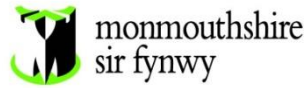


Public Document Pack



County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Monday, 19 July 2021

Notice of meeting

Adults Select Committee

**Tuesday, 27th July, 2021 at 10.00 am,
County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance**

Please note that a pre meeting will be held 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting for members of the committee.

AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for absence	
2.	Declarations of interest	
3.	Public Open Forum. Select Committee Public Open Forum ~ Guidance Our Select Committee meetings are live streamed and a link to the live stream will be available on the meeting page of the Monmouthshire County Council website If you would like to share your thoughts on any proposals being discussed by Select Committees, you can submit your representation via this form Please share your views by uploading a video or audio file (maximum of 4 minutes) or; Please submit a written representation (via Microsoft Word, maximum of 500 words) You will need to register for a My Monmouthshire account in order to submit the representation or use your log in, if you have registered previously. The deadline for submitting representations to the Council is 5pm three clear working days in advance of the meeting.	

If representations received exceed 30 minutes, a selection of these based on theme will be shared at the Select Committee meeting. All representations received will be made available to councillors prior to the meeting.

If you would like to suggest future topics for scrutiny by one of our Select Committees, please do so by emailing Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk

4.	Performance Reporting	1 - 12
	Report on the performance against the 5 goals	
5.	Annual Report of the Chief Officer for Social Services	To Follow
	Scrutiny of the directorate's progress and strategic direction via the Chief Officer's Annual Report.	
6.	Adults Select Committee Forward Work Programme	13 - 14
7.	Cabinet and Council Forward Plan	15 - 24
8.	To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting	25 - 30
9.	Next Meeting: 21st September 2021	

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Louise Brown	Shirenewton;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Ruth Edwards	Llantilio	Welsh Conservative Party
	Crossenny;	
County Councillor Martyn Groucutt	Lansdown;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Roger Harris	Croesonen;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Simon Howarth	Llanelly Hill;	Independent Group
County Councillor Maureen Powell	Castle;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Sheila Woodhouse	Grofield;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Malcolm Lane	Mardy;	Welsh Conservative Party
Chris Bowie		
Tony Crowhurst		

Public Information

Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

A copy of this agenda and relevant reports can be made available to members of the public attending a meeting by requesting a copy from Democratic Services on 01633 644219. Please note that we must receive 24 hours notice prior to the meeting in order to provide you with a hard copy of this agenda.

Watch this meeting online

This meeting can be viewed online either live or following the meeting by visiting www.monmouthshire.gov.uk or by visiting our Youtube page by searching MonmouthshireCC.

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: Performance Report 2020/21 – Corporate Plan Goals

MEETING: Adults Select Committee

DATE: 27th July 2021

DIVISIONS/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present 2020/21 performance information under the remit of Adults Select Committee (Corporate Plan Goal D); this includes:
- Progress made in 2020/21 to deliver the commitments set out in the Corporate Plan 2017 – 2022 (appendix 2)

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are invited to scrutinise how well the authority performed in 2020/21 against the goals set in the Corporate Plan.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Corporate Plan sets an ambitious five-year programme aligned to a clear purpose of building sustainable and resilient communities, and identifies five priority goals, which also serve as the council's well-being objectives. Each of the goals includes a number of commitments to action, 22 in total, which the organisation is committed to delivering between now and 2022.
- 3.2 Due to the impact of the pandemic, some of the aims within the plan have been paused or progressed at a slower pace than intended. This has enabled us to divert staff and resources into core services to focus on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable. To ensure accountability through this period, Cabinet developed a Coronavirus Strategy, also known as the *Plan on a Page*. This was approved in May and subsequently updated in July and December 2020 and more recently, in June 2021, in response to the changing nature of the response. It contains a purpose, strategic aims and associated actions, and has been monitored by Cabinet throughout the pandemic.
- 3.3 The council has an established performance framework, which is the way in which we translate our vision of '*building sustainable and resilient communities*' into action, and ensures that everyone is pulling in the same direction to deliver real and tangible outcomes; this is shown at appendix 1. Further information on the council's performance framework is available on the intranet Hub.
- 3.4 Appendix 2 provides an update of progress in 2020/21 for the goal in the Corporate Plan that falls under the remit of the committee, Goal D: Lifelong Well-being. An evaluation of activity and progress made is provided, with a progress rating included for each commitment. The parameters for the ratings are below:

Progressing well:	most actions are underway and making good progress; improvements are becoming evident; most activity has been on schedule
Taking steps:	actions have been started and are making progress, whilst some are not progressing or are yet to begin; some improvement is evident; activity has been on schedule but some are behind schedule

Attention needed: most actions are not making progress; few improvements are evident; most activity has been behind schedule.
No activity: no actions, improvement or activities are evident

The progress on the goal has also been given an indicative overall score based on the council's self-evaluation framework, level 1 – unsatisfactory to level 6 – excellent. These ratings reflect progress against the long term strategic commitments in the Corporate Plan. However, they do not illustrate the significant activities undertaken during 2020/21 to support the pandemic response. The update also includes the performance measures that are being used to track progress, and the contribution of each goal to the national well-being goals and ways of working set out within the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

- 3.5 The performance indicators provide quantitative information to support the analysis of performance and consist of both local and national measures. The council usually undergoes a benchmarking exercise of the national indicators to provide an indication of performance against other local authorities in Wales, however due to the impact of the pandemic, this information is limited for 2020/21 so does not provide adequate detail to support the analysis of performance against the Corporate Plan goals. Data has been gathered internally, where available, and is presented with additional information where figures do not align with previous performance to provide a wider context and explanation.
- 3.6 The Corporate Plan is an ambitious five year programme; some commitments focus on the longer-term future of the county and aim to address complex challenges, in line with the Future Generations Act. This will need to be considered when assessing progress made as the impact of some activity may not be clearly demonstrable over short timescales, and some activity will be in the early stages or not yet started.
- 3.7 The purpose of bringing the information together is to allow Select Committee to understand performance in the context of the commitments made in the Corporate Plan. Committee members are encouraged to utilise their time appropriately and consider the scrutiny already undertaken in service areas, and as prescribed on the committee's work programme. The report may identify further areas of scrutiny that committee may want to consider for inclusion on the forward work programme. As some of the activity detailed cross cuts select committee remits, it is suggested that members particularly focus their scrutiny on the activity relevant to the committee with consideration of its contribution to the objective as a whole.
- 3.8 The council's annual performance report will be presented to Council on 23 September 2021 and published by October 2021, in line with the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure. As well as being presented to select committees, the goals detailed here will be included in this report, and will provide a detailed evaluation of performance in 2020/21 against the Corporate Plan and wider arrangements.

4. REASONS:

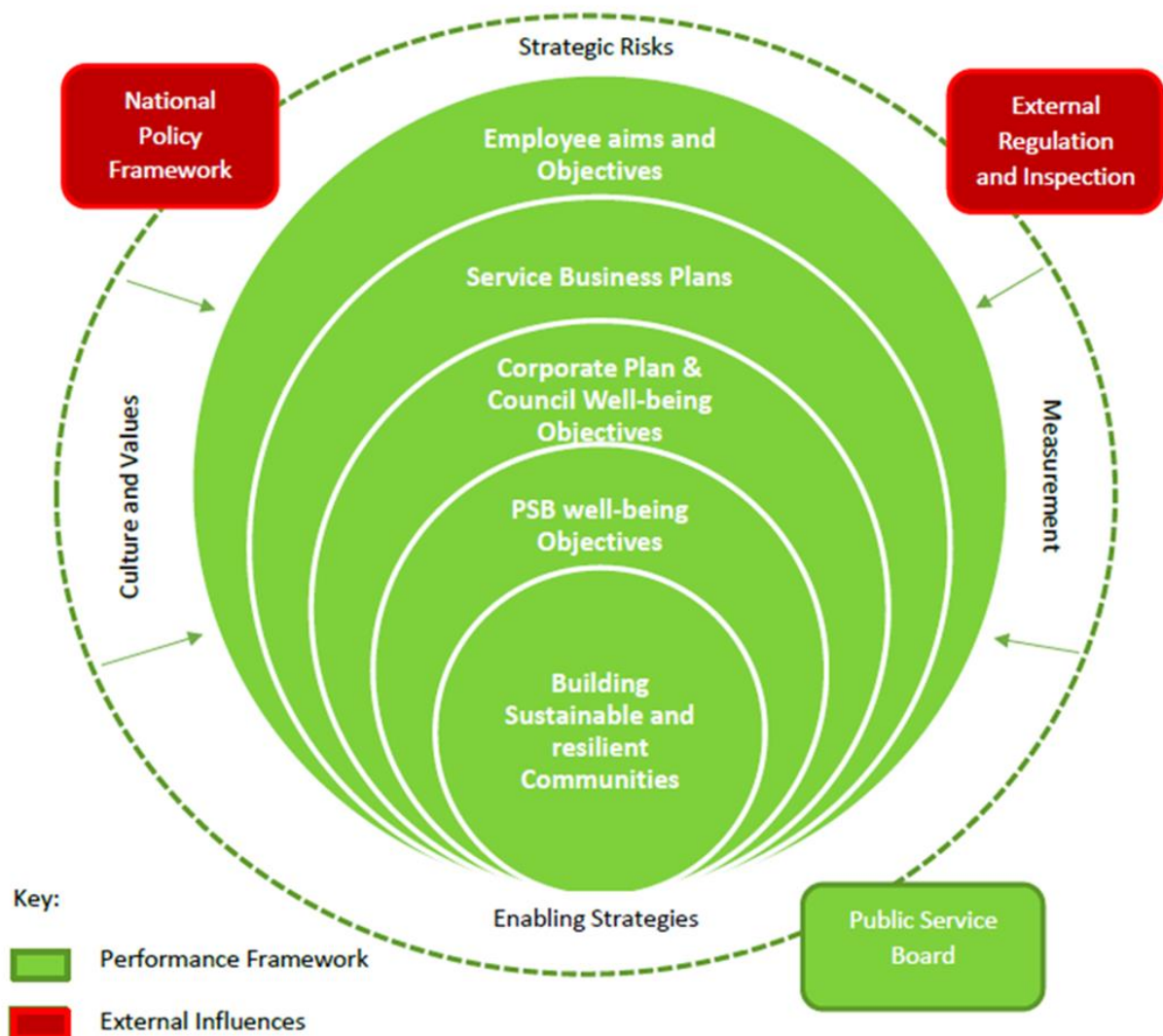
- 4.1 To ensure that members have an understanding of council performance in 2020/21 and can scrutinise how well the authority has performed.

5. AUTHOR:

Emma Davies, Performance Officer
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Telephone: 07989 692782


Appendix 1 – Monmouthshire County Council Performance Management Framework

Our performance management framework ensures everyone is pulling in the same direction to deliver real and tangible outcomes. Building sustainable and resilient communities is the unifying purpose of the diverse range of services for which we are responsible. We are a partner in the Public Service Board, which is responsible for setting well-being objectives for the county. The council’s own well-being objectives are set by the council based on the same well-being assessment as the PSB objectives and forms the backbone of our five organisational goals in the Corporate Plan. Each of our teams has a business plan that aligns to these objectives and we have a range of performance measures that are used to track progress. Our risk management policy enables us to manage strategic risks to delivery of our goals, and the employee aims and objectives show the contribution that individuals make to these objectives and to delivering our vision in accordance with our values.




Goal D: Lifelong well-being


Monmouthshire County Council Goal: D. Lifelong well-being	
Why we are focusing on this	Summary - Progress 2020/21
<p>Developing well-being and adopting community focused approaches is about changing practice and lives. We will continue to commit to the personalisation of care and true collaboration with people who have care and support needs and carers. Making deep relationships the norm is challenging – but it is the right thing to do and developing really effective partnerships and supporting individual family and community resilience is key to this.</p> <p>Creating good social support systems relies on more than just the economic and wealth creation aspects of our work. We will work to create prosperity for all and this means taking into account economic and social wellbeing.</p> <p>We are committed to social justice; addressing inequalities and improving outcomes for the county’s people and communities. We will cultivate social capital and promote access to opportunity and in so doing, will work towards better physical and mental health and social care outcomes. Our approach will take a strengths based approach to encouraging independence, self-care, support, learning, and engagement.</p>	<p>Progress evaluation: 3: Adequate</p> <p>Where people have needed to contact social care, multi-disciplinary professionals have been available at the first access point. The front-door of Adult Services received 5,787 contacts from people who were not already in receipt of care and support during 2020-21. Of the contacts received, 3,961 were provided with advice or assistance and survey responses tell us that 83% of adults receiving care and support felt they had the right information or advice when they needed it.</p> <p>The Care at Home Service has developed a new ethos of being relationship based, which moves away from the focus being on a time and task approach, and wherever possible, the goal is to support people to remain living at home for as long as possible. During 2020-21, 80 people began a service in a residential care home, and 1,324 adults started a domiciliary care service. When considering their support, 91% of survey respondents felt their care and support still met their needs.</p> <p>The third iteration of the Social Justice Strategy was approved by Cabinet in March 2021 and demonstrates the council’s continued commitment to work in partnership at national, regional and local community level. The revised strategy has particular focus on Tackling Poverty and Inequality, Food Development and Homeless Transition.</p> <p>Volunteers have been at the forefront of the effort to keep our communities safe throughout the pandemic and we have provided direct specialist support to volunteer groups, aimed at linking community members, groups and organisations to maximise collaboration and to pool resources.</p> <p>Whilst the leisure centres were closed, MonLife continued to deliver a suite of virtual programmes to maintain wellbeing and health at home. Virtual fitness classes and 1:1 sessions have been delivered, along with 'virtual coffee mornings' following some of the more gentle online exercise classes.</p>


Detailed Progress update			
Commitment to action	Progress Rating	What we said we would do	Progress in 2020/21
THE COUNCIL ENABLES CONNECTED AND CARING COMMUNITIES SUPPORTING PEOPLE TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY 	Taking steps	Maximise the opportunities for all people to live the lives they want to live and the positive outcomes they identify	<p>Monmouthshire continues to develop its place-based approach to delivering advice and assistance in people's communities through a range of providers, not just within social care and health, but also across other sectors. It is a way of working that builds a network of community support by bringing a range of agencies together with a shared purpose of supporting people's wellbeing.</p> <p>Care Inspectorate Wales carried out an assurance check in February 2021 to review how well social services continue to help and support adults and children, with a focus on safety and wellbeing. They observed that, <i>'the local authority is committed to fully embedding a strengths and outcome focused approach. In adult services, there is a focus on transforming practice through a relationships and place-based working approach. Work is underway to maximise the place-based opportunities of working across social services, third sector, and primary and community health services etc., with the aim of achieving a fully integrated approach based on working with communities and for the people in those communities.'</i></p>
		Co-produce our approaches to well-being, care and support	<p>Where people need to contact social care, multi-disciplinary professionals are available at the first access point. The front door of Adult Services is a priority and remained fully operational throughout the pandemic – the process for receiving and responding to referrals did not change. 5,787 contacts were received from people who were not already in receipt of care and support during 2020-21. The majority of contacts received were from Health colleagues, where integration continues to be key to our way of working. Of the contacts received, 3,961 were provided with advice or assistance. Survey responses tell us that 83% of adults receiving care and support feel they have had the right information or advice when they needed it.</p> <p>Reablement provides intensive short-term interventions aiming to restore people to independence following a crisis or hospital stay. At the end of the six-week reablement period, the goal is for people to be independent and not necessarily need long-term services in the immediate future. During 2020-21, 291 reablement packages were completed in the year; of those, 171 people (59%) had no ongoing need for support.</p>

		<p>Complete the move from task and time approach in social care to relationship-based care at home</p>	<p>The Care at Home Service has developed a new ethos of being relationship based, which moves away from the focus being on a time and task approach, and places more importance on social and emotional needs. Greater autonomy for care workers, being salaried, and working in small teams in a locality patch is increasing the value and appeal of this work, which has improved the ability to recruit. Wherever possible, the goal is to support people to remain living at home for as long as possible. During 2020-21, 80 people began a service in a residential care home, and 1,324 adults started a domiciliary care service (which may include new additional care hours to existing provision). When considering their support, 91% of survey respondents felt their care and support still met their needs. The domiciliary care sector remains under considerable pressure, and Monmouthshire has specific challenges due to rurality and demographics. The response to recruitment has improved since the pandemic started; with many more people seeking employment, and thanks to the positive portrayal of social care, we are now in a position of being able to recruit again.</p> <p>Work is ongoing with providers across Monmouthshire to implement the 'Turning the world upside down' approach, which aims to achieve a more sustainable sector where ongoing demand is met, whilst achieving people's personal outcomes. Progress has been paused during the current year, as a consequence of the impact and response to the pandemic, and to also assist in the in-year budget recovery plan. The intention is that this will be picked back up as soon as possible during 2021/22.</p>
		<p>Develop opportunities for people to be involved in their local communities reducing isolation and loneliness</p>	<p>Work has continued to build upon the progress of the My Day My Life programme to support people to live a full and meaningful life, and to implement staffing arrangements within the service to support this. People receive support that is strengths-based and supports them to achieve their personal outcomes, and to be active and contributory members of their communities. All MDML buildings were closed in March 2020 due to Covid restrictions, but the programme continued to provide support on an individual basis, and support plans were developed and expanded within the community whilst buildings remained closed.</p> <p>The My Mates service provides people with learning disabilities across Gwent the opportunity to develop social and personal relationships, enables choice, gives access to information and advice, and provides a space for friends to problem solve with each other, without having to rely on paid support. During the last 16 months, My Mates has actively prevented many crisis</p>

		<p>Improve opportunities for people with care and support to actively contribute through employment and volunteering</p>	<p>situations, further strengthening the relationships across Gwent authorities. When lockdown began, My Mates social events moved on line, and good progress has been made in keeping people connected to help combat isolation. Over 18,000 contacts have been made through social media, phone calls and texting, and 695 video calls have allowed members to catch up with friends, share stories and information, and check in on each other. 200 live online events have been held, including concerts, milestone birthdays, party nights and a New Year’s Eve celebration, with over 4800 attendees. Engagement levels with members remains high and feedback is that people are finding My Mates an invaluable route of friendship and support during these uncertain times.</p>
<p>THE COUNCIL WORKS COLLECTIVELY TO DELIVER ON SOCIAL JUSTICE, ENABLING PROSPERITY AND REDUCING INEQUALITY BETWEEN COMMUNITIES AND WITHIN COMMUNITIES</p> 	<p>Progressing well</p>	<p>Continue to develop programmes to tackle poverty addressing worklessness and in-work poverty through schemes such as the Skills at Work programme.</p>	<p>The third iteration of the Social Justice Strategy was approved by Cabinet in March 2021 and has been developed in consideration of the impact, changes and learning as a result of the pandemic. The strategy demonstrates the continued commitment to work in partnership at national, regional and local community level, and includes action plans on Tackling Poverty and Inequality, Food Development and Homeless Transition.</p> <p>The Skills at Work Programme engaged with 68 adults during 2020/21, and achieved 33 job outcomes, taking the total engagements to 228, with 98 positive job outcomes since its inception in 2018. An increase in demand for support has resulted in an increase in the volume of those requiring assistance in seeking employment. We have provided support in areas such as transport costs for interviews, PPE and interview clothing, and interview equipment, as well as “in work” clothing to support clients in work, prior to receiving their first wages/salary.</p> <p>The Employment & Skills Team has registered as an accredited centre, giving the Careers For Work+ Project a wider offering of vocational and employability qualifications to clients, thereby recognising the increased need/demand in on line learning, due to covid-19 regulations and lockdown restrictions.</p>
		<p>Ensure that all council policies services are focused on ensuring equity of access</p>	<p>The Council has a long-standing commitment to equality and diversity, and published the third Strategic Equality Plan on the 30th April 2020, which sets its strategic equality objectives. These objectives identify the commitment that the Council is making to deliver better outcomes for people with protected characteristics over the next four years. The Council has introduced poverty as an additional characteristic in the equality and future generations impact</p>

		Promote equality and diversity and ensure opportunities are genuinely available to all	assessments carried out on key policy decisions. This ensures that all decisions considered by Council and Cabinet must show how they are focused on the need to reduce the inequalities of outcomes that result from socio-economic disadvantage.
		Support and enable the development of community-led plans and placed-based working to improve well-being and increase prosperity.	<p>Volunteers have been at the forefront of the effort to keep our communities safe throughout the pandemic and the Our Monmouthshire community networking platform was implemented to provide the digital tools for active citizens to support each other in their communities. We are providing direct specialist support to volunteer groups, advising on the support available to the volunteers and community members, and to date, 738 requests for support have been made. Meetings are now taking place across the county, aimed at linking community members, groups and organisations to maximise collaboration and to pool resources. The meetings enable community groups to gain access to resources available through the Public Service Board and other partners, and are an opportunity for community driven action. The council is also working with Bridges Community Centre on the Volunteering for Wellbeing project to recruit and support more volunteers in the county who want to help others.</p> <p>Place based working is being developed across Monmouthshire, to build a network of community support to help people remain connected to things that matter to them, supporting their health and wellbeing. By bringing a range of agencies together with a shared purpose of supporting people's wellbeing, there is the opportunity to share skills, expertise and time, and increase the opportunities for people to access support in the community without needing formal services. Work is underway to maximize the place based opportunities of working across social services, primary and community health services and third sector so that there is a fully integrated approach based on working with communities and for the people in those communities. During COVID, the place based approach has meant council teams have been able to link up quickly to connect with communities and volunteers who stepped into supporting a far wider range of people.</p>
THE COUNCIL ENABLES BETTER LOCAL SERVICES THROUGH SUPPORTING	Progressing well	Ensure meaningful community engagement to understand the assets and priorities in each locality	The COVID-19 Volunteer Action Group has been established, with 60 volunteer groups and colleagues across many service areas focussed on resident's needs. Current volunteer numbers are transient but an estimated 700 volunteers support their local groups. The Volunteer Safe Recruitment Team were equipping volunteers for community action, and this has now been passed onto experts in a third sector partnership. The Be.Community programme provides training for volunteer leaders to equip them to coordinate wider community volunteering

<p>VOLUNTEERS AND SOCIAL ACTION</p> 		<p>Approve volunteering policy, develop volunteering opportunities and continue to support the Be.Community Leadership Programme increasing the skills and knowledge of community volunteers</p>	<p>programmes. The programme has been providing safeguarding training to volunteers to ensure they are safe and appropriate during their interactions with the community.</p> <p>Monmouthshire, A County That Serves (ACTS) volunteering programme is helping to highlight and support volunteering opportunities available within the county. A volunteering toolkit and network are in place and Leading Volunteering training is delivered to staff that support volunteers. A Volunteer Kinetic digital management system is in place, containing live volunteer safe recruitment information and activity, which is reported on a quarterly basis. Service area champions have also been introduced to ensure that all current and new volunteers are recruited through the appropriate channels.</p>
<p>THE COUNCIL BOOSTS LEISURE, RECREATION AND WELLBEING</p>	<p>Taking steps</p>	<p>Re-launch the Monmouthshire Made Open Platform to promote opportunities to engage with communities and improve well-being</p>	<p>Our Monmouthshire, originally known as the Monmouthshire Made Open platform, provides the digital tools for active citizens to support each other in their communities, creating connections around purpose with the provision of a safe person-to-person time banking function. There are currently 86 Monmouthshire citizens actively engaging on this site, which has a total of 559 members. In order to develop and grow this platform, and offer the active members more opportunity to actively exchange skills, it is being relaunched as Connect Monmouthshire. Since being created for Monmouthshire County Council, this has been adopted by authorities throughout Wales and elsewhere in the UK, creating far more opportunity for collaboration, promotion and sharing of resources, and improved cost effectiveness.</p>
		<p>Deliver a new pool and leisure facilities in Monmouth (Completed)</p>	<p>Monmouth Leisure Centre was fully reopened in February 2019. The £7.4m project includes a range of facilities to support well-being and physical activity.</p>
		<p>Complete a business case on transfer of services to an Alternative Delivery Model (Completed)</p>	<p>Following extensive investigative work and thorough consideration of the business case, Council decided not to progress with externalising Tourism, Culture, Leisure and Youth Services, but to retain services in-house with a commitment to a fundamental programme of renewal and transformation.</p>
		<p>Refurbish the leisure facilities in Caldicot (New)</p>	<p>An upgrade for Caldicot Leisure Centre was considered in 2019/20 but the disruption to leisure services caused by the pandemic placed the project on hold. Caldicot Leisure Centre is currently at the heart of a Levelling Up Fund grant bid and is awaiting the outcome. In the interim, the leisure team will continue to ensure that the existing equipment and fitness offer, and the swimming class offer is supported.</p>

	<p>Develop a business case for improved leisure facilities in Abergavenny and Chepstow (New)</p>	<p>A full refurbishment of Abergavenny Leisure Centre has been delayed due to the development of the new Abergavenny School. In the interim, a proposed £1.7m re-development of the fitness offer will seek to convert the first floor to a health and fitness hub, to include a fitness suite, spin studio, fitness studio, viewing area to the ground floor pool, and two new changing rooms.</p> <p>Work continues to identify the best solution and outcomes for customers of Chepstow Leisure Centre. A proposed refurbishment will see upgrades to fitness equipment with an outdoor rig, improvements to lighting, boiler upgrades, combined heat and power system, and showers upgrade.</p>
	<p>Use section 106 funding strategically to develop local projects that maximise well-being</p>	<p>In partnership with Monmouth Tennis Club, three tennis courts have been resurfaced at the Monmouth Sportsground and a smart key system has been installed that allows club members and the public to book their court times on line in advance. This has helped to boost club membership and increase the coaching programme on site for adults and young people. A new 100 seat covered spectator stand has been installed at Monmouth Town Football Club so that the club can continue to compete in the top three tiers of the football pyramid in Wales.</p> <p>Chepstow Boxing Club has undergone a complete refurbishment at its premises in Lower Chepstow, which has improved participation numbers for both junior boys and girls. The Cornfield Project is a community field in Portskewett run entirely by local volunteers and during the pandemic, assistance was provided to install a circular 1km path around the field to make sure that the site can be used all year round. Local people of all ages use the field on a regular basis, and the path is popular with people undertaking exercise to aid post-operative recovery and other health related issues.</p> <p>In Cas Troggy Park in Caldicot, a major landscape and wild play improvement has been undertaken, and the next step is to refurbish the children’s fixed play provision utilising Section 106 funding from a local housing development. Finally, funding is being utilised in Abergavenny to upgrade an old disused tractor shed at Linda Vista Gardens into a small community café to serve the many people that use this local park for exercise and recreation.</p>
	<p>Improve well-being and support healthy</p>	<p>Monmouthshire’s National Exercise Referral Scheme works with people aged 17 years and over who have, or are at risk of developing, a chronic disease, and takes place in our four leisure</p>

		<p>lifestyles through initiatives such as the Exercise Referral Scheme</p>	<p>centres. The leisure centres were closed due to Government restrictions in March 2020 and as a result, the NERS was suspended by Public Health Wales shortly after. The team have still been completing 16 and 52 week reviews by telephone and online.</p> <p>Whilst the leisure centres were closed, MonLife continued to deliver virtual fitness classes, and fitness class videos were uploaded to the MonLife YouTube channel. Other offerings included 'virtual coffee mornings' following some of the online gentle exercise classes, and in some cases, virtual 1:1 sessions. Additionally, the 60+ virtual home exercise social prescribing scheme was launched, which saw more than 80 residents sign up and continue to exercise.</p>
		<p>To develop a more sustainable delivery model for the Outdoor Education Service.</p>	<p>Prior to the pandemic, the service had been working with other MCC departments to extend provision at outdoor education sites beyond the traditional residential provision. This was starting to open up new possibilities for service redesign but further action was paused due to the pandemic.</p> <p>In July 2020, members were informed of a significant overspend on the Outdoor Adventure Service, and a continuing reduction in residential occupancy at both Hiltson Park and the Gilwern site over the past two years. In November 2020, Cabinet agreed to the closure of Hiltson Park and the consolidation of the service at the Gilwern site. The Gilwern site requires improvements in areas such as security and accommodation, and investment in on-site facilities such as high and low rope courses. Consultants have been commissioned to undertake an appraisal of potential investment opportunities and the service is developing a three-phase recovery plan, along with funding and staffing structures.</p>

Well-being of Future Generations Act impact

Contribution of Council goal to Future Generations Act Well-being Goals						
Prosperous Wales	Resilient Wales	Healthier Wales	More equal Wales	Wales of cohesive communities	Vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language	Globally responsible Wales
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

Adopting community-focused approaches promotes **collaboration** which in turn will support well-being. By working with communities, we hope to **prevent** problems from occurring. Opportunities are plentiful in our county so it is vital that everyone is able to be **involved** to maximise benefits to well-being. This should have a **long-term** benefit to individuals and communities. Our actions will have an **integrated** benefit for many aspects of the act, promoting a

prosperous Wales, a more resilient and a healthier Wales. They will promote a Wales of cohesive communities and overall, help to create a more equal Wales. There is also strong integration with our responsibilities under the Social Services & Well-being Act.

Measures of progress

Measure	Previous	Latest	Target	Comment
Percentage of people living independently at home 6 months after reablement	69.9%	Old measure	75%	New measure: percentage of packages of reablement completed during the year which mitigated the need for support – 58.8%
Percentage of adult services users who are happy with the care and support they have had	89.4%	89%	90%	
Percentage of adult services users who feel they are part of their community	56%	52%	Increase	
Percentage of people living in households in material deprivation ⁱ	10%	Not available	Decrease	National survey for Wales indicator; data not published
Percentage of people satisfied with their ability to get to/access the facilities and services they need ⁱⁱ	Not available	Not available	Increase	National survey for Wales indicator; data not published
Number of volunteers directly supporting Monmouthshire County Council	1319	1072	Increase	Relates to volunteers working directly with MCC; not including independent community groups supported by the council
Percentage of people participating in sport 3 or more times a week ⁱⁱⁱ	36%	Not available	Increase	National survey for Wales indicator; data not published
Percentage of people participating in the exercise referral scheme still active after 16 weeks	65%	Not available	>50%	Suspended due to the pandemic

ⁱ Stats Wales, National Survey for Wales <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/National-Survey-for-Wales/Well-being-and-Finances/percentageofpeoplelivinginhouseholdsinmaterialdeprivation-by-localauthority-year>

ⁱⁱ Stats Wales, National Survey for Wales <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/National-Survey-for-Wales/Local-Area-and-Environment/percentageofpeoplesatisfiedwithaccesstofacilitiesandservices>

ⁱⁱⁱ Stats Wales, National Survey for Wales <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/National-Survey-for-Wales/Sport-and-Recreation/percentageofpeoplewhoparticipateinsport3ormoretimesaweek-by-localauthority-year>

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2021

Adults Select Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
27 th July 2021	Performance Reporting	Report on the performance against the 5 goals	Emma Davies Julie Boothroyd	Performance Monitoring
	Annual Report of the Chief Officer for Social Services	Scrutiny of the directorate's progress and strategic direction via the Chief Officer's Annual Report.	Julie Boothroyd	Performance Monitoring
To be confirmed	Workshop Gypsy and Travellers Needs Assessment	To consider the way forward following a review of needs.	Stephen Griffiths Mark Hand Ian Bakewell	Policy Development

Future Agreed Work Programme Items: Dates to be determined

- ✓ **Mental Health Services** ~ Jointly with Children and Young People's Select Committee (ABUHB and Eve Parkinson)
- ✓ **Market place for social care** ~ better understanding of services, play space community staff, integrated workspace, hub services, Turning the world upside down. Housing element.
- ✓ **Performance reporting** (normal plus other things Homefirst)
- ✓ **Housing register allocations policy**
- ✓ **Housing Support Grant** ~ replaces the supporting people grant (children and communities grant ~ Sharran Lloyd) ~ how is the money used (homeless prevention ~ difficult places) ~ homelessness ~ late autumn (discussion with Sharran Lloyd)
- ✓ **Adults Carers Strategy**

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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	04/11//2021	Final Statement of Accounts		Peter Davies	07/05/21	
Council	01/10/23	RLDP for Adoption		Mark Hand	23/01/20	
Council	01/02/23	LDP submission for examination		Mark Hand	23/01/20	
Council	01/07/22	RLDP Deposit Plan endorsement for consultation	Endorsement of Deposit Plan	Mark Hand	23/01/20	
Cabinet	06/04/22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 9 held on 10th March 2022		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	
Council	10/03/22	2022/23 Treasury Policy		Jon Davies	07/05/21	
Council	10/03/22	2022/23 Final Budget sign off including Council Tax Resolution		Peter Davies	07/05/21	
Cabinet	02/03/22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 8 held on 27th January 2022		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	

Cabinet	02/03/22	2022/23 WCF/Treasury Fund Investments		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	
Cabinet	16/02/22	2022/23 Final Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals		Peter Davies	27/04/21	
Cabinet	16/02/22	2021/2 Revenue and Capital Monitoring report - month 9		Jon Davies	27/04/21	
Council	27/01/22	Council Tax Reduction Scheme		Ruth Donovan	07/05/21	
IMCD	12/01/22	2022/23 Community Council and Police Precepts - final		Jon Davies	07/05/21	
Cabinet	05/01/22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 7 held on 16th December 2021		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	
Cabinet	05/01/22	2021/2 Revenue and Capital Monitoring report - month 7		Peter Davies/Jon Davies	27/04/21	
IMCD	18/12/21	2022/23 Community Council and Police Precepts draft		Jon Davies	07/05/21	
Cabinet	15/12/21	2022/23 Draft Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals		Peter Davies	27/04/21	
IMCD	08/12/21	Council Tax Base and associated matters		Ruth Donovan	07/05/21	

Cabinet	01/12/21	Consultation on the proposals to establish an all-through school, Abergavenny.	Cabinet to receive objection report and decide whether to proceed with the proposal.	Debbie Graves	26/05/21	
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	01/12/21	Welsh Church Fund Working group - meeting 6 held on 4th November 2021		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	
ICMD	24/11/21	SPG S106 Supplementary Planning Guidance	Adoption of SPG clarifying how S106 contributions are calculated following consultation	Mark Hand / Phillip Thomas	26/04/21	
Council	04/11/21	Climate and Decarbonisation Strategy	To endorse an updated climate strategy and action plan which will introduce new programmes of activity to achieve the council's clear policy commitment to reduce carbon emissions.	Matthew Gatehouse / Hazel Clatworthy	19/05/21	
Council	04/11/21	RLDP Preferred Strategy endorsement post consultation	Endorsement of preferred strategy to inform deposit plan	Mark Hand / Craig O'Connor	20/05/20	
Council	04/11/21	ISA260 - MCC Accounts				
Cabinet	03/11/21	2021/22 Revenue and Capital Monitoring report - month 5		Peter Davies/Jon Davies	27/04/21	
ICMD	27/10/21	Museum object disposal		Rachael Rogers	09/06/21	
ICMD	13/10/21	LDP Annual Monitoring Report and Development Management Annual Performance Report	Endorsements of reports for submission to WG	Mark Hand / Craig O'Connor	26/04/21	

Cabinet	06/10/21	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 5 held on 23rd September 2021		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	
Cabinet	06/10/21	Revenue and Capital MTFP update and process		Peter Davies	27/04/21	
Cabinet	06/10/21	Active Travel Network Maps		Paul Sullivan	13/11/20	
Council	23/09/21	Capital Strategy		Jon Davies	20/05/21	
Council	23/09/21	Review of Reserves and revised reserves & Capital receipts		Jon Davies	20/05/21	
Cabinet	01/09/21	Consultation on the proposals to establish an all-through school, Abergavenny.	Cabinet to receive the consultation report and consider recommendations on proposed way forward / whether to publish statutory notices.	Debbie Graves	26/05/21	
Cabinet	01/09/21	Welsh Church Fund Working group - meeting 4 held on 22nd July 2021		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	
Cabinet	01/09/21	LDP Preferred Strategy endorsement post consultation		Mark Hand	20/05/20	
Cabinet	01/09/21	Gilwern Site Developments		Marie Bartlett	23/05/21	
Cabinet	01/09/21	Placemaking Charter	Council signs up to the Placemaking Charter	Mark Hand / Craig O'Connor	28/04/21	

ICMD	18/08/21	SPG S106 Supplementary Planning Guidance		Matk Hand / Phillip Thomas	01/05/21	23/06/21
Cabinet	28/07/21	Securing resources for ICT resilience	To provide appropriate investment for security resilience in ICT systems	Sian Hayward	30/06/21	
Cabinet	28/07/21	2021/22 Revenue and Capital Monitoring report		Peter Davies/Jon Davies	27/04/21	
Cabinet	28/07/21	Abergavenny CRC (Racecourse Farm)	CM	Mike Moran	14/10/20	
Council	22/07/21	Audit Committee Annual Report		Phillip White	29/06/21	
Council	22/07/21	investments in Leisure Centres		Marie Bartlett / Ian Saunders		
ICMD	14/07/21	Museum object Disposal		Rachael Rogers/Lisa Dymock	19/05/21	
Cabinet	07/07/21	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 3 held on 24th June 2021		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	
Cabinet	07/07/21	Capital Slippage		Jon Davies	11/06/22	
Cabinet	07/07/21	•Mutual Delegation of Strategic Procurement Services		Cath Fallon		

Council	24/06/21	Chief Officer's Report		Will Mclean	19/05/21	
Council	24/06/21	Shire Hall / Monmouth Museum		Matthew Lewis	24/05/21	
Council	24/06/21	LDP Preferred Strategy endorsement for consultation		Mark Hand	21/09/20	
Cabinet	09/06/21	2020/21 Revenue and Capital Monitoring outturn	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	27/04/21	
Cabinet	09/06/21	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 1 held on 15th April 2021 and meeting 2 held on 13th May 2021		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	
Cabinet	09/06/21	Digital and Data	To seek approval for the creation of a new Digital Design and Innovation Team, to strengthen our information governance arrangements and to broaden the remit of the existing performance team to include data analytics'.	Emma Jackson	13/05/21	
Cabinet	09/06/21	Shire Hall / Monmouth Museum – to consider the outcome of the feasibility study		Matthew Lewis/Ian Saunders	05/02/21	
Council	13/05/21	Outside Bodies		John Pearson		
Council	13/05/21	Appointment to Committees		John Pearson		
Council	13/05/21	Political Balance		Matt Phillips		

Council	13/05/21	Freedom of the Borough		Joe Skidmore	22/04/21	
Council	13/05/21	Climate and Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan		Hazel Clatworthy	14/04/21	
ICMD	12/05/21	A Nation of Sanctuary - Asylum Dispersal Scheme - Moved to Cabinet	To provide Council with an progress update on the Climate and Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan which was developed following the passing of a motion to declare a climate emergency.	Matt Gatehouse	19/04/21	
ICMD	12/05/21	Play Action Plan	Cabinet Member Richard John Report originally on Cabi	hew Lewis/Mike Moran/Ian Saun	16/03/21	
Cabinet	14/04/21	Leisure Centre Investments		Marie Bartlett	22/03/21	
Cabinet	14/04/21	Statutory Consultation to establish 4-19 school in Abergavenny		Cath Saunders	03/03/21	
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 6 held on 11th March 2021	Dave Jarrett	02/04/20	
Cabinet	14/04/21	Whole Authority Strategic Risk Assessment		Richard Jones	02/03/21	
ICMD	07/04/21	Strategic Procurement		Cath Fallon/P Murphy	09/03/21	
ICMD	24/03/21	SPG S106 Supplementary Planning Guidance	To Clarify how S106 contributions are calculated/ deferred from 13/1/21 and 24/02/21 deferred UFN	Phil Thomas/Mark Hand	01/05/19	

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	
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	

Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

Meeting of Adults Select Committee held at County Hall, Usk with Remote Attendance on Tuesday, 22nd June, 2021 at 10.00 am

Councillors Present

County Councillor (Chairman)
County Councillor (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: L.Brown, R. Edwards,
M.Groucutt, R. Harris, S. Howarth, M. Powell,
S. Woodhouse and M.Lane

Officers in Attendance

Jonathan Davies, Acting Assistant Head of Finance
Tyrone Stokes, Accountant
Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager
Robert McGowan, Policy and Scrutiny Officer
C. Bowie, Chair Monmouthshire Mind
T. Crowhurst, Access for All Forum

APOLOGIES: None

1. Declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Public Open Forum.

No members of the public were present.

3. Scrutiny of the Revenue and Capital Outturn reports for 2020-2021.

Tyrone Stokes presented the report and answered the members' questions with Jonathan Davies.

Challenge:

Is there any particular reason for the increase in looked-after children?

It's not just pertaining to Monmouthshire, or even Wales: the significant increase is throughout the UK. For Monmouthshire, there only needs to be a couple of large families who come in for there to be a large increase e.g. one with 6 siblings and one with 7, which came in since 19/20. Within the directorate, we look to boost our in-house provision i.e. increase and develop our own foster carers so that we can give the best start to our looked-after children. But, unfortunately, sometimes the best care is out-of-county or residential care. With that, the cost then goes up. The average unit cost for a looked after child is £50k; it's slightly less if they go into foster care, but if they go into residential it could be £3-400k. Many years ago the numbers were smaller but since then court activities have increased, and the judiciary system is now quite vocal in how they feel children's lives should be lived, which has had an effect on our numbers.

What's happened to the time limits regarding the expenditure of capital at the Crick Road site?

We gave a full update at Month 9 regarding Crick Road and the timescales, which was followed by a press release. Crick Road is a partnership scheme with the intermediate care fund, managed and hosted by our health colleagues through Aneurin Bevan. In terms of timescales, we are managing that. We have engaged fully with Welsh Government, and have their support. They realise that the pandemic has had a significant effect on the construction industry. We have therefore been given permission to manage that scheme, and the time envelope has been moved on. So there's no risk relating to the time limit and that funding.

How much do we have in earmarked reserves, how much in free reserves, and in the revenue surplus?

Reserves are outlined in Section 3 of the report. We made specific replenishment of earmarked reserves of just over £4m at the end of the year. The reserves representing the council fund have remained untouched, which carries forward as just under £9m on the local authority side and nearly £3.5m on the schools side. When Cabinet received the reserves update in the autumn, we identified that Monmouthshire was at the lower end of reserves balances, compared to other Welsh authorities, in terms of reserve cover compared to revenue budget. We appreciated that we needed to bolster reserves if possible, looking ahead to various challenges e.g. social care and pandemic recovery.

So, there's about £4m in earmarked and £9m in general reserves? How do we compare in relation to the percentage that we are supposed to have of capital vs. revenue?

The increase of £4m is on top of the £6m we already had in earmarked reserves, taking the total up to £10.6m. On the council fund side, it's just under £9m. The ratio mentioned relates to the council fund ratio to net revenue budget, so it disregards earmarked reserves. At present, we are just over 5% of net revenue budget; the guidance from Welsh Government is that that ratio should be between 4% and 6%, so we are comfortably in the middle of that. Regarding our being at the lower end overall, that is taking into account those earmarked reserves – so taken as a collective, and compared to our budget, across Wales we are at the lowest end of that coverage.

What's the revenue position regarding surpluses?

The £9m is the cover that we have to invest directly. Reserve cover is a rough measure for comparing across authorities in Wales because some will be in a different investment position regarding their reserves: some might have invested significant amounts and are looking to reap the benefits of that, in terms of service delivery, so looking for a longer-term return on those reserves. Whereas others might be at the start of that journey. It's a rough guide but a useful one to keep an eye on.

Website information relating to finance is poor. Outturn statements are never given – the public interest is in the money that is spent. Why is that information not on the website?

This is a fair point. All of the monitoring reports that come through Cabinet are held within a separate section from those where the budgets sit – they go through the Cabinet reports. So all of the information is available but is indeed in different places, and therefore hard for the public to track. This is something we can reflect on; the website layout could certainly be revisited and potentially updated.

Members continually find the reports hard to understand. Can simple tables be used, featuring the same headings as in the budget, showing the outturn statements against those headings, and with an accompanying explanatory paragraph?

Feedback differs on the outturn reports, with some members saying that they appreciate the level of detail and explanation. But there is certainly a lot of information. There is a clear and condensed outturn report for each service area at the start of the report that gives an initial indication of where the issues might lie. The report then goes into detail about where the variances are. We are in a difficult position as members have differing opinions on the level of detail in the reports.

It is indeed essential that all of the information be available, should members wish to see it. However, we have asked that there also be a single page explaining each budget, the spending, reasons for surpluses, etc. Is that not possible?

We do produce that in the papers but the complexity we have is that the Select committee is concerned with the services within its remit, which is why we have produced the separate Appendix 6 outlining those specific areas, but we also wanted to give members the whole pack that was taken to Cabinet earlier this month, as it gives the overall picture and details. The covering report does produce a single table, but the complexity of the authority entails a high level of detail and commentary. However, we will take on board the feedback and look to simplify where we can. 31.08

Training for members in how to read this sort of accounting would be very useful.

Yes, training would be good. We are in a state of change within the Finance team; once that has settled we can take on this matter. We can also change our delivery by giving the summaries first, as suggested above.

A considerable amount has gone back into reserves from the directorate. On the grants side, if we are audited and haven't spent the money, will we have to give it back?

For 2021-2, the most significant grant we have from Welsh Government is the Social Care Workforce and Sustainability grant, mentioned as part of the 2021 outturn report. 2021 was the first year of that grant, in which we received £1m. Without that figure, we would be another £1m overspent. It is therefore a significant grant boosting the bottom line. We have fully met all the terms and conditions for that grant. These allowed us to use certain core expenditures against that grant. We've ensured there will be no risk when auditors come in of us falling foul of those terms and conditions. The grant has been extended for another year, and increase the size, giving us an extra £250k. That will be used to hold up the bottom line. The risk will be if that funding is taken away the following year. We have a plethora of other grants throughout the Social Care and Health directorate. We fully met those terms and conditions too, so there is no risk. If there is any underspend, we are fully accounted for that amount to be returned to the grant awarding body. If we have permission to deviate from the grant, we ensure that that is in writing.

In Adult Social Care, the main Covid grant has been the Hardship fund, which we have distributed to our core providers. For example, where care homes have had to close due to Covid, they now have significant vacancies – the Covid Hardship fund has allowed us to pass that funding to those providers to ensure that they have financial sustainability.

Do we have a surplus of vacancies, too? When we budgeted for Social Health and Care, we surely had surpluses there – vacant posts, etc.?

There are no significant vacancies in frontline Adult Social Care. The vacancies that the report refers to are more the office-based staff. We ensure that frontline services has all the staffing resources required, then where we can keep back office vacancies, that's what we've tried to

do. Children's Services are outside this directorate but it does affect the bottom line: we have social worker vacancies but we've had to fill those with agency staff, which brings a slightly higher cost (as mentioned at Month 9). This is more the availability of specific children's services social workers at that time.

Can you explain what has happened on the Myst project mentioned on p39-40, relating to Social Care and Health?

The Myst project falls outside this Select, as it pertains to Children's services. It is a multi-agency therapy delivery service. We have seen a significant increase in looked-after children, as mentioned earlier. With intermediate care funding that we've had through Health, we've looked at more specialist services to address those high-end complex children's cases, and we can put specific therapy support in place, looking to bring them more in-county. We can only do that if we have a rounded offer i.e. with other support beyond trained foster carers. So we've set up the specialist team that targets these specific cases, to see if we can bring the children in county and give them a better offer. The Myst project refers to this. With the £250k, we've looked at some cases that specifically meet those criteria. We want to ensure we meet all of a child's needs, and then we will look at reducing the cost.

Is the £250k therefore a savings surplus, or an amount that is still waiting to be used?

Yes, it's a specific mandated saving. As part of the medium term financial plan, we had a specific mandate for that team to deliver a saving, targeting those high cost care packages in children's services.

What is the explanation for the reduction in disability services of £7k in the same chart?

We look at every opportunity in which we can 'co-habitate' with other services. We don't believe in having lots of offices where they aren't needed. Sometimes we look at service re-delivery, and there is a natural savings fallout. In this case, with disability, there have simply been natural savings: we decided to reduce some office space but there is no effect on service delivery as a result.

Chair's Summary:

Thank you to officers. We will liaise with officers to arrange a training session for members, covering financial reports. It is important to highlight the grants where they are used: members would like to see a list of the Welsh Government grants that we've obtained.

4. Adults Select Committee Forward Work Programme.

The Gypsy and Travellers workshop is being arranged; it will likely take place in the early autumn. Some of the areas raised this morning should be fleshed out in the next meeting, covering Performance Reporting.

5. Council and Cabinet Forward Work Plan.

6. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes were confirmed and signed as an accurate record (proposed by Councillor Harris and seconded by Councillor Woodhouse).

7. Next Meeting: Tuesday 27th July 2021 at 10.00am.

The meeting ended at **11.05 am**

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