

Public Document Pack



County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Wednesday, 6 October 2021

Notice of meeting

Children and Young People Select Committee

Thursday, 14th October, 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

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| 4. | Welsh Education Strategic Plan | To Follow |
| | To scrutinise the draft WESP. | |
| 5. | Return to School Update | |
| | Brief verbal update on return to school and pandemic implications. | |
| 6. | Children and Young People Select Committee Forward Work Programme | 1 - 4 |
| 7. | Cabinet and Council Work Plan | 5 - 20 |
| 8. | To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting | 21 - 28 |
| 9. | To confirm the date and time of the next meeting | |

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 Christopher Edwards | St. Kingsmark; | Welsh Conservative Party |
| County Councillor Martyn Groucutt | Lansdown; | Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru |
| County Councillor Dave Jones | Crucorney; | Independent Group |
| County Councillor Malcolm Lane | Mardy; | Welsh Conservative Party |
| County Councillor Maureen Powell | Castle; | Welsh Conservative Party |
| County Councillor Tudor Thomas | Priory; | Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru |
| County Councillor Jo Watkins | Caldicot Castle; | Liberal Democrats |

Added Members

Members voting on Education Issues Only

Vacant Seat (Roman Catholic Church)
Vacant Seat (Co-optee)
Elizabeth Thomas

Added Members

Non Voting

Fay Middleton (Trade Union)
Maggie Harris
Peter Strong NEU

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?

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Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2021-22

| Children and Young People's Select Committee | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|--|------------------------|
| Meeting Date | Subject | Purpose of Scrutiny | Responsibility | Type of Scrutiny |
| 9 th September 2021 | New School in Abergavenny | Discuss the emerging themes following the close of the consultation on 22 nd June. | Will McLean | Policy Development |
| | Budget Monitoring | Scrutiny of the budgetary position (revenue and capital) for services falling within the committee's remit at Month 2. | Jonathon Davies Nikki Wellington | Budget Monitoring |
| 14 th October 2021 | Welsh Education Strategic Plan | To scrutinise the draft WESP. | Will McLean Sharon Randall Smith | Policy Development |
| | Return to School Update | Brief update on return to school and pandemic implications. | Will Mclean | Performance Monitoring |
| 2 nd December 2021 | Free School Meal Strategy | To present the draft Free School Meals Strategy for pre-decision scrutiny following engagement in February. | EAS Will McLean Sharon Randall Smith | Policy Development |
| | Employment and Skills | To inform members on the Inspire to Achieve programme and the progress on developing the skills and employment sector (also scrutinised by Economy and Development Select Committee). | Hannah Jones | Policy Development |
| | Budget Monitoring | Scrutiny of the budgetary position (revenue and capital) for services falling within the committee's remit at Month 5. | Jonathon Davies Nikki Wellington | Budget Monitoring |
| 20 th January 2022 | Budget Monitoring | Scrutiny of the budgetary position (revenue and capital) for services falling within the committee's remit at Month 7. | Jonathon Davies Nikki Wellington | Budget Monitoring |
| 3 rd March 2022 | Budget Monitoring | Scrutiny of the budgetary position (revenue and capital) for services falling within the committee's remit at Month 9. | Jonathon Davies Nikki Wellington | Budget Monitoring |
| 7 th April 2022 | | | | |

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2021-22

| Children and Young People's Select Committee | | | | |
|--|-------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Meeting Date | Subject | Purpose of Scrutiny | Responsibility | Type of Scrutiny |
| June 2022 | Budget Monitoring | Scrutiny of the budgetary position (revenue and capital) for services falling within the committee's remit at outturn position. | Jonathon Davies Nikki Wellington | Budget Monitoring |

Future Work Programme Items:

Schools items:

- **Additional Learning Needs**
- **Inclusion updates** – wellbeing/attitudes to learning/supporting the pupil voice
- **Post 16 education provision/Apprenticeships/Engagement and progression and support for those Not in Education or Employment**
- **Home to School Transport**

Non-education issues:

- **Domestic violence update** ~ impact on children in Monmouthshire
- **Support for Foster Carers** ~ Edge of Care Team and BASE. Bringing in Foster Carers
- **Young Carers**
- **Healthy Relationships** ~ working group to be established with Engage 2 Change
- **Childcare sufficiency** – annual update
- **Well-being reporting (obesity, eating disorders etc)**
- **Family Support Services** ~ **Young People's Mental Health Support in Schools:** Chair to liaise with Chief Officer
- **Play provision**

Suggestions from the Chief Officer:

- **ADL Transformation** ~ new legislation and practice early next year. Regional leads to provide and input. Readiness assessments
- **Inclusion in schools (primary and secondary), Behaviour policy.** CAMS support ~ early presentation.
- **Risk areas, financial position and budgetary pressures, Schools Finance Forum work**

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2021-22

- **2 years' delivery plan for Children's Services ~ understanding good practice and the significant drivers on schools and social services**
- **Chief Officer Annual Reports and Corporate Parenting**

Audit Wales National Reporting:

- **Curriculum Reform thematic review ~ Regional consortia and local authority support for curriculum reform ~ anticipated publication February 2022**

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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 | 01/12/2022 | RLDP Deposit Plan for submission to WG for examination | Approval of Deposit Plan post-consultation for submission to WG for independent examination | Mark Hand / Craig O'Connor | 30/07/21 | |
| 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 | |

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| 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 | |
| Council | 16/12/21 | Capital Strategy | | Jon Davies | 20/05/21 | |

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|---------|----------|--|---|--------------------------------------|----------|--|
| Cabinet | 15/12/21 | 2022/23 Draft Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals | | Peter Davies | 27/04/21 | |
| Cabinet | 15/12/21 | 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 | |
| IMCD | 08/12/21 | Council Tax Base and associated matters | | Ruth Donovan | 07/05/21 | |
| 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 | |
| Cabinet | 01/12/21 | Abergavenny Velo Park | CM | Mike Moran | 14/10/20 | |
| Cabinet | 01/12/21 | 'Leave Averaging & Holiday Pay | | Katherine Cameron | | |
| 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 | Council Diary | | John Pearson | 29/09/21 | |

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|---------|----------|---|--|----------------------------|----------|--|
| 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 | Corporate Parenting Strategy | | Jane Rodgers | 20/07/21 | |
| Council | 04/11/21 | ISA260 - MCC Accounts | | | | |
| Council | 04/11/21 | Statement of Gambling Policy and Proposals for Casinos. | | Linda O'Gorman | 21/09/21 | |
| Council | 04/11/21 | LDP Preferred Strategy endorsement post consultation | | Mark Hand | 20/05/20 | |
| Cabinet | 03/11/21 | Active Travel Plan | | Paul Sullivan | 05/08/21 | |
| Cabinet | 03/11/21 | 2021/22 Revenue and Capital Monitoring report - month 5 | | Peter Davies/Jon Davies | 27/04/21 | |
| Cabinet | 03/11/21 | Revenue and Capital MTFP update and process | | Peter Davies | 27/04/21 | |
| Cabinet | 03/11/21 | LA Housing Prospectus | | Cath Fallon/ Sally Meyrick | 27/09/21 | |
| Cabinet | 03/11/21 | Active Travel Network Maps | | Paul Sullivan | 13/11/20 | |

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|---------|----------|---|---|----------------------------|----------|--|
| ICMD | 27/10/21 | Museum object disposal | | Rachael Rogers | 09/06/21 | |
| ICMD | 27/10/21 | 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 | 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 | |
| Council | 23/09/21 | Director of Social Services Annual Report | | Julie Boothroyd | | |
| Council | 23/09/21 | Borough Theatre Funding Proposal | | cath Fallon | | |
| Council | 23/09/21 | Corporate Plan Annual Report | | Emma Davies | 17/08/21 | |
| Council | 23/09/21 | Audit Committee Annual Report | | Phillip White | 29/06/21 | |
| ICMD | 22/09/21 | Leave Averaging & Holiday Pay | Deferred to 13th October | Katherine Cameron | | |
| Cabinet | 15/09/21 | Placemaking Charter | Council signs up to the Placemaking Charter | Mark Hand / Craig O'Connor | 28/04/21 | |

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| Cabinet | 15/09/21 | Borough Theatre Funding Proposal | Needs to go 15 th Sept as won't be ready for 1 st Sept – Cabinet want to endorse this before it goes to Council for funding to be secured on 23 rd Sept | Cath Fallon | | |
| Cabinet | 15/09/21 | Code of Corporate Governance | | Andrew Wathan | 20/07/2021 | |
| Cabinet | 15/09/21 | Welsh Church Fund Working group - meeting 4 held on 22nd July 2021 | | Dave Jarrett | 27/04/21 | |
| Cabinet | 15/09/21 | Regeneration projects and Placemaking grant submission | To endorse the indicative Placemaking Grant submission for £791,429 made under the Welsh Government Transforming Towns funding | Mark Hand | 29/07/21 | |
| Cabinet | 15/09/21 | Afghan National Relocation Scheme | To re-state Cabinet's commitment to continued participation in the Home Office Afghan National Relocation scheme in line with the desire for Monmouthshire to be a county of sanctuary for those fleeing persecution. | Lisa Dymock/Matt Gatehouse | 6/2021 - amended 20/8/21 | |
| ICMD | 08/09/21 | Abergavenny Town Floodlights | | Mike Moran | 26/06/21 | |
| ICMD | 18/08/21 | Consultation on the review of school places in Caldicot town | | Matthew Jones | 21/07/21 | |
| ICMD | 18/08/21 | SPG S106 Supplementary Planning Guidance | | Matk Hand / Phillip Thomas | 01/05/21 | 23/06/21 |
| ICMD | 18/08/21 | Procurement of PaybyPhone as an additional payment service for our car parks (Jane Pratt) | Agree to procure PaybyPhone | Mark Hand | 29/07/21 | |
| ICMD | 04/08/21 | Planning Policy discretionary service charges (Bob Greenland) | Agree Candidate Site assessment charges | Rachel Lewis | 29/07/21 | |

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| 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 | Regional Collaboration: Gwent Public Service Board | | Richard Jones | 14/07/21 | |
| Cabinet | 28/07/21 | 2021/22 Revenue and Capital Monitoring report | | Peter Davies/Jon Davies | 27/04/21 | |
| 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 | |

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|---------|----------|---|--|----------------------------|----------|--|
| 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 | |

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|---------|----------|--|--|-------------------------------|----------|--|
| 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 | |

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|---------|----------|--|--|----------------------------|----------|--|
| 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 | |

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|---------|----------|---|---|----------------|----------|----------|
| 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 | |

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| 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 | |

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| 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 | |

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| Cabinet | 02/12/20 | Clydach Ironworks Enhancement Scheme Revision/S106 Funding, Cae Meldon | | Matthew Lewis | 22/09/20 | |
| ICMD | 25/11/20 | Homeseach 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 | |

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| 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 | |

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| 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 | |

Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

Meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance on Thursday, 9th September, 2021 at 10.00 am

Councillors Present

County Councillor T.Thomas (Chairman)
County Councillor L. Brown(Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: C.Edwards, D. Jones,
M.Lane, M. Powell, J.Watkins and S. Woodhouse

Also in attendance County Councillor: A. Easson
substituting for County Councillor M. Groucutt

Officers in Attendance

Will McLean, Chief Officer for Children and Young People
Sharon Randall-Smith, Head of Achievement and Attainment
Nikki Wellington, Finance Manager
Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager
Robert McGowan, Policy and Scrutiny Officer
Tyrone Stokes, Accountant
Cath Saunders, Children and Young People Directorate
Tim Bird, 21st Century Schools Adviser

APOLOGIES: County Councillor M.Groucutt

1. View declarations of interest

Personal non-prejudicial interests were declared by Councillor Thomas as a Governor at Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni, Councillor Powell as a Governor at King Henry VIII, Councillor Jones as a Governor at Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni, Tony Easson as a Governor at Ysgol Y Ffin, and Maggie Harris as a Governor at Deri View.

2. Public Open Forum.

Written Representation from Mary Ann Brocklesby, Governor Deri View Primary School and Abergavenny Town Councillor. In my personal capacity.

Dear Committee Members,

Below is my response to the consultation document on the proposed all through school in Abergavenny. The proposal outlines with clarity why King Henry VIII school needs to be replaced with a learning environment that is fit for purpose as a school for the 21st century. It is less clear about the benefits for Deri View (DV). In my view it also fails to set the strategic direction for the new school in a number of key areas.

1. The evidence base

The evidence base is weak. We are being asked to back one of the biggest investments in Abergavenny and its future based on a set of assumptions without the evidence to show the new school will, on balance, produce better outcomes for children in DV's catchment area than those already achieved by a thriving school which is continually improving. This has been detailed elsewhere in the submission by DV's governing body. I will not restate the arguments

here, other than to say MCC has not shown due diligence or undertaken robust assessments required under the socio-economic duty of care, protected characteristics, especially age, and the WCFG Act. Surely a major oversight for a school with 46%, and rising, of the children receiving FSM.

2. Nursery provision

Excluding nursery provision from the remit of the proposal because it will be non-maintained is extraordinary. Impacts assessments for proposed provision for this critical age group in an area of disadvantage is not only necessary, its mandatory. These assessments should be attached to the proposal they are not. The current proposal downgrades current provision, both in terms of time and access with hours cut and no guarantee of places within the new private nursery. The potential loss of provision for vulnerable and disadvantaged children, especially those just above the threshold of flying start risks greater disadvantage and vulnerability not less.

3. Involvement and collaboration of parents

There is scant evidence that parents and the wider community around DV have been contacted and involved in plans for the school and their children's education. The mood of the public meeting I attended at DV was one of hurt and concern that their views were being sought at such a late stage in the proposal's development without any sense of what the loss of DV might mean to the community. Parents are not convinced that the safety of their children, the transition to secondary education, the role DV has played in promoting community cohesion and connection has been taken into account and valued. For some parents it is yet another example of their community being excluded and forgotten.

The proposal as it now stands is neither consistent with MCC's sustainable development policy of involvement and collaboration or sufficiently robust in how it has, and will in future: a) collaborate with parents and the community in affecting change in socio-economic deprivation and b) involve the entire school in an open review prior to implementation. Both of which are promised in the appendices of the proposal. Children, Parents and the community deserve better.

3. New School in Abergavenny

Will McLean delivered the presentation and answered the members' questions.

Challenge:

Given the low level of community feedback, are the numbers standard in comparison to other consultations, on similar projects? Will further consultation be required?

In a catchment area review most people were positive but didn't express their views, so that the more vocal opposition dominated. When we postponed the exercise and did it again in the last couple of years, one of the key pieces of feedback was that people thought it was going to happen so didn't engage with it. Some of the approaches we set out in the consultation paper have exercised some people – the maintained/non-maintained issue brought out a significant voice from a number of people. Feedback numbers are therefore broadly similar. The engagement events that we have held have been very reassuring for people. At this time, we don't think that further consultation is necessary regarding governance, though there will be a great deal concerning how the school will look, operate, etc. Tim Bird has joined the team

directly from Monmouth Comprehensive School, where he was responsible for the delivery of the successful project we had there. He will bring that experience of collaboration and engagement into the team and the work that we do with the schools in the future.

If the route is to go to a non-maintained nursery provision at Year 3, the Flying Start children will have nowhere to go. Won't Year 3 become elitist for those people who can afford to pay for that education?

There is a plan to relocate some Flying Start provision and include in the new school setting, which will be beneficial, and retain the Acorn Centre on the Deri View site for Flying Start provision. So we intend to expand and develop that opportunity for parental engagement, for support for those children. We are looking to create that sense around family and children's centres; we know how important the first 1000 days are, but equally, how they link through into their schooling life.

Can we consider travel for children who continue Welsh after GCSE, if there is still not the option for them to do so within Monmouthshire?

We thought that the Welsh medium stream would be a positive development as it would give an in-county solution for Welsh medium education after primary school, but in the discussions with colleagues in the forum it has been very clear about that affecting the experience that those children have. The conversations that are planned for colleagues in Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr and south Powys have the potential to create a viable opportunity in the future. If Ysgol Y Ffeni moves to being a two-form entry school soon, Y Ffin will be a single-form entry – an expansion up to 210 –, and hopefully there will be additional capacity added in the NE of the county. But even those numbers wouldn't give us sufficient quantum to have our own secondary provision in Monmouthshire. So collaboration will be the way forward for a while, but the point about transport is something we need to be cognisant of.

Is it a good move to have an overall governing body for three strands of education?

The same could perhaps be said of a governing body for a very large secondary school. As we go through the process of drawing the transitional, temporary and new governing body into place, we will look very carefully at the skills and experiences that we need to ensure the new school – if that is the direction we take – is a success. Across the county, our governors are taking advantage of the professional learning and development opportunities offered through EAS, and are doing a very good job as advocates for the children in their schools.

There are benefits to having private nursery provision, in terms of the wraparound care, but there are also then risks attached. The risks are that it is a business that must make money; nursery providers have said that it's almost impossible to manage with just the money from Welsh Government for those nursery places – that is why most private provision incurs top up fees. Top Up fees can be incredibly difficult for families on low incomes – it sometimes means that they don't take up those places, or they take up fewer hours of those places than they are entitled to. So, there are significant concerns about how that might happen. What measures will we put in place to ensure that that doesn't happen? Private businesses can go out of business – what measures will be put in place to ensure nursery provision stays on the site? How will we definitely get a nursery provider in on the site, considering the difficulty in doing so in a school in the south of the county?

In the process of approaching this, use of the word 'private' was unfortunate, as we were clear that it was non-maintained, for which there are different models. In Abergavenny, several

nursery settings are run by committee and different governance models that aren't profit driven. A non-maintained setting can be delivered in a number of different ways. Every child is eligible for 10 hours of nursery education every week, which is free and without a top-up, and beyond that, there is the 30-hour childcare allowance, funded by Welsh Government. So, we feel there are additional opportunities, and additional funding for us to draw on, to support extra hours, to get to a position whereby a child could have 30 hours in that setting. We were trying to find the balance of enabling people to access nursery education but also enable people to go back to work if they wanted to, for example. It is a direction of travel that Welsh Government has indicated it wants to see. The provision of nursery education in Monmouthshire is a mixed economy; in fact, there are more non-maintained providers than maintained, although the number attending is roughly 50/50. There are other advantages, such as being able to offer 48 weeks of the year through the 30-hour childcare offer, as opposed to only term time in a maintained setting. Therefore, while there are understandable concerns regarding accessibility, there are benefits associated with it as well.

Will there be a primary and secondary SRB? Is it an acknowledgement that ALN needs are increasing across the county? If it is to be a fully established SRB will there be a knock-on effect on Caldicot or the whole county, in terms of reducing capacities elsewhere?

We are seeing a growth in the number of children requiring support for additional learning needs across the county. Our biggest area of demand is children with neurodevelopmental needs, at 36% of those stated. We want to provide specialist provision for those children. Existing provision in Caldicot, Monmouth, Deri View, etc. provide for a range of different needs, but seeing the evidence and work being done for what future demand might be, complex neurodevelopmental needs was absolutely the area for us to focus on. If the consultation process works its way through, there will be one SRB because there will be one school. The through school model is one that we see very often in independent specialist provisions. In terms of the design process, we will work with the leaders of our current settings to understand what works best.

The consultation document didn't go into the pros and cons of maintained or non-maintained provision. Presumably, in relation to the 60 places mentioned, that is 30 in the morning and 30 in the afternoon, so there wouldn't be any overlap for anyone to obtain the full 30 hours free childcare to which they might be entitled? Has this matter been explored enough?

The matter featured heavily in the discussions at all the meetings. There were different levels of concern. There was an immediate concern that there would be a private provider, while a second element concerned the nature of 'control' of the setting and provision, and a sense that the children would be better served if they were under the 'control' of the school from age 3 all the way through. But there are examples of non-maintained settings on school sites that work very well, with a good level of integration. The third level concerned accessibility and equity of opportunity. It's a good prompt for us to consider what a future engagement might look like. In the Cabinet paper we were mindful of expanding the views and having a distinct element that considered the pros and cons of the maintained/non-maintained issue. We will reflect on what we are able to do within the confines of the code as we progress.

I am very concerned about having a non-maintained nursery on the site. Deri View is currently 47% FSM and rising – the highest in Monmouthshire. We have 40 funded and 20 non-funded ALN, so 25% are in that group. We also have 13% who have English as a second language.

So, we have a very specific situation. A private provider means a lack of control, as it is not under the constraints of the headteacher, senior leadership team, or the governors. To have to transition from Year 2 into a non-maintained Year 3 and then back into Reception seems illogical. These parents will not be able to afford the care. The thought that we might lose all the hard work that the school has put in to ensure that these children have access to the best care and transitions is alarming. No mention has been made that the parents at Deri View, supported by town councillors, have presented a petition requesting the continuation of maintained provision.

Regarding the petition that was submitted at the last full council meeting, the balance might be to ask someone if, rather than the 2.5 hours per day of free childcare that their child currently receives, they would prefer 6 hours a day, including nursery education, in a regulated setting that's inspected by Estyn, with staff qualified in child development, that develops and delivers the curriculum for Wales? What might the answer be? We know that Welsh Government wants to see greater flexibility in our nursery provision. There are clearly differing views on this, and we need to take the time now to consider the benefits on both sides. Hopefully, the points just noted will give members confidence in the non-maintained settings. We also need to be careful when discussing this matter that the 50% of parents in the county whose children already receive non-maintained provision aren't given the wrong impression about the curriculum, care, inspections, etc.

King Henry pupils and staff deserve better surroundings than they currently have. Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni is bursting at the seams: a new building seems to be required every year to accommodate new pupils, which means less play area. The timescale given this morning is 3 years. Is there any way in which the situation at Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni can be alleviated, and this development pushed ahead in order to happen quicker?

We are aware of the pressures in Ysgol Y Fenni. There are currently 252 children there, and the capacity is now 317, excluding nursery provision. So, there is headroom, currently. We are pleased to see the growth in Welsh medium education in the north of the county. We don't think there is any way to accelerate the process – the key driver is to hit the project's deadlines. The construction deadline is challenging, as is ensuring that the schools transition in the appropriate way.

Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni has problems with capacity, whereas Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin needs more children. Could we look at the respective catchment areas in tandem?

The work being done in Y Ffin is tremendous. Expanding up to 210 will give the opportunity for wraparound childcare, and we want to see it thriving as a full school. If we can do something regarding catchments, then we will do so. We hope to look at the northeast of the county as well, in terms of additional Welsh medium provision, so we will need to look at the catchment areas for all our Welsh medium schools.

Chair's Summary:

The committee is generally in favour of the development. The King Henry building has been in a poor state for some time and is not fit for purpose. The school is a significant provider, serving a large area. It is important that people who live in Monmouthshire should be able to send their children through the whole school journey within the county, if possible. There are concerns about Deri View moving, which we all appreciate. It is one of the more challenging areas in the town, and the authority, in terms of deprivation levels, FSM provision, etc. A huge amount of

care therefore needs to be taken in the transfer of that school – a physical move can be traumatic for pupils and even staff, as well as parents.

The major sticking point is the opposition to the non-maintained setting at age 3, especially as it is in an area of high deprivation – childcare in well-resourced families is costly but affordable, but in a low-income family it is more of an issue. I would personally not recommend going back out to consultation, as this will delay the process further. Now that we are moving towards deciding, as an authority, any hold up will not be of benefit; indeed, some members are eager for this process to move forward, given that other places in the county are also waiting for a new school. If the nursery provision can be looked at then there is no opposition from this committee – feedback has otherwise been positive.

4. Budget Monitoring

Tyrone Stokes and Nicola Wellington presented the report and answered the members' questions.

Challenge:

Two Welsh medium schools are running to deficit: can you expand on that, and how do we get them out of it?

We are finding that with small schools such as Ysgol Y Ffin that the funding attracted through the formula doesn't always generate enough to support the school's fixed costs. Under the regulations, we must give out 70% on pupil numbers, so if the numbers are less then any surplus made can't be offset against the premises' costs and resources, as would happen in a larger school. This is something that we grapple with every year, and we provide support in those circumstances.

Ysgol Y Fenni is forecasting a deficit. We are working very closely with that school, looking at staff structures, in particular. It is a growing school, with pupils coming in, but we think a review of the staffing will help with the deficit position.

Thank you to officers for everything they do to try to balance the budget. It is unfortunate that Children's Services always exceeds its budget.

It is not solely a Monmouthshire issue, or Wales, but is a UK issue. There are councils such as Wakefield that can't get provision for high-cost placements. Once a local authority goes to high-cost providers, they know that they are the last resort. We try to reduce and negotiate those costs but our powers are less strong than the provider. We actively look through our Multi Agency Service Strategy team to try to bolster that support in-house so that it is only a temporary measure. Then we try to move the children back into county, but that's not just on the grounds of finances – it has to be right for the child. The legal challenge concerning kinship carers has led us to realign the rates that we pay them to be equal to what we pay foster carers. This couldn't have been foreseen, and made up a quarter of our overspend.

Chepstow secondary school is in deficit, but not the others. Can you expand on that?

Chepstow has faced several challenges concerning a staffing structure that they have tried to put through. Unfortunately, the restructure was delayed by the pandemic, but it has now been implemented, as of this month. The savings will take a while to come through, and they faced a year of those higher costs because at the point in time when they wanted to make the change the pandemic started. Their recovery plan reflects that delay in the timescales.

Regarding the ALN budget, what income comes in to balance the books now that Mounton House is no longer in operation?

Yes, Mounton House received an income from students placed there from other authorities. The income we now receive is for pupils placed from other authorities into our mainstream schools.

Chair's Summary:

As far as schools go, we've never been in such a positive situation: not long ago, there was a much greater number of schools in deficit. Perhaps the only positive of Covid has been the help from Welsh Government to assist schools getting into a better position. Children's' Services is almost impossible to budget and the committee wishes to give its thanks to the officers for their continuing hard work.

5. Children and Young People Select Forward Work Plan

In January 2022, the committee would like an update on Chepstow Comprehensive.

6. Council and Cabinet Forward Plan

7. To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 27th May 2021 and the Special Meeting held on 26th July 2021

The minutes were confirmed and signed as an accurate record, proposed by Councillor Powell and seconded by Councillor Brown. Councillor Edwards wished to clarify that he did attend the previous meeting.

8. Date and time of the next meeting: 14th October 2021

The meeting ended at **11.57 am**

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