1, installing energy conservation measures (ECMs) across a portfolio of MCC buildings.

It was noted that the intention is to roll out the programme across all MCC buildings and an exercise has been undertaken to identify the greatest savings.

The system will focus on measures that deliver carbon and energy savings and therefore, sprinklers would not come under this programme.

Members recognised this as a worthwhile programme and were keen to support.

Upon being put to the vote Council resolved to accept the recommendations:

- To approve to install a first phase of ECMs with a combined 8-year payback across a portfolio of MCC buildings at a budget cost of up to £2.5M, generating net energy savings to the Council and reducing operational carbon emissions.
- To approve to fund the installation of the ECMs with a Salix interest-free loan from Welsh Government, repayments over a 10-year period to be covered by the energy savings generated, and add the project to the Authority's capital programme.
- To delegate final approval for the funding and commencement of the works stage of the Re:fit programme to the Chief Officer, Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member Resources, based on presentation of a detailed business case to the Chief Officer before submission of the Salix application.

6. Report of the Head of Public Protection

6.1. Licensing Act 2020 Policy Statement

Council received a report in order to consider the proposed 'Licensing Act 2003 Policy Statement 2020', as previously debated by the Licensing and Regulatory Committee.

The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Peter Fox.

Upon being put to the vote Council resolved to accept the recommendation:

- **Members approve the updated Licensing Policy statement for adoption by Monmouthshire County Council, to come into force on 1st July 2020 (Attached as Appendix A).**

7. Chief Officer for Children and Young People Annual Report

The Chief Officer for Children and Young People presented his Annual Report to inform Council of the progress that the education system has made in the past twelve months.

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The reporting period includes the examination and assessment period that ended in August 2019. This is the first year of the new accountability framework where local authority outcomes are not aggregated, this means that the report of the end of key stage outcomes will look very different to previous years.

Reports of end of key stages outcomes are routinely taken to the Children and Young People Select Committee every year to allow greater scrutiny (Foundation phase to key stage 3 – 17th September 2019 & Key stage 4 – 28th January 2020).

The report seeks to provide members with an assurance of the progress schools are making in their improvement journey and the progress that individual learners are making.

Members highlighted concerns of the effect of schools being closed due to the current crisis. Particularly noting the effect on those from less affluent backgrounds.

In response to questions asked around the effect of fixed term exclusions on both the children excluded and those affected by the disruption we heard that return to school measures will allow impacts to be addressed

School budgets were discussed, and concerns were raised regarding deficit budgets.

Tribute was paid to all staff involved in the improvements to safeguarding.

It was asked that we push forward and get some movement on addressing growth of schools in the South of the County.

With regards to the SEN Strategy, it was asked that this addresses blended learning as we move forward in the short term.

County Cllr D. Dovey left at 16:05pm

The Chairman thanked and congratulated the officer and his team for the report.

8. Notices of Motion

8.1. Motion submitted by County Councillor A. Easson

In light of the recent decision by Stagecoach to cease operating the Bristol/Newport bus service through Monmouthshire I understand that moves are being made to seek Welsh Government subsidy support to retain this service.

Such that this may be the case I move that this Council supports any such efforts to retain the service. However, should any support be forthcoming that the NINE Wards of Severnside, comprising about 20,000 residents be included in a route realignment. The service along the B4245 through Portskewett to Magor was removed several years ago leaving those 20,000 residents without a direct route to the Bristol area, this is an opportunity to restore the service.

Councillor Batrouni seconded the motion. He added that the X14 bus service is a critical public transport service that links two major cities. A petition already has 230 signatures demonstrating an appetite in the local area to keep the service. He also highlighted the climate angle.

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Councillor P. Murphy left at 16:24pm

The Cabinet Member for Infrastructure explained the current route options. We heard that we have been working with Transport for Wales and Welsh Government to look at a longer term strategy for the Chepstow to Newport corridor through the Metro Enhancement Framework and Regional Bus Networks to enhance connectivity between the settlements within the corridor. A proposal will be put forward as part of this workstream. Our strategy is to see improved options for our residents, to help them get to work and to reduce our carbon footprint. Councillor Pratt supported the motion.

Members were keen to support and upon being put to the vote the motion was carried.

8.2. Motion submitted by County Councillor D. Batrouni

That this council creates a fixed-term Tackling poverty and Inequality coordinator position for Monmouthshire. We are about to go through one of the worst recessions for many years and it is important that we have a post that is directly responsible for co-ordinating our response and that is directly accountable to the cabinet member for social justice.

Councillor Tudor Thomas seconded the motion. In doing so he expressed full support and referred to a report that highlighted poverty stretches across society and will get worse with the impending recession.

The Cabinet Member for Social Justice welcomed the motion and stated that we will continue to build on current activity. She proposed an amendment to the motion:

As part of our ongoing review of the Community and Partnerships Development Team, this Council will create two dedicated roles who will lead and coordinate the tackling poverty and inequality agenda for Monmouthshire.

We are about to go through one of the worst recessions for many years and it is important that we have a post that is directly responsible for co-ordinating our response and that is directly accountable to the cabinet member for social justice.

Councillor Peter Fox seconded the amended motion.

Upon being to the vote the amended motion was accepted and became the substantive motion.

Members were keen to support the motion.

Suggestion was made to create a task force group to keep the issue on an agenda and to use this as a way of receiving regular feedback and updates.

Reference was made to the importance of providing support to the hospitality sector; possible redundancies; increasing apprenticeships, and how the City Deal could maybe step in to provide support.

Upon being to the vote the amended motion was carried.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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9. Members Questions

9.1. From County Councillor M. Groucutt to County Councillor P. Jordan, Cabinet Member for Governance and Law

Can the Cabinet Member inform of us of his plans to reopen Monmouthshire public libraries, in line with such plans already made public in Newport, Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent?

Councillor Jordan explained that libraries are part of Community Hubs and before lockdown were visited by tens of thousands every month. The virus is still spreading and results in untimely deaths. It survives on library books and computer keyboards so there are clear risks associated with these services. Libraries are non-essential and, crucially, are indoors. It is understood that many people will miss the library service. During the period that the hubs have been closed we have been actively promoting our digital services like ebooks and magazines, and using our YouTube channel for story-telling sessions. Libraries are not expected to reopen in the next few weeks. Another facet to this is that staff are currently redeployed and carrying out vital roles elsewhere.

Staff have been asked to identify a plan for different options that would enable some increased access to library services when the time is right. This could include the reintroduction of home delivery or the creation of a click and collect service.

As a supplementary:

Regarding the comment that library books can be a source of contagion, three of the five authorities in Gwent are planning to open their libraries. Is it suggested that those councillors are trying to spread the virus?

Councillor Jordan responded in the negative and explained that at an earlier meeting of the Society of Library Chiefs it was confirmed that Cardiff plan to open a click and collect service from next week, but Newport and Blaenau Gwent have no immediate plans to do so.

Councillor D. Evans left at 17:23pm

9.2. From County Councillor M. Groucutt to County Councillor R. John, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and MonLife

Analysis of survey data on the learning of children during the current closedown, published on 17 May by the Institute for Fiscal Studies, shows that those living in the wealthiest 20% of families had already received an average of 75 more minutes of home schooling compared to those in the poorest families. Can the Cabinet Member tell us what is being done in Monmouthshire to minimise the impact of poverty on learning since our schools were closed? How does he know if teachers are seeking to ensure that our poorest children are being fully supported through the nature of the work being sent home and through the maintenance of home-school links?

Councillor G. Howard left at 17:25pm

In response Councillor John explained that our schools have established good methods of good communication with pupils and parents, some were already in place before the outbreak, while others have been developed in response to the lockdown. Schools have focused on ensuring an equality of access to learning opportunities for all pupils but particularly to those from vulnerable groups.

Schools have taken a range of steps appropriate to pupil's individual circumstances, including providing resource packs to vulnerable pupils, providing printed copies of tasks, preparing and sharing a range of

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home learning experiences. Most schools provide a weekly timetable for pupils including tasks for the week which can be completed at any time. Literacy and numeracy tasks are provided regularly and most importantly, activities to support well-being and a healthy lifestyle. Secondary schools are providing specific tasks and supporting years 10,11, 12 and 13 with specific subject work. Ensuring that pupils have access to online communication where possible using a wide variety of approaches such as providing IT equipment and supporting connectivity, providing resources on school websites to ensure that access is as wide as possible. Also monitoring the engagement of all pupils including those from vulnerable groups and following up where it is lower than expected. Schools are maintaining strong lines of communication with parents of pupils in these groups to help them support their children.

The Authority is discussing the specific support needs of identified vulnerable pupils as part of a multi-agency group on a weekly basis to ensure that support is effective and timely.

9.3. From County Councillor M. Groucutt to County Councillor R. John, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and MonLife

Could the cabinet member inform us of the percentage attendance of those children deemed to be vulnerable or at risk and allocated hub provision during the period of school closure?

Councillor John wished to take the opportunity to thank officers and all school based staff for everything they have been doing in operating the seven school hubs in Monmouthshire which are working really well, ensuring key workers are able to continue the important work they are doing. He also thanked MonLife staff, both leisure and outdoor education service, who operated the hubs during the Easter holidays.

The process of identifying those deemed vulnerable was a shared process between Social Services and officers from CYP directorate. A system was established that identified seven different categories of vulnerability and an appropriate provision was secured for those with the greatest need. This was in addition to the schools' own work to identify vulnerable learners. For those pupils identified as vulnerable by the nature of their risk profile, 85 pupils were agreed, 85 places were secured and of those 58 places were taken up. A take up rate of 68.2%. 27 places were not taken up. The attendance rate of vulnerable children whose families have taken up the provision is 82.4%. For those with additional learning needs 89 learners were offered a place but a low take up was expected given concerns around pupil health. 27 ALN pupil are attending, 30%.

As a supplementary:

Councillor Groucutt asked for a comment on the 27 families who had not taken the provision. If there were concerns around safety of those children, was it taken further?

Councillor John clarified that the provision is parental choice. We continue to engage with schools and social workers.

9.4. From County Councillor M. Groucutt to County Councillor R. John, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and MonLife

When a planned and managed return to school by pupils starts to get underway once it is safe to do so, what help will be provided to our schools to enable them to ensure that planning for their pupils' return will be safe and will not risk renewed transmission of the Covid-19 virus?

Councillor John referred the WG recent announcement regarding the reopening of schools. Pupils of all age groups would be able to return to school from 29th June 2020. It has been made clear that only up to one third of learners will be in school at any one time. Further guidance is expected next week. Officers have already begun work to start preparing, but there

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are no significant details to share. Assurance was provided that we are committed to ensure that any return to school has the safety of pupils and staff at its heart. We are also clear that the function of check-in, catch-up and prepare is to promote well-being for our children and young people. As further details emerge, regular updates would be provided.

As a supplementary:

Councillor Groucutt questioned the plans for families where parents are teachers?

It was explained that this is still at an early stage and key workers will continue to access childcare.

10. Minutes of the meeting of County Council held on 5th March 2020

The minutes of the meeting of County Council held on 5th March were approved.

The meeting ended at 5.40 pm

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SCHEDULE 12A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE OF DOCUMENTS

Meeting and Date of Meeting: Full Council 16 Jul 20

Report: Chief Officer Appointment

Author: Paul Matthews

I have considered grounds for exemption of information contained in the background paper for the report referred to above and make the following recommendation to the Proper Officer:-

Exemptions applying to the report:

LGA 72 - Sched 12A Part 4 section 12 - Information relating to a particular individual.

Factors in favour of disclosure:

Openness & transparency in matters concerned with the public

Prejudice which would result if the information were disclosed:

This report considered the employment status of an individual whose identity and contractual status would be revealed in breach of their right to a private life. All details relating to pay and positions are made public annually via the Pay Policy decision at Council.

My view on the public interest test is as follows:

Factors in favour of disclosure are outweighed by those against.

Recommended decision on exemption from disclosure:

Maintain exemption from publication in relation to report

Date: 8 Jul 20

Signed: Paul Matthews

Post: Chief Executive

I accept the recommendation made above

Signed: Matt Phillips [submitted electronically]

Date: 8 Jul 20

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 12 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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