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County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Wednesday, 17 February 2021

Notice of meeting

Economy and Development Select Committee

Thursday, 25th February, 2021 at 10.00 am

Remote Meeting

AGENDA

THERE WILL BE A PRE MEETING FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE START OF THE MEETING

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
3.	Public Open Forum	
4.	Procurement: Progress report on the Review of Procurement Policy.	1 - 16
5.	Economy and Development Select Committee Forward Work Plan	17 - 18
6.	Council and Cabinet Work Planner	19 - 32
7.	To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st January 2021	33 - 38
8.	To confirm the date and time of the next meeting as 22nd April 2021	

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Debby Blakebrough	Trellech United;	Independent Group
County Councillor Jeremy Becker	St. Mary's;	Liberal Democrats
County Councillor Alan Davies	Green Lane;	Independent
County Councillor David Evans	West End;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Mat Feakins	Drybridge;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Paul Pavia	Larkfield;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Richard Roden	Dixton with Osbaston;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Brian Strong	Usk;	Welsh Conservative Party

Public Information

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Watch this meeting online

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Welsh Language

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

Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

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.

Monmouthshire Scrutiny Committee Guide

Role of the Pre-meeting

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

Questions for the Meeting

Scrutinising Performance

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

Scrutinising Policy

1. Who does the policy affect ~ directly and indirectly? Who will benefit most/least?
2. What is the view of service users/stakeholders? Do they believe it will achieve the desired outcome?
3. What is the view of the community as a whole - the 'taxpayer' perspective?
4. What methods were used to consult with stakeholders? Did the process enable all those with a stake to have their say?
5. What practice and options have been considered in developing/reviewing this policy? What evidence is there to inform what works?
6. Does this policy align to our corporate objectives, as defined in our corporate plan?
7. Have all relevant sustainable development, equalities and safeguarding implications been taken into consideration? For example, what are *the procedures that need to be in place to protect children*?
8. How much will this cost to implement and what funding source has been identified?
9. How will performance of the policy be measured and the impact evaluated.

Questions for the Committee to conclude...

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

- (i) Investigate the issue in more detail?
- (ii) Obtain further information from other witnesses – Executive Member, independent expert, members of the local community, service users, regulatory bodies...
- (iii) Agree further actions to be undertaken within a timescale/future monitoring report...

General Questions....

Empowering Communities

- How are we involving local communities and empowering them to design and deliver services to suit local need?
- Do we have regular discussions with communities about service priorities and what level of service the council can afford to provide in the future?

Service Demands

- How will policy and legislative change affect how the council operates?
- Have we considered the demographics of our council and how this will impact on service delivery and funding in the future?

Financial Planning

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

Making savings and generating income

- Do we have the right structures in place to ensure that our efficiency, improvement and transformational approaches are working together to maximise savings?
- How are we maximising income? Have we compared other council's policies to maximise income and fully considered the implications on service users?
- Do we have a workforce plan that takes into account capacity, costs, and skills of the actual versus desired workforce?

SUBJECT: STRATEGIC PROCUREMENT – PROPOSED DISCHARGE OF SERVICES FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT

MEETING: ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT SELECT COMMITTEE

DATE: 25TH FEBRUARY 2021

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 Committee Members are asked to consider a proposal to collaborate with Cardiff Council, for mutual benefit, in the discharge and provision of procurement services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 Committee to consider the proposal prior to it forming part of the 2021/22 Council budget setting process.
- 2.2 Subject to approval, Committee to consider receiving six monthly updates in the initial period of delivery.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Following a commissioned review of the Council's Strategic Procurement Service Atebion Solutions (Cardiff Council owned LA Trading Company) presented their findings. The review confirmed the Council's own recognition that it had limited capacity to influence behaviours relating to its £100m third party annual spend, particularly in determining how the spend supported the delivery of the Council's priorities i.e. Innovation; Economic, Social, Environmental and Cultural Well Being; Value for Money and Efficiency; Governance and Risk Management.
- 3.2 The review challenged the Council to determine what it wanted and expected its Strategic Procurement function to influence and deliver and suggested increasing the capacity of the team from the current 1 x Strategic Procurement Manager and 1 x Senior Strategic Procurement Officer to include an additional 3 x Category Specialists and a Business Systems Analyst at an approximate total cost £340k.
- 3.3 On reflection of the review findings, Senior Officers felt that the review did not really go far enough when considering the need to undertake a fundamental transformation of the Service in order to enable the Council to:
- Spend more wisely;
 - Improve procurement governance and subsequently reduce risk;
 - Be at the forefront of some of the burgeoning national regulations changes such as Socio Economic Duty;
 - Consider their next steps with regard to the proposed 'Themes Outcomes and Measures' a framework to measure social value from procurement alongside;
 - Increase the community benefits of Council contracts e.g. by creating local employment through apprenticeship opportunities, etc.
- 3.4 Over recent years the Council has stepped up its ambitions with regard to the Social Justice Agenda making a commitment to address inequalities in our county in order to make our society function better. Version Three of the Strategy to be presented to Cabinet in March

2021, provides the policy coherence for a number of targeted individual Action Plans namely Tackling Poverty and Inequality, Food Development and Homeless Transition. The Strategy advocates a need to help promote equitable prosperity in Monmouthshire, ahead of the new Socio-economic Duty, which will come into force in April 2021, and will require the Council to consider how its decisions might help reduce the inequalities associated with socio-economic disadvantage when making strategic decisions such as deciding priorities and setting objectives.

- 3.5 In a strategic procurement context, the Council will need to have a much stronger focus on local wealth creating opportunities i.e. changing the focus from assessments based purely on cost to moving towards value propositions that open up opportunities for local companies to bid for contracts facilitated through 'Meet the Buyer' events thus safeguarding local employment and generating additional job opportunities for local residents. Focus will also need to be given to the circular economy providing options for de-carbonisation through localised delivery systems, identifying opportunities for re-use and recycling, etc. Consideration will also need to be given to supporting the foundational economy for example enabling and enhancing local food supply chains for the local hospitality sector by strengthening local supplier support, encouraging recruitment into the local care sector via apprenticeships, supporting the local retail sector through marketing campaigns such as 'Shop Local, Shop Monmouthshire', etc.
- 3.6 All of the above would be difficult for the current small team to achieve therefore this proposal takes the findings of the review to the next level by asking Members to consider entering into a mutually beneficial collaboration with Cardiff Council (CC) initially for three years, assuming it is successful, this would move to a rolling contract. The Councils would collaborate in the discharge and provision of their procurement services which would be delivered by CC on behalf of both Councils. In so doing, MCC would delegate its procurement functions for the three year period under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Discharge of Functions) (Wales) section 19 LGA 2000 Regulations although this does not prohibit MCC from exercising the Delegated Functions itself with agreement from CC.
- 3.7 This proposal will enable MCC to benefit from a bigger team, increasing from two to five, to include three new full time starters, managed by the award winning and highly respected Cardiff Council procurement service, which also includes:
- a Leadership and Management team which led the transformation of procurement within Cardiff and play a key role in leading procurement collaboration at a national level;
 - the technical capability, expertise and category specific knowledge available within CC's existing three Category Teams i.e. Social, Environment and Corporate; and
 - CC's Strategy and Policy Team which is recognised across Wales as leading the development and delivery of good practice in support of local and national priorities.
- 3.8 The proposed delegation is not a one way relationship – it will provide opportunity to share wider good practice with a greater focus on whole life cost and will help the Council to manage its procurement demand better by establishing and monitoring a contract/works pipeline.
- 3.9 Cardiff Council's Procurement Strategy and Policy Team are recognised across Wales as leading the development and delivery of good practice in support of local and national

priorities and have demonstrable experience in this field. In addition, this is a cost covering proposal rather than a profit making venture for CC.

- 3.10 This proposal is also timely as it aligns with the Council’s recent announcement of its leadership of InFuSe - the regional public sector skills innovation programme. InFuSe will provide a further opportunity to benefit from the proposal as its three work streams will be focusing on procurement, data analysis and research and development. Wider links with InFuSe are currently being made into the South East Wales Procurement Network, as lead Cardiff Council/WLGA will have an input into the programme development which will provide a training programme to drive further change into the organisation.
- 3.11 Informal consultations have taken place with the existing staff team and the Enterprise management team are now moving towards formal consultation with the staff and Trade Unions.

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

- 4.1 The assessment of Equality and Future Generations Evaluation (Appendix B) is summarised below for Members’ consideration:

This proposal seeks to work with a regional partner to mutual benefit. By doing so the Council is seeking to add value through Community Benefits i.e. Targeted training and employment; support local suppliers where practicable; minimising negative impacts of procurement decisions i.e. de-carbonisation / circular economy whilst also supporting the adoption of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act by challenging decisions which could have a long-term detrimental impact.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

5.1 Table One below therefore provides an options appraisal of the proposal:

Options	Benefits	Risks	Comments/Mitigation
Do Nothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget remains the same 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team remain under resourced Contract procurement remains with Officers across the organisation with limited specialist knowledge Lack of contract management leading to increased costs due to contract creep Limited opportunities to benefit the local supply chain and subsequently create jobs 	
Remain in house and invest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council retains autonomy Additional capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total costs of additional staff will 	

		<p>need to be borne by MCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time factor associated with recruiting and training additional staff • Council's priorities i.e. Innovation; Economic, Social, Environmental and Cultural Well Being; Value for Money and Efficiency; Governance and Risk Management may remain largely unmet without a considerable training package to support the existing team • Wider benefits from greater use of the local supply chain may be lost • Risk of lack of progress 	
Open procurement exercise to bring in alternative provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of whole of market • May provide opportunity for better deal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time factor • Costs associated with undertaking a procurement of this nature i.e. legal, scrutiny of proposals • Unlikely to result in the cost covering model being offered by CC. • Private Sector Partner may not bring the knowledge, skills and experience that can be gained from a Local Authority 	
Mutually Beneficial delegation of procurement function to Cardiff Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Award winning and highly respected procurement service; • Increased staff resource with technical capability, expertise and category specific knowledge; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service delivery levels are less than anticipated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery plan to be produced • Regular Officer meetings • Regular Cabinet Member briefings and attendance at relevant Committees • Regular review of progress against

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost covering rather than profit making arrangement with CC • Improved understanding of Council's spend enabling insight into opportunities for savings with more accuracy • Improved contract management skills resulting in less contract drift and consequently budget savings • Reduced 'off contract' spend enabling accurate spend tracking and alerts to market savings • Speedier highlighting of issues of non-compliance to enable timely corrective action, resulting in savings; • Identification of cost reducing collaborative working/contract via consolidation opportunities; • Wider benefits to include local wealth creation benefits resulting from a greater use of the local supply chain alongside job creation opportunities such as apprenticeships, etc. • Opportunities for Monmouthshire businesses to benefit from Cardiff contracts • Revised MCC Policy aligned with evolving WG policy and guidance, specifically the Themes Outcomes 		<p>agreed objectives at the end of each year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any disputes to be resolved by the Chief Officers/Service Directors and if that is not possible, CEOs. • Contract termination with one year's notice • Enables the Council to fulfil one its priorities i.e. Thriving and Well-Connected County: Action 10) The Council unlocks Economic Value of its Spending Power: Review our procurement spend, improve analysis of expenditure and build local supply chains where possible
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	and Measures (TOMs) Framework.		
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6. REASONS:

6.1 The Council's current annual third party spend is £100m per year and in the current climate this can't be an area that can be left to chance any longer. The current team is currently too under resourced and has limited:

- Capacity to influence spend and procurement strategy & policy across the organisation;
- Category specific knowledge, especially in relation to Social Care;
- Insight into spend categorisation;
- Capacity to analyse data on key contracts and spend with key suppliers;
- Capacity to effectively contribute towards the strategic direction of the organisation;
- Opportunity to engage with local suppliers to the benefit of the local economy.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The total cost of the proposal is £319k per annum for three years and equates to 0.3% of the Council's annual third party spend. The cost is split as follows :-

- Existing MCC Budget £112k
- Additional Pressure £207k

Costs have been determined on a cost covering basis and have been based on staffing both teams and will be shared on an 80/20 split with CC based on % of third party spend i.e. £400m CC/ £100m MCC.

As the proposal seeks to transform the Council's Strategic Procurement service, apart from the cost of the statutory provision that the service is delivering, costs can be capitalised and therefore have been included as a variance pressure as part of the 2021/22 Budget setting process as indicated in Table Two below. Costs for years two and three will be built into the MTFP.

Table Two – Breakdown of Proposed Costs

	Existing Budget 20-21	New Budget Requirement 21-22	Variance (Pressure) 21-22
MCC Staff	112,361	112,361	0
Cardiff Proposal	0	207,490	207,490
Total Exp	112,361	319,851	207,490
MCC Rebate Income	-78,500	-78,500	0
Net Budget	33,861	241,351	207,490

8. CONSULTEES:

Senior Leadership Team;
Cabinet;
Social Justice Advisory Group;
Strong Communities Select

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

n/a

10. AUTHORS:

Cath Fallon (Head of Enterprise and Community Animation)

11. CONTACT DETAILS:

E-mail: cathfallon@monmouthshire.gov.uk Tel: 07557 190969

Future Generations Evaluation

(includes Equalities and Sustainability Impact)

Name of the Officer Cath Fallon Phone no: 07557 190969 E-mail: cathfallon@monmouthshire.gov.uk	STRATEGIC PROCUREMENT – PROPOSED DISCHARGE OF SERVICES FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT
Name of Service: Enterprise and Community Animation	Date: Future Generations Evaluation 11 th February 2021

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

- 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.

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	Each new proposal will need to be assessed individually to consider if it impacts disproportionately on any particular group.	The purpose of this proposal is the transform the current Strategic Procurement Function of the Council and therefore no negative impacts are anticipated in relation to this particular group.	Increased procurement expertise in social care would ensure that social services budgets can be used more effectively to support services including vulnerable children, older people and those with disabilities’.

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?
Disability	Each new proposal will need to be assessed individually to consider if it impacts disproportionately on any particular group,	As above	As above
Gender reassignment	Each new proposal will need to be assessed individually to consider if it impacts disproportionately on any particular group,	As above	Positive impacts of the proposal will be addressed on an on-going basis
Marriage or civil partnership	Each new proposal will need to be assessed individually to consider if it impacts disproportionately on any particular group,	As above	As above
Pregnancy or maternity	<i>Each new proposal will need to be assessed individually to consider if it impacts disproportionately on any particular group,</i>	As above	As above
Race	<i>Each new proposal will need to be assessed individually to consider if it impacts disproportionately on any particular group,</i>	As above	As above
Religion or Belief	<i>Each new proposal will need to be assessed individually to consider if it impacts disproportionately on any particular group,</i>	As above	As above
Sex	<i>Each new proposal will need to be assessed individually to consider if it impacts disproportionately on any particular group,</i>	As above	As above
Sexual Orientation	<i>Each new proposal will need to be assessed individually to consider if it impacts disproportionately on any particular group,</i>	As above	As above

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?
Welsh Language	<i>Each new proposal will need to be assessed individually to consider if it impacts disproportionately on any particular group,</i>	As above	As above
Poverty	<i>The Proposal presents an opportunity for local wealth creation by increasing spend in local supply chains thus increasing local employment opportunities.</i>	As per Age Line above	As per Age Line Above

2. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below?




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Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>This proposal supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with a regional LA partner and as part of the Cardiff Capital Region to attract high skill, high wage jobs; Providing learning, training and employability opportunities for 11 to 24 year olds to reduce the number of young people who are not in employment, education or training and providing access to the labour market for people with disabilities and care leavers Developing, and acting upon, options to improve access to job opportunities in the county to include 	<p>Where opportunities arise more specific details regarding contributions to the wellbeing goals will be identified through regular reviews of activities.</p>

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	providing work placements, traineeship and apprenticeship opportunities.	
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	This proposal advocates taking a place based approach, working with local supply chains to reduce carbon emissions to ensure local biodiversity and ecosystems are enhanced and maintained.	As above
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	n/a	n/a
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	The proposal sets the scene for to sustain local businesses to ensure local communities remain viable and productive.	Where opportunities arise more specific details regarding contributions to the wellbeing goals will be identified through regular reviews of activities.
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	The proposal supports the adoption of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act – challenging decisions which could have a long-term detrimental impact	As above
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People	n/a	n/a

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation		
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	This proposal seeks added value through community benefits i.e. generating targeted training and employment and opportunities	Where opportunities arise more specific details regarding contributions to the wellbeing goals will be identified through regular reviews of activities.

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>	This proposal seeks to transform the Strategic Procurement function providing opportunities for a 'Thriving and well-connected community; through local wealth creation opportunities.	New activities associated with this proposal will be expected to produce a Future Generations Evaluation when they are brought to Cabinet or council for a decision.
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	This proposal seeks to address a complex problem by working collaboratively with another regional LA for mutual benefit.	New activities associated with this proposal will be expected to produce a Future Generations Evaluation when they are brought to Cabinet or council for a decision.
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	N/a	

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>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p> <p>Prevention</p>	<p>This proposal advocates working as part of the Cardiff Capital Region to attract high skill, high wage jobs to ensure that people have the opportunity to raise their household income. It also looks to identify options to improve access to job opportunities in the county and other areas to include providing work placements, traineeship and apprenticeship opportunities whilst taking positive action as a Council to encourage other public partners and businesses to do so.</p>	<p>New activities associated with this proposal will be expected to produce a Future Generations Evaluation when they are brought to Cabinet or council for a decision</p>
 <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p> <p>Integration</p>	<p>The opportunity to develop a new way of working will provide the opportunity to better connect wellbeing outcomes internally and to other partners and bodies.</p>	<p>As above</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 on safeguarding and corporate parenting	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Social Justice	<p><i>This proposal supports the policy position and strategic context for Social Justice activities within the Council by opening up local wealth creation opportunities.</i></p>	<p>The purpose of this proposal is to be inclusive to all therefore no negative impacts are anticipated.</p>	<p>Where any negative impacts are identified the team will seek to address them by taking an inclusive approach.</p>

Safeguarding	<i>During the delivery of the programme of activities associated with the proposal, safeguarding will be at the forefront to ensure that any future service delivery promotes the well-being of children and vulnerable adults, preventing them from being harmed and protecting those who are at risk of abuse and neglect.</i>	The purpose of this proposal is to be inclusive to all therefore no negative impacts are anticipated in relation to this particular activity.	Where any negative impacts are identified the team will seek to address them by taking an inclusive approach.
Corporate Parenting	n/a	As above	As above

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

This policy is founded upon the following:

- The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act;
- Prosperity for All;
- The Well-being Assessment and the Population Needs Assessment;
- Equality Act 2010;
- The Equality and Human Rights Commission’s “Is Wales Fairer 2018” report;

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

This proposal seeks to work with a regional partner to mutual benefit. By doing so the Council is seeking to add value through Community Benefits i.e. Targeted training and employment; support local suppliers where practicable; minimising negative impacts of procurement decisions i.e. de-carbonisation / circular economy whilst also supporting the adoption of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act by challenging decisions which could have a long-term detrimental impact.

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

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible	Progress
Seek considered views of the proposal	Economy and Development Select Committee – 25 th February	Cath Fallon	

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

The impacts of this proposal will be evaluated on:	February 2022.
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9. VERSION CONTROL: The Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stages of decision making, and then honed and refined throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and built in sustainable development wherever possible.

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Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1	<i>Scrutiny</i>	<i>25th February 2021</i>	

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2021

Economy Select Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
23 rd February 2021	Local Development Plan WORKSHOP 6	Infrastructure 2 - Primary Health Care	Mark Hand Rachel Lewis	Scrutiny Workshop ~ Policy Development
25 th February 2021	Procurement	Progress report on the Review of Procurement Policy.	Cath Fallon	Policy Development
9 th March 2021	Local Development Plan WORKSHOP 7	Infrastructure 3 - Local Transport Plan, sustainable transport	Mark Hand Rachel Lewis	Scrutiny Workshop ~ Policy Development
23 rd March 2021	Local Development Plan WORKSHOP 8	Adopted NDF and implications for the RLDP (once published Early 2021)	Mark Hand Rachel Lewis	Scrutiny Workshop ~ Policy Development
	City Deal	Hear from programme director ahead of Gateway Review		
20 th April 2021	Local Development Plan WORKSHOP 9	Preferred Strategy	Mark Hand Rachel Lewis	Scrutiny Workshop ~ Policy Development
25 th May 2021	Local Development Plan WORKSHOP 10	Landscape and natural environment – including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GW /GB GI 	Mark Hand Rachel Lewis	Scrutiny Workshop ~ Policy Development
13 th July 2021	Local Development Plan WORKSHOP 11	Affordable housing 2 – with viability evidence	Mark Hand Rachel Lewis	Scrutiny Workshop ~ Policy Development

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2021

12 October 2021	Local Development Plan WORKSHOP 12	Once Candidate Sites have been assessed: Site allocations (residential, employment, tourism, renewable energy)	Mark Hand Rachel Lewis	Scrutiny Workshop ~ Policy Development
28th June 2022	Local Development Plan WORKSHOP 13	Deposit Plan Member workshop	Mark Hand Rachel Lewis	Scrutiny Workshop ~ Policy Development

Future Meeting Items: Agreed Scrutiny Focus

- Affordable housing, transport and the LDP
- Tourism and enterprise
- Business and Enterprise Strategy
- Asset Investment Strategy and progress of projects

Items to diarise:

- Supplementary Planning Guidance on S106 Agreements
- Flooding ~ Invite National Resources Wales
- Car Parking Review

Cabinet, Council and Individual Cabinet Member Decisions (ICMD) Forward Plan

Monmouthshire County Council is required to publish a forward plan of all key decisions to be taken. Council and Cabinet items will only be considered for decision if they have been included on the planner no later than the month preceding the meeting, unless the item is considered urgent.

Committee / Decision Maker	Meeting date / Decision due	Subject	Purpose	Author	Date item added to the planner	Date item originally scheduled for decision
Council	01/10/23	LDP for Adoption		Mark Hand	23/01/20	
Council	01/02/23	LDP submission for examination		Mark Hand	23/01/20	
Council	01/07/22	LDP Deposit Plan endorsement for consultation	Endorsement of Deposit Plan	Mark Hand	23/01/20	
Cabinet	01/12/21	Review of Monmouthshire's Destination Management Plan 2017-2020	Purpose: to approve the revised Destination Development Plan	Matthew Lewis	22/09/20	
Cabinet	01/09/21	LDP Preferred Strategy endorsement post consultation		Mark Hand	20/05/20	
Cabinet	02/06/21	Budget Monitoring outturn report	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the forecast outturn position of the Authority at end of month reporting for 2020/21 financial year	Peter Davies/Jon Davies	02/04/20	
Cabinet	05/05/21	Active Travel Network Maps		Paul Sullivan	13/11/20	
Council	01/05/21	LDP Preferred Strategy endorsement for consultation		Mark Hand	21/09/20	

Cabinet	14/04/21	Shire Hall / Monmouth Museum – to consider the outcome of the feasibility study		Matthew Lewis/Ian Saunders	05/02/21	
Cabinet	14/04/21	Welsh Church Fund Working Group meeting	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2020/21 - meeting 9 held on 4th March 2021	Dave Jarrett	02/04/20	
Cabinet	14/04/21	Play Sufficiency Action Plan		Mike Moran	14/10/20	
Cabinet	14/04/21	Abergavenny CRC (Racecourse Farm)		Mike Moran	14/10/20	
Council	11/03/21	Appointments to outside bodies	To appoint a representative to the Wye Navigation Advisory Committee	Matt Gatehouse	08/02/21	
Council	11/03/21	Council Tax Resolution Report		Ruth Donovan	02/04/20	
Council	11/03/21	Treasury Strategy report		Jon Davies	15/12/20	
Council	11/03/21	Constitution Review		Matt Phillips	14/08/19	
Council	11/03/21	The Annual Pay Policy		Sally Thomas	11/02/21	
ICMD	10/03/21	disposal of land for consideration	Awaiting notification re inclusion DEFERRED UFN	by Cllr Murphy/ Ben Thorpe	09/02/21	

ICMD	10/03/21	Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2021-26		Matthew Lewis/Richard John	10/02/21	
ICMD	10/03/21	SPG S106 Supplementary Planning Guidance	To Clarify how S106 contributions are calculated/ deferred from 13/1/21 and 24/02/21	Phil Thomas/Mark Hand	01/05/19	
Cabinet	03/03/21	•EAS Business Plan		Sharon Randall Smith	21/09/20	
Cabinet	03/03/21	Final revenue and capital budget proposals		Peter Davies	21/09/20	
Cabinet	03/03/21	Social Justice Strategy Update		Cath Fallon	17/09/20	
Cabinet	03/02/21	Welsh Church Fund Working Group meeting	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2020/21 - meeting 5 held on 14th January 2021	Dave Jarrett	02/04/20	
Cabinet	03/02/21	Apprenticeship Pay Rates		Gareth James	08/01/21	
Cabinet	03/02/21	Outdoor Adventure Provision at Gilwern		Marie Bartlett	30/11/20	30/11/20
Cabinet	03/02/21	Proposed Disposal of MCC Cottages		Nicola Howells	15/12/20	
ICMD	27/01/21	Approval on Local Government (Wales) Act 1994 - The Local Authorities (Precepts) (Wales) Regulations 1995	Deferred from 13/1 to 27/1	Jon Davies		

Cabinet	20/01/21	•Draft revenue and capital budget proposals for consultation		Peter Davies	21/09/20	
Cabinet	20/01/21	Chippenham Mead Play Area, Monmouth		Mike Moran	15/12/20	
Cabinet	20/01/21	Play Area Assessments and Future Play Area Policy	to advise members of play area assessments carried out last year and suggest a rationalisation of provision	Matthew Lewis	22/09/20	
Cabinet	20/01/21	BUS EMERGENCY SCHEME (BES) – REQUEST TO ALL COUNCILS TO SIGN UP TO THE BES2 SCHEME		Roger Hoggins	24/12/20	
Council	14/01/21	Council Diary 2021/22		Nicola Perry		
Council	14/01/21	Council Tax Reduction Scheme		Ruth Donovan	07/04/20	
Council	14/01/21	Annual Safeguarding Report		Jane Rodgers	21/09/20	
ICMD	13/01/21	Minerals Regional Technical Statement Second Revision (RTS2)		Rachel Lewis	17/12/20	
ICMD	13/01/21	Museum Service Collection Review	To propose the deaccessioning of and disposal actions for the proposed items in line with Section 4 of the Museums Association Disposal Toolkit	Matthew Lewis/Rachael Rogers	22/09/20	
ICMD	13/01/21	Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards in the Private Rented Sector		Gareth Walters	15/12/21	

ICMD	13/01/21	Staffing Changes: Business Support	To seek approval for the voluntary redundancy of the Chief Executive's Personal Assistant, reducing the cost of administrative support arrangements for the senior management team and contribute to budget savings during the 2021-22 financial year./Paul Jordan	Matt Gatehouse	15/12/21	
Cabinet	06/01/21	Budget Monitoring Report - month 7 (period 2)	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the forecast outturn position of the Authority at end of month reporting for 2020/21 financial year.	Peter Davies/Jon Davies	02/04/20	
Cabinet	06/01/21	RIPA Policy		Matt Phillips	21/10/20	
Cabinet	06/01/21	Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2020		Mark Hand	23/06/20	
ICMD	23/12/20	Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2020-2025	To approve the review of the Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2020-2025 Deferred awaiting new date	Matthew Lewis	22/09/2020/	
Cabinet	16/12/20	Welsh Church Fund Working Group meeting	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2020/21 - meeting 7 held on 3rd December 2020	Dave Jarrett	02/04/20	
Cabinet	16/12/20	Proposal to pause work on a proposed Development Company		Deb Hill Howells	21/10/20	
Cabinet	16/12/20	Local Housing Market Assessment Update		Mark Hand	04/11/20	
Cabinet	16/12/20	Growth Options to Cabinet for endorsement for non-statutory consultation		Mark Hand	21/09/20	
Cabinet	16/12/20	Review of school places in Caldicot town		Matthew Jones	21/10/20	

ICMD	09/12/20	Shire Hall/Monmouth Museum	Paul Jordan	Matthew Lewis	deferred from 11/11	
IMCD	09/12/20	Consultation on Local Government (Wales) Act 1994 - The Local Authorities (Precepts) (Wales) Regulations 1995	To seek Member approval of the proposals for consultation purposes regarding payments to precepting authorities during the 2021/22 financial year as required by statute.	Jon Davies		
IMCD	09/12/20	Council Tax base and associated matters	To agree the Council Tax Base figure for submission to the Welsh Government, together with the collection rate to be applied for 2021/22 and to make other necessary related statutory decisions	Ruth Donovan	02/04/20	
Council	03/12/20	Corporate Joint Committee: Consultation Response'	To discuss and endorse a council response to consultation about draft regulations which will create four regional Corporate Joint Committees. These are a statutory mechanism for regional collaboration by local government.	Matt Gatehouse	16/10/20	
Council	03/12/20	Updated Asset Investment Policy		Peter Davies	21/09/20	
Council	03/12/20	Statutory Director of Social Services annual report		Julie Boothroyd	14/08/20	
Cabinet	02/12/20	InFuSe		Cath Fallon	10/11/20	
Cabinet	02/12/20	Clydach Ironworks Enhancement Scheme Revision/S106 Funding, Cae Meldon		Matthew Lewis	22/09/20	
ICMD	25/11/20	Homesearch Allocations Policy and Amendments	INCLUDED ON 11/11 AGENDA	Louise Corbett	22/10/20	
ICMD	11/11/20	WELSH LANGUAGE COMMISSIONER'S MONITORING WORK 2019-20		Matt Gatehouse		

ICMD	11/11/20	LDP Annual Monitoring Report/ and Annual Performance Report for Planning Service		Rachel Lewis/Phil Thomas	19/10/20	
ICMD	11/11/20	Housing Register Review		Mark Hand	23/06/20	
Cabinet	04/11/20	Outdoor Adventure Service		Marie Bartlett/Ian Saunders	13/10/20	
Cabinet	04/11/20	Public Service Ombudsman's annual letter	To provide Cabinet with a copy of the Public Service Ombudsman's annual letter to inform understanding of the council's performance in handling complaints	Matt Gatehouse	09/09/20	
Cabinet	04/11/20	Welsh Church Fund working group	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2020/21 - meeting 4 held on 22nd October 2020	Dave Jarrett	02/04/20	
Cabinet	04/11/20	Three Fields Site Magor – Lease Arrangements		Mike Moran	14/10/20	
Cabinet	04/11/20	Coronavirus Strategic Aims: Progress and Next Steps	To provide an overview of progress against the strategic aims set by Cabinet in July, and communicate an updated version of the plan on a page	Matt Gatehouse	26/08/20	
Cabinet	04/11/20	Section 106 Funding – The Hill, Abergavenny		Mike Moran	20/02/19	
Council	22/10/20	Corporate Plan Annual Report 2019/20		Richard Jones	25/08/20	
Council	22/10/20	MCC Audited Accounts (formal approval)	To notify Council of completed Audit process and resultant accounts - To go to Audit Committee	Peter Davies/Jon Davies	02/04/20	

Council	22/10/20	ISA 260 report - MCC Accounts - attachment above	Deferred from september	Peter Davies/Jon Davies	02/04/20	
Council	22/10/20	Future Data Hall and Data Hosting Arrangements		Peter Davies	16/09/20	
Council	22/10/20	LDP revised Delivery Agreement including LDP timetable and community involvement strategy		Craig O'Connor	03/07/20	
Cabinet	21/10/20	Revenue and Capital Monitoring 2020/21 Forecast Outturn Statement – Month 5		Peter Davies	16/09/20	
Cabinet	21/10/20	MTFP and Budget Process 2021/22 to 2024/25		Peter Davies	16/09/20	
Cabinet	21/10/20	Review of Garden Waste Service		Laura Carter	23/07/20	
ICMD	14/10/20	PUBLIC TOILET PROVISION - GRANTS TO LOCAL COUNCILS AND FUTURE PROVISION IN ABERGAVENNY	DEFERRED	Roger Hoggins	25/09/20	
ICMD	14/10/20	Closure of Capita Gwent Consultancy and distribution of Reserves		Roger Hoggins	25/09/20	
ICMD	14/10/20	Extension of PSPO	To seek approval to extend three Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) in respect of Bailey Park,	Andrew Mason	23/09/20	
Cabinet	07/10/20	Future Data Hall and Data Hosting Arrangements		Peter Davies	16/09/20	

Cabinet	07/10/20	Welsh Church Fund Working Group	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2020/21 - meeting 2 held on 28th July 2020 and meeting 3 held on 10th September 2020.	Dave Jarrett	02/04/20	
Cabinet	07/10/20	Future Provision of HWRCs including the closure of Usk recycling centre		Carl Touhig	14/09/20	
ICMD	23/09/20	SCM Collaboration with TCBC Heritage Services		Amy Longford	24/08/20	
ICMD	23/09/20	SCM Collaboration with TCBC Heritage Services		Amy Longford	24/08/20	
Council	10/09/20	Audit Committee Annual Report		Philip White	11/08/20	
Cabinet	29/07/20	Digital Infrastructure Action Plan		Cath Fallon	08/07/20	
Cabinet	29/07/20	'Revenue and Capital Monitoring 2020/21 Forecast Outturn Statement – Month 2		Jonathan S Davies	12/06/20	
Cabinet	29/07/20	Coronavirus Risk Management Update'		Peter Davies	10/07/20	
Cabinet	29/07/20	Welsh Church Fund Working Group meeting	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2020/21 - meeting 1 held on 30th June 2020	Dave Jarrett	02/04/20	
Cabinet	29/07/20	Outdoor Education - Service Update		Marie Bartlett	09/07/20	

Cabinet	29/07/20	Public Toilets				
Cabinet	29/07/20	5G Rural test bed		Cath Fallon/Frances O'Brien		
Council	16/07/20	Climate Emergency Update		Hazel Clatworthy	10/06/20	
Council	16/07/20	CEx Report		Matt Phillips	18/06/20	
Council	16/07/20	Cabinet decision re Gilwern		Matt Phillips	27/05/20	
ICMD	08/07/20	Archaeology Planning Advice	Adoption post-guidance	Mark Hand	19/09/19	Deferred
Cabinet	01/07/20	COVID-19 Evaluation of Recovery Phase and Establishing Aims for Response Stage			17/06/20	
Cabinet	01/07/20	Home to School Transport Policy	Deferred		20/05/20	
Cabinet	01/07/20	Household Waste Recycling Centres	Deferred		20/05/20	
Cabinet	17/06/20	Revenue and Capital Monitoring Outturn	To provide Members with information on the outturn position of the Authority for the financial year	Peter Davies/Jon Davies	02/02/20	

Council	04/06/20	Licensing Act Policy		Linda O'Gorman		
Council	04/06/20	Estyn Report		Will Mclean		
Council	04/06/20	Safeguarding Covid19 Position Statement		Julie Boothroyd		
Council	04/06/20	Chief Officer, CYP Annual Report'		Will Mclean	11/03/20	
Council	04/06/20	Refit Programme		Ian Hoccom	28/02/20	
Cabinet	27/05/20	Safeguarding		Julie Boothroyd		
Cabinet	27/05/20	Active Travel and Town Centres		Paul Sullivan		
Cabinet	06/05/20	Welsh Church Fund Working Group	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2020/21 - meeting 1 held on 2nd April 2020	Dave Jarrett	02/04/20	
ICMD	08/04/20	GUARANTEED INTERVIEWS FOR CARE LEAVERS		Gareth James	23/03/20	
ICMD	08/04/20	Momouthshire Registration Service Collaborative Working Agreement		Jennifer Walton	23/03/20	

Cabinet	01/04/20	Staffing re-alignment: Community Hubs and Contact Centre		Matt Gatehouse	11/03/20	
Cabinet	01/04/20	EAS Business Plan		Will Mclean	04/03/20	
Cabinet	01/04/20	Guaranteed Interview Scheme for Care Leavers		Gareth James	28/02/20	
ICMD	25/03/20	Non Domestic Rates: High Street and Retail Rate Relief 2020/21	for approval of the adoption of a High Street and Retail Rate Relief Scheme for 2020/21, in accordance with Welsh Government guidance.	Ruth Donovan	12/02/20	
ICMD	25/03/20	Contract Extension		Tracey Harry	14/02/20	
Council	05/03/20	Pay Policy		Sally Thomas	23/01/20	
Council	05/03/20	Annual Safeguarding Report		Julie Boothroyd	06/02/20	
Council	05/03/20	Strategic Equality Plan		Alan Burkitt	26/09/19	
Council	05/03/20	LDP Preferred Strategy	Endorsement to consult on Preferred Strategy	Mark Hand	23/01/20	
Council	05/03/20	Council Tax Resolution	To set budget and Council Tax	Ruth Donovan	18/04/19	

Council	05/03/20	Mid Term Review of the Corporate Plan		Matt Gatehouse		
Cabinet	04/03/20	Investment Committee		Peter Davies	13/02/20	
ICMD	26/02/20	CHARGING APPLICANTS FOR THE MONITORING OF SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS		Phil Thomas	06/02/20	
ICMD	26/02/20	Non Domestic Rates - Application for Hardship Relief		Ruth Donovan	14/01/20	
Cabinet	19/02/20	2020/21 Education and Welsh Church Trust Funds Investment and Fund Strategies	The purpose of this report is to present to Cabinet for approval the 2020/21 Investment and Fund Strategy for Trust Funds for which the Authority acts as sole or custodian trustee for adoption and to approve the 2019/20 grant allocation to Local Authority beneficiaries of the Welsh Church Fund.	Dave Jarrett	18/04/19	
Cabinet	19/02/20	Mid Term Review of the Corporate Plan		Matt Gatehouse		
Cabinet	19/02/20	Welsh Church Fund Working Group	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2019/20, meeting 7 held on 5th December 2019	Dave Jarrett	18/04/19	
Cabinet	19/02/20	Consideration of Final Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals		Peter Davies	03/10/19	
Cabinet	19/02/20	Proposal to change the school funding formula.		Nikki Wellington		

Cabinet	19/02/20	Strategic Review of Outdoor Education		Marie Bartlett	18/10/20	
Cabinet	19/02/20	Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) review/ Policy Statement - Results of statutory consultation and proposed Final Plan	To seek approval of the Review of the ROWIP and associated policies	Matthew Lewis	18/07/19	
Cabinet	17/02/20	•Final revenue and capital budget proposals		Peter Davies	21/09/20	

Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

Meeting of Economy and Development Select Committee held at Remote Microsoft Teams Meeting on Thursday, 21st January, 2021 at 10.00 am

Councillors Present

County Councillor P.Pavia (Chairman)
County Councillor (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: J.Becker, R.Roden, B. Strong and P. Murphy

Officers in Attendance

Frances O'Brien, Chief Officer, Enterprise
Jonathan Davies, Central Accountancy Finance Manager
Dave Loder, Finance Manager
Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager
Robert McGowan, Policy and Scrutiny Officer

APOLOGIES: County Councillors A.Davies and D. Dovey

1. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Public Open Forum.

No members of the public were present.

3. Budget Monitoring: Scrutiny of the budget monitoring capital and revenue position at Month 7, setting the context for scrutiny of budget proposals.

Jonathan Davies, Dave Loder and Frances O'Brien presented the report and answered the members' questions.

Challenge:

Some of the non-Covid savings couldn't be implemented because staff had moved into Covid roles. How were Covid and non-Covid related expenditure determined? Could we claim more grants?

Separating out what is defined as Covid and non-Covid expenditure is complex. We have some stipulations and rules from Welsh Government. Those costs and income losses have to be directly attributable to our pandemic response. There are indirect impacts as well: one of these is the ability of the services to achieve the savings that they were budgeted to make during the financial year. Where staff and resources have been diverted to front line support, they haven't been able to focus on achieving those savings. The Month 9 report is being drawn up now: services are currently budgeted to make over £4m of service efficiencies; the current forecast is that £732k of those won't be achieved. That's an automatic pressure on the budget for this year, and into next year. Regarding additional support, we are following up with Welsh Assembly where additional grants and support are available. As well as business support, there will be some in the areas of art and culture. There are a number of additional avenues to go down to support those additional costs and losses.

The income loss from MonLife brings a number of challenges. What are the early building blocks to recovery?

One of the things MonLife is looking at is reopening. The branding and marketing are ready so that they have a strong product when they are able to reopen. One difficulty is the continual opening and closing – it's sometimes easier to know that you're going to be closed, then when you reopen you can do so with confidence. In our dialogue with Ian Saunders, the Chief Officer overseeing MonLife, we can see that given the impacts of Covid on people's health and wellbeing, in the long-term we will need to provide these services so that people can be fit and well again. Leisure services will play a fundamental part in that recovery. MonLife is confident that it can rebound; it is just the period that the recovery will take. Some say it will take 2 years, and it might be that there will be a lengthy recovery plan to get those services back up to where they were previously.

Have there been initial discussions with the Health Board to map a picture of the help that will be needed after Covid?

Yes, it is important to consider the role that we can provide, whether that is facilitating through our community support network or MonLife services. The MonLife team has been working very closely with children's services, as have our CYP colleagues around the role that outdoor education can play in the future to facilitate alternative learning and provision. So there are many opportunities for the service areas. A key focus will be to work in a networked way.

It seems we're managing Castle Gate well. Have there been further discussions with Cineworld in Newport about re-opening, or any further detail in terms of rental relief?

The officer who deals with that, Debra Hill-Howells, would be able to give a detailed answer but is not in this meeting. We are experiencing issues with Newport Leisure Park, as the site is predominantly retail and leisure. We are claiming any income loss from Welsh Government on the quarterly returns. Regarding Cineworld, I don't think there is any immediate risk of any problems, in terms of them staying on the site.

Welsh Government has given assurance about Covid costs being paid – what sort of assurance has that been?

The significant announcement from Welsh Government at the end of the autumn detailing a further support package, which included local government and the associated Hardship Fund, gave us additional confidence that the additional expenditure and income losses would be covered. Through our Leader's conversations with Welsh Government and the forums he sits on, and with civil servants in Welsh Government, we expect that to go through to the end of the financial year. The real focus for us, in terms of planning, is what that support looks like as we move past March. The pandemic is going to halt at the end of March, so we need to plan for that and get some certainty about how that support fund is going to look as we move into the new financial year.

Have other avenues been considered, regarding what we can sell? e.g. Museums? Online?

The income that we make from sales at tourist information centres and museums is minimal. The cost of setting up an online or click-and-collect service for those sorts of things has not been seen as feasible. During lockdown and Covid, the team has continued to review the artefacts in our museums, and go through a process of identifying whether they need to be retained or disposed of. So they are not at the stage yet where items are being sold, but we are going through the process – there are tens of thousands of artefacts across the museums and

in storage. The team also has a funding stream from the Heritage Lottery Fund to look at the stories that need to be told in the museums – that also helps in identifying which items to display. This work has continued in the background while we deal with the pandemic.

Regarding the non-Covid budget pressures mentioned in 3.18, could some of the one-off savings in this portfolio area be identified?

We have a lot of vacant posts within the services. Managers are choosing to freeze those posts because they are aware that we need to close the gap, as an authority. Delay for the LDP is also bringing savings, as we had budgeted professional and specialist fees for this financial year. We are also pushing some LDP costs to the capitalisation directive, and there are collaboration costs coming out of business growth and enterprise, which is producing a staff saving. So staff and capitalisation directive are mainly driving the underspends.

What potential impact will staff freezes have on future service provision?

We are really starting to notice the impacts now. Perhaps that is because of increased demand and our inability to respond to our customers as we would wish. To take Planning as an example: ensuring that we are able to respond on time, and in the parameters that we try to set, is starting to affect us. Within Highways, we've had significant grant-funded programmes and projects, which is fantastic, but it means that our ability to deliver is limited, or we're struggling, because we haven't filled the vacant posts. There is always a judgement call as to whether we should fill them, but we are now at the point where we need to do so, because we are starting to see a detrimental impact on our ability to deliver against key priorities.

Chair's Summary:

It's clearly been a hugely difficult year for the authority, financially. The impact of the pandemic is biting everywhere but particularly so in regards to this portfolio. Congratulations to officers on their continued efforts. We hope that the assurances given by Welsh Government will indeed materialise.

4. Budget Scrutiny: Scrutiny of the budget proposals for 2021/22.

Jonathan Davies and Dave Loder delivered the presentation and answered the members' questions, with Frances O'Brien.

Challenge:

Given the previous discussion about pay freezes and service delivery, and pressures next year, is it realistic to say that we are going to continue delivering our full suite of services?

That's a valid question because we are going to have to consider if some of the services will be sustainable long-term, or whether they can be delivered in a different way. We will need to continue reviewing them over the medium-term financial plan and strategy. We've been very fortunate not to have to significantly close or change any services, but we have to continually monitor the situation and prioritise, in terms of what non-statutory services are there that we would look to adapt and change. Those are very difficult considerations to make.

One of the cost pressures not budgeted for is MonLife investment considerations. Can we have more detail on this?

We don't have detailed information for this meeting. The team is considering whether to postpone some of those investments for the immediate future while we understand what the Covid recovery situation is. The presentation slide was in relation to the capital commitments

going forward, and those pressures and investments sitting outside the current budget. There's a list of potential MonLife investments that they would seek to make over the medium term, which is available in the pack of papers that went to Cabinet and is linked on today's agenda.

The Welsh Government settlement has been more generous than ever this year. What are the reasons for this? Are there lessons to learn from other councils?

The settlement itself is made up of quite a complicated calculation around many factors, of which some have higher impacts than others. A couple of the indicators where we've benefitted this time are concerning population and 'equalisation of resources': this looks at the ability of authorities to raise their funding from council tax, and applies a ratio to adjust for that across Welsh authorities. It is very difficult to explain. Welsh Government are working now to make that indicator a lot clearer for authorities. It's been a big factor this time; the reasons for that are probably statistical, and we don't understand the full picture of that yet.

Does our input affect the amount that we get?

The inputs are set at a statutory level so the returns we make, in terms of those statistical returns to Welsh Government, go towards producing that data for them to put into their model. We don't have the ability to change those but there are varying amounts of what goes in: pupil numbers, population estimates, benefits data, and the demands on our services and populations that we give information back on. We therefore have very limited scope to change or influence those factors – it is very much reliant on those statutory indicators that we have to report back.

What have the discussions been around medium-term plan and deficit recovery? What are our expectations?

It's a very difficult picture to play through in relation to the medium term. We're continuing to focus on the areas that we can control, and look to influence Welsh Government to give more clarity on the position going forward. When we have a one-year settlement there is very limited scope to plan past the end of 2021-22. We will always aim to maintain and sustain services – we don't want services to fall away. Many of them are going to transform and develop as we recover from the pandemic e.g. how town centres look, how residents travel, working from home, etc. Various working groups have been established to look at these things. The key point is to put pressure at a political level back on Welsh Government to provide clarity over how our funding will come through in the longer-term settlement.

Has our Section 151 Officer (Peter Davies) raised any concerns about the drawdown of reserves?

Our officer has had to consider that as we develop these proposals. A lot of the reserves and council fund balances are limited. We have benefitted from the 2019-20 outturn position – we were able to bolster the council fund by £1.8m. This gave us some flexibility to deal with the Covid and non-Covid pressures coming in the current financial year. It's important to note that even though that was increased by £1.8m it still brought us to a middling level on the council fund reserve, compared to across the Welsh authorities. We're proposing to use £750k from that council fund, which is very much a one-off use. When we say it's not sustainable to maintain that, if we use it and we don't then top up that reserve at year-end, it's a continual cycle in the reduction in those balances, and gives us limited opportunities to support the budget when our only other viable options of funding those priorities are council tax and Welsh Government settlement. Per head, we are still right at the bottom of that funding.

Chair's Summary:

We have covered the impact on income, which has had a significant income on budget planning. The various levels of uncertainty in relation to central government is a challenge for us to map out what the next few years will look like, financially. There are no particular recommendations but we can give overall feedback, as a committee. Cabinet Member Phil Murphy will pick up the points and questions raised by members today.

5. Economy and Development Select Committee Forward Work Plan.

The evening format for workshops has worked very well. Procurement will need to be picked up later this year, having gone on the backburner due to the pandemic. It would be beneficial to hear from Cardiff City Deal Director Kelly Byrne in the coming months. Note that the car park review with Strong Communities has been put on hold temporarily due to pressures from Covid and flooding, but we will revisit this important subject later in the spring. Consideration of flooding will be added to the planner as well; Councillor Becker suggested perhaps including the possibility of using heat exchange in our rivers to lower our carbon footprint.

6. Cabinet and Council Work Planner.**7. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting.**

The minutes were confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

8. Next Meeting: Thursday 25th February 2021 at 10.00am.

The meeting ended at **Time Not Specified**

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