

# Public Document Pack



County Hall  
Rhadyr  
Usk  
NP15 1GA

Wednesday, 14 July 2021

## Notice of meeting

### County Council

Thursday, 22nd July, 2021 at 2.00 pm,  
County Hall, Usk – Remote Attendance

### AGENDA

*Prayers will be said prior to the Council meeting at 1.50pm. All members are welcome to join the Chairman for prayers should they wish to do.*

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	<b>Apologies for absence</b>	
2.	<b>Declarations of interest</b>	
3.	<b>Public Questions</b>	
4.	<b>Chairman's announcement and receipt of petitions</b>	
5.	<b>Reports for Council:</b>	
5.1.	<b>LEISURE CENTRE UPGRADES TO FACILITIES</b>	1 - 20
6.	<b>Notices of Motion:</b>	
6.1.	<b>Submitted by County Councillor Kevin Williams</b>  This council commends the contribution to community life by our young care leavers during their time in care. It acknowledges the positive impact we, as a council, can make to enhancing their lives upon leaving the care system and furthermore will continue to offer support and guidance to them after they leave the care system, including the financial support they will need.	
6.2.	<b>Submitted by County Councillor Martyn Groucutt</b>  This council has supported the building of a new all-through school provision in Abergavenny, supported by 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools funding made available by	

the Welsh Government. It also supports the new Welsh national curriculum, covering 3-16 years education and the Children and Young People Directorate's core values that children will:

- Be ready for school
- Be in school
- Be well behaved
- Be well taught.

It endorses the view of the Labour Group that this provision throughout the school is best provided by the school's senior leadership team, teachers, care staff and other professionals employed directly by the school. It therefore rejects the view that the year of children's Nursery education on this new school site should be provided by private provision that will not be under the control of the school's leadership team. Further, this should have formed part of the public consultation, rather than this being based on the provision of Maintained education from 4-19 Years.

**7. Members Questions:**

**7.1. From County Councillor Christopher Edwards to County Councillor Paul Pavia, Cabinet Member for Education**

Could the Cabinet Member for Education inform council of progress with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme, and what steps are being taken to ensure that Chepstow School will be placed in the next phase?

**7.2. From County Councillor Christopher Edwards to County Councillor Jane Pratt, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Neighbourhood Services**

Could the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Neighbourhood Services inform council what steps are being taken to ensure that road safety remains a priority for this council, particularly for school children and the vulnerable travelling along Welsh Street and St Lawrence Road in my ward of St Kingsmark, Chepstow?

**8. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2021**

21 - 30

**Paul Matthews**

**Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr**

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Peter Clarke	Llangybi Fawr;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Dimitri Batrouni	St. Christophers;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jeremy Becker	St. Mary's;	Liberal Democrats
County Councillor Debby Blakebrough	Trellech United;	Independent Group
County Councillor Louise Brown	Shirenewton;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Alan Davies	Green Lane;	Independent
County Councillor Lisa Dymock	The Elms;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Tony Easson	Dewstow;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Ruth Edwards	Llantilio Crossenny;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor David Evans	West End;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Mat Feakins	Drybridge;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Peter Fox	Portskewett;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Robert Greenland	Devauden;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Martyn Groucutt	Lansdown;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Linda Guppy	Rogiet;	Liberal Democrats
County Councillor Roger Harris	Croesonen;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jim Higginson	Severn;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Giles Howard	Llanfoist Fawr;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Simon Howarth	Llanelly Hill;	Independent Group
County Councillor Richard John	Mitchel Troy;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Dave Jones	Crucorney;	Independent Group
County Councillor Laura Jones	Wyesham;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Penny Jones	Raglan;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Sara Jones	Llanover;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Bryan Jones	Goytre Fawr;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Paul Jordan	Cantref;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Malcolm Lane	Mardy;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Phil Murphy	Caerwent;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Paul Pavia	Larkfield;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Maureen Powell	Castle;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Jane Pratt	Llanelly Hill;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Richard Roden	Dixton with Osbaston;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Val Smith	Llanbadoc;	Independent Group
County Councillor Brian Strong	Usk;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Frances Taylor	Mill;	Independent Group
County Councillor Tudor Thomas	Priory;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jamie Treharne	Overmonnow;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Jo Watkins	Caldicot Castle;	Liberal Democrats
County Councillor Armand Watts	Thornwell;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Ann Webb	St Arvans;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Kevin Williams	Llanwenarth Ultra;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Sheila Woodhouse	Grofield;	Welsh Conservative Party

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**Welsh Language**

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu cyfraniadau gan aelodau'r cyhoedd trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg.  
Gofynnwn yn barchus i chi roi rhybudd digonol i ni er mwyn darparu ar gyfer eich anghenion  
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

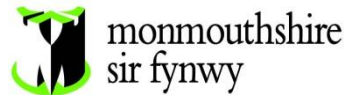
**Openness.** We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer 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.





**SUBJECT: LEISURE CENTRE UPGRADES TO FACILITIES**

**MEETING: CABINET**

**DATE: 7<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021**

**DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL**

**1. PURPOSE:**

- 1.1 For Members to agree to the proposed investments at Abergavenny and Chepstow Leisure Centres to ensure that they remain fit for purpose for future generations and attractive to existing customers. To update Members of the latest Caldicot Leisure Centre position.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 Cabinet considered the investments on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and recommends Council release the sum of £2.2m from capital receipts to fund the following investments to improve customer experience;

Chepstow Leisure Centre – £0.5m to upgrade fitness equipment and minor centre refurbishments

Abergavenny Leisure Centre – £1.7m to re-design the first floor to provide a new enhanced gym area and dedicated spin studio and exercise studio.

- 2.2 To pause any significant developments at Caldicot Leisure Centre pending the results of the Levelling up Grant Bid but to invest in some necessary upgrades to portable equipment and fitness class resources.

**3. KEY ISSUES:**

- 3.1 Cabinet received a report in April 2021 which outlined the importance of Leisure facilities in improving the physical and mental health of local communities and encouraged regeneration. The report outlined the heightened appreciation of the importance of physical activity during the pandemic in improving the health of people of all ages. The services provided by Leisure Centres will be even more important as we move towards recovery and supporting communities to return to improved fitness, activity and mental health and wellbeing.

- 3.2 However, further research now indicates that the 2021 lockdown has been extremely challenging for people, because opportunities to be active have been restricted, and

the timing of the lockdown coincided with colder, darker months. The cumulative impact of multiple changes has impacted on people's motivation to make the choice to be active and there is no guarantee that people will return. Changes to working patterns, caring responsibilities, personal management of risk, worries about contracting / spreading the virus or anxieties about social mixing could continue to impact behaviour.

- 3.3 The table below demonstrates the level of membership activity at our sites and compares this to the level of active memberships prior to the pandemic. The service has seen a significant reduction, with large numbers of people cancelling and more than 1,000 members choosing to freeze their membership. In 2020/21 income losses were supported from the Welsh Government Hardship Fund and are projected to be covered in 2021/22 until at least September 2021.

	<b>Abergavenny</b>	<b>Caldicot</b>	<b>Chepstow</b>	<b>Monmouth</b>	<b>Total</b>
Members February 2020	1,862	1,376	1,650	2,738	7,626
Members May 2021	1,240	928	1,139	1,662	4,969
Variance	622	448	511	1,076	2,657

- 3.4 The recent partial opening of the Leisure centres has seen significant numbers of our customers wanting to return in a safe and controlled environment with many swimming, fitness class and gym sessions sold out within minutes. Evidence from national data supports this and shows high levels of intent to return to fitness facilities once fully operational. The return of the Monmouthshire Games at Whitsun has been very successful and advance bookings for the summer provision have been taken. Due to the National Governing bodies of sport relaxing 'return to play' guidelines, many clubs who book winter facilities are also making enquiries to secure their booking slots.
- 3.5 In 2018/19 there was a £7.4M refurbishment of Monmouth Leisure Centre with a 25m swimming pool, extensive gym, two studios, soft play, and toning. Members have recognised that further investment and improvements are required to the other leisure sites, this was planned prior to Covid outbreak and outlined in the MCC Corporate Plan. The three remaining Leisure Centres need investment to ensure high standards of health and safety to keep our customer safe; reducing our carbon footprint; to encourage both new and old customers to return ensuring we can provide facilities that are fit for purpose for future generations.
- 3.6 Cabinet in April 2021 supported preliminary investigative works and agreed to proceed with feasibility studies for minor refurbishments and upgrades to the fitness facilities at Abergavenny, Caldicot and Chepstow Leisure Centres. Investment had been initially estimated at £2.3m. Officers have continued to work closely with our development partner, Alliance Leisure Services (ALS) to examine the development opportunities at



Caldicot, Chepstow and Abergavenny Leisure centres. Multiple site visits have been undertaken and indicative costs established which have been further developed as essential surveys are conducted.

### **Abergavenny Leisure Centre**

3.7 Members have expressed the desire to re-design and refurbish Abergavenny Leisure Centre but the major work could not be undertaken until the new school is complete in 2024 due to the constraints of the site and the need to ensure health and safety of children during the school build. It is envisaged that the new school build will provide a new sports hall, thereby enabling the Leisure Centre to reuse its sports hall as part of a new overall design. However, it is still possible to complete the refurbishment to the upstairs health and fitness area prior to commencement of the school build.

3.8 The proposal to upgrade the leisure centre is anticipated to be in late 2024, however this initial first phase would see the re-development of the fitness offer now, prior to the school build and seeks to convert the first floor to a health and fitness hub to include:

- 246sqm fitness suite (c60 stations)
- 60sqm spin studio
- 105sqm fitness studio
- 33sqm viewing area to ground floor pool
- 2 x 13sqm changing rooms

3.9 ALS have costed initial proposals at £1.7m and are currently working through the feasibility stage with mechanical and electrical surveys being undertaken towards establishing cost certainty. It is estimated that it will take a further 2 weeks to get to RIBA 4 stage where cost certainty would be determined. Construction is estimated to take approximately 20 weeks and would likely commence autumn 2021.

### **Key Issues**

3.10 The top floor of the leisure centre building would need to be closed for a period of up to 20 weeks. There are health and safety issues that need to be taken into account and a site management plan will be developed in conjunction with the school who share the site. A compound would need to be installed on site and access to the rest of the site would have to be carefully managed.

3.11 The site is a dual use site, with the school currently using the following facilities:

Day	Time	Facility
Monday – Friday	8:30am-5pm	Sports hall. Ground floor dry side changing rooms
Monday – Friday	9am-5pm	School Gym
Monday – Friday	9am-5pm	Pool (used for both Secondary and Primary school swimming)
Monday – Friday	9am-5pm	Astro
Monday – Friday	9am-5pm	MUGA

3.12 Closure of the upstairs of the Leisure centre would impact public users with the closure of the fitness suite and subsequently result in a loss of income for those 20 weeks (estimated to be £105,000). Alternative provision could be made within the leisure centre / school gym but would impact on potential school usage and so will need to be carefully managed to avoid any disruption to their provision. Discussions with the School are on-going to continue provision and accommodate both the school and the public.

3.13 Currently membership levels at Abergavenny are significantly below the numbers enjoyed prior to the pandemic as per the table in section 3.11 and uncertainty exists in how long it will take to restore customer confidence to those previous levels. There continues to be a risk that the increase in Memberships would not occur for a significant period of time however there is a general confidence in the industry and peoples appetite to return.

#### **Caldicot Leisure Centre**

3.14 Caldicot Leisure Centre is currently at the heart of a Levelling Up Fund grant bid and whilst the outcome is awaited, any further major development has been placed on hold. A significant bid has gone forward and MCC awaits 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. The site has recently introduced a new Les Mills offer, which has been highly successful. Officers have been asked to continue with the preparation of plans for the future redevelopment of the site should the bid be unsuccessful which would also look at alternative provisions should the centre have to be closed during the refurbishment. Landlord Services also continue to provide additional investment for the site with the use of REFIT funding for improvements to outdoor lighting for sports pitches.

#### **Chepstow Leisure Centre Gym and Cafe Refurbishment**

- 3.15 This minor scheme was intended to enhance the food and beverage offer to improve dwell time and secondary spend and to improve the reception areas to give a more open and customer friendly experience. The fitness facilities require an upgrade to the cardiovascular equipment with investment required into group exercise classes. This would be a similar offer to Monmouth Leisure Centre where we have seen an increased uptake for group exercise classes, increased memberships and additional part time employment opportunities. Chepstow is the site where competition is high for memberships within the locality, its location is advantageous.
- 3.16 Ongoing discussions with ALS suggest that the costs of refurbishment would be much higher than the sum of money previously indicated and therefore the business case for refurbishment of the café area and reception is not supported by enough of an increase in membership or increased net profit on retail and café sales. Work with ALS continues to identify the best solution and outcomes for customers and a minor refurbishment will now be accommodated within a budget of £225k. The upgrades to fitness equipment with an outdoor rig is estimated at £275k. Landlord Services also continue to provide additional investment into the site with the use of REFIT funding to undertake improvements to lighting, boiler upgrades, combined heat and power system and showers upgrade.

### Summary

- 3.17 Capital investments have been scrutinised by the Capital and Asset Management Working Group (CAMWG), and recommendations made for onward inclusion in the capital budget and to be considered by Cabinet and Council.
- 3.18 The table below indicates the estimated costs of refurbishment works required including costs of new fitness equipment.

<b>Leisure Centre Scheme</b>	<b>Estimated Investment £</b>
Abergavenny	1,700K
Chepstow – Minor refurbishment	225k
Chepstow – Equipment Refresh	275k
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,200k</b>

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

- 4.1 The investments will ensure there are more opportunities for the community to keep physically active and well. The enhanced facilities and equipment will encourage more

people to use the Centres following Covid, as part of a comeback campaign to ensure our communities benefit from the best possible provision and assist with increased income opportunities post pandemic.

## 5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Option	Benefits	Risks	Comments
Do Nothing	Continue providing service.	Sites are tired and in need of updating. Increase in reactive maintenance costs. Staff and customer morale will be lower. Income will decline and loss of customers. Reputational risk to the Council. Lack of commercial opportunities to grow the business.	All sites are tired in places and do nothing risks further decline in facilities and lessens the appeal to customers with local investments and competition in the surrounding areas.
Improve Facilities	Update existing facilities and encourages continued patronage and attracts new members.	Updated and modern equipment will contribute to ensuring that income targets are met and customer satisfaction levels are maintained.	Future proof and will complement larger scale plans in the coming years.

## 6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 To proceed with the redesign of the first floor of Abergavenny Leisure Centre at an estimated cost of £1.7m to include a refresh of gym equipment and minor refurbishment at Chepstow at a cost of £0.5m.
- 6.2 Loss of income resulting from the gym closure at Abergavenny Leisure Centre is likely to be £105,000 and it is proposed that will be met initially from service budgets in the first instance. Should the service be unable to meet these extra costs, then a request will be made for reserve cover to compensate for this.
- 6.3 Cabinet on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021 recommended to Council that a £2,200,000 contribution from capital receipts be approved to facilitate this initial phase of works.

## 7. CONSULTEES:

Departmental Management Team  
Senior Leadership Team  
Cabinet  
HR  
Landlord Services  
Finance

**8. AUTHORS:**

Ian Saunders, MonLife Chief Operating Officer

Nick John, MonLife Leisure Services Manager

Marie Bartlett, MonLife Finance and Resources Manager

Richard Simpkins, MonLife Business & Commercial Development Manager

**9. CONTACT DETAILS:**

E-mail: [iansaunders@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:iansaunders@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

E-mail: [nicholasjohn@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:nicholasjohn@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

E-mail: [mariebartlett@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:mariebartlett@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

E-mail: [richardsimpkins@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:richardsimpkins@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

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<p><b>Name of the Officer: Nick john</b></p> <p><b>Phone no: 07768 055408</b></p> <p><b>E-mail: nicholasjohn@monmouthshire.gov.uk</b></p>	<p><b>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</b></p> <p>To inform Members of the need to upgrade the offer at Abergavenny and Chepstow Leisure Centres to ensure that the leisure centres remain fit for purpose and attractive to customers.</p>
<p><b>Name of Service area: MonLife - Leisure Services</b></p>	<p><b>Date 7th July 2021</b></p>

1. Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>Age</p>	<p>The service will continue and adapt its delivery to work towards meeting the need of all its customers. The pandemic has enabled us to explore different channels to delivery, including virtual fitness classes.</p> <p>The centres provide many activities for children, young people and families.</p> <p>Home to Monmouthshires National Exercise Referral scheme our leisure centres provide a critical role in keeping people physically active and supporting people in continuing their long-term adherence to exercise and a healthy lifestyle.</p>	<p>The leisure centres, due to their age, layout and limited capacity to expand without extensive refurbishments, will still remain limited when addressing areas such as single sex changing facilities. The refurbishment at Monmouth leisure centre has addressed these limitations to access and the facilities are more accommodating to a wider population.</p> <p>Whilst refurbishments take place, for most of the buildout, there will be a limited offer indoors, mainly on the first floor of leisure centres.</p>	<p>The investment in the range of exercise equipment, programmes, further training for staff will go some way to address some of the leisure centre limitations. Additionally, the look and feel and upgrading of some of the areas to make them more user friendly will have a positive effect on existing and new customers.</p> <p>The expansion of some of the programmes will mean that there will be new part time employment opportunities.</p> <p>Where applicable other areas of the leisure centre and leisure centre grounds will accommodate the</p>

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	Leisure Centres and facilities are known to play an important role in improving the physical and mental health and social connectedness of local communities.		programmes whilst building works take place.
Disability	<p>The continuation of our virtual offer along with accessible sessions, will enables us to engage with a wider customer base.</p> <p>The population engages in many ways, and we will work with groups and customers to assist us in shaping our offer.</p>	Customers with disabilities are likely to see a greater impact whilst the refurbishments are taking place, as areas will be very limited or in the event of where programmes are eased whilst building.	<p>MonLife has been recognised as InSport Silver accreditation by Disability Sport Wales as part of a National programme of InSport facility. Improvements to facilities, equipment and programmes would create improved inclusive environments, reduce potential barriers to access and provide an improved offer and opportunity for all. Specific programmes identified to directly target underrepresented groups are ongoing and will encourage and support greater participation.</p> <p>The National InSport programme is applicable to our community sport clubs and we have seen a rise in the number of clubs proactively engaging in this scheme which enables the leisure centre teams to sign post customers to accredited clubs where specific sessions are not available directly through the leisure centre, i.e., football sessions and swimming specific club sessions.</p>



Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Gender reassignment	Neutral.		
Marriage or civil partnership	Neutral.		
Pregnancy or maternity	When restrictions are eased, we will see a return to delivery of programmes such as, pathway to pregnancy, referral schemes.	Limited sessions and available space in sessions will still be in place for some time, even when leisure centres reopen.	The leisure centre programmes will adapt to the needs of the community, and we will identify programmes that support women, and early years children. Especially where there has been no access to swimming pool provision for more than 12 months, albeit the leisure centres reopened for a short period of time. For some new parents, their children has not been in a swimming pool, an essential developmental and confidence building for both parent and child.
Race	Neutral.		
Religion or Belief	Neutral.		
Sex	Neutral.		
Sexual Orientation	Neutral.		

## 2. The Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice

The Socio-economic Duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage when taking key decisions This duty aligns with our commitment as an authority to Social Justice.

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p><b>Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice</b></p>	<p>The leisure centres offer a means tested discounted access to single use activities (passport to leisure scheme).</p> <p>Additionally, leisure services delivers National programmes including Free Swimming initiative, aimed at under 16's and 60+, and the National Exercise Referral scheme, all of which supports discounted and free access to key programmes of physical activity and wellbeing.</p>	<p>The leisure centres, when restrictions allow, will operate on a reduced capacity for most, if not all activities. Therefore, the demand for access to sessions will be greater than what we will be able to deliver. Unfortunately spaces within sessions will be competitive, and rely on a first come first serve basis.</p>	<p>MonLife officers actively engage in the wider Council targeted groups and where possible successfully signpost individual's into support, groups, 1:1 intervention and promote scheme such as leisure services Passport to Leisure scheme.</p> <p>Our youth and, sport development and community teams who deliver within the community and schools make the best use of their connections to reach those most in need of support of information.</p>

### 3. Policy making and the Welsh language.

<p><b>How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:</b></p>	<p><b>Describe the positive impacts of this proposal</b></p>	<p><b>Describe the negative impacts of this proposal</b></p>	<p><b>What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts</b></p>
<p><b>Policy Making</b></p> <p>Effects on the use of the Welsh language,</p> <p>Promoting Welsh language</p> <p>Treating the Welsh language no less favourably</p>	<p>The improvements will give us the opportunity to repurpose a number of areas. Where we will achieve this, we are actively looking at new signage, promotional material and prominent customer information points. All accessible information will be bilingual.</p>	<p>There are likely to be some exiting customer information points that we will lose.</p>	<p>Customer information points will be more prominent, more up to date (digital platforms). And more flexibility to change the messaging more frequently should we need to.</p>
<p><b>Operational</b></p> <p>Recruitment &amp; Training of workforce</p>	<p>The new improvements will see an increase in programme development. We anticipate that we will be in a position to offer additional part time employment.</p>	<p>Some of the areas where we will see additional employment, will entail attracting a skilled workforce, i.e. fitness class instructors and lifeguards. It is sometime difficult in a rural County to recruit fully qualified staff and staff who obtain Welsh language skills.</p>	<p>A number of existing staff has actively engaged in learning Welsh, and this will continue. MonLife youth services engage with the URDD and programmes to explore further opportunities with the Welsh language. MonLife sport4life volunteering programme is a great opportunity to encourage and support volunteers into a paid capacity and identify, where possible opportunities for programmes to be delivered through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>However, we are committed to making Welsh essential for a</p>

			number of our roles within leisure, and we will demonstrate the impact of these recruitment campaigns and programmes.
<p><b>Service delivery</b></p> <p>Use of Welsh language in service delivery</p> <p>Promoting use of the language</p>	<p>Leisure centres, along with the wider MonLife services and facilities, actively engage in audits and mystery shopper exercises to identify any gaps in provisions.</p>	<p>Where we are very active social media platforms and where we see the most engagement with customers currently, it is not always possible to deliver the instant messages bilingually.</p>	<p>MonLife has developed a marketing strategy, the action and delivery plan that underpins this, will be an opportunity to improve our communication functions across all platforms and engaging with all sectors of our community.</p> <p>We are proactively encouraging our teams, to plan social media content, to ensure message are bilingual, and further engage with customers through the medium of Welsh.</p>

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




<b>Well Being Goal</b>	<b>Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.</b>	<b>What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?</b>
<p><b>A prosperous Wales</b> Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>To ensure the leisure centres continues to thrive and creates employment, wellbeing and learning opportunities for all.</p>	<p>Consideration will be given to ensuring the building reduces energy use, uses renewable energy and is of a sustainable construction maximising solar PV and solar thermal technology where possible. The current refit programme and assessments undertaken in leisure centres sites will be explored</p>



Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
		<p>and where applicable programmes and investments brought forward.</p> <p>We will continue to work closely with contractors to maximise community benefits delivered through the project, such as links with schools and communities, apprenticeships, using local labour and supply chains.</p>
<p><b>A resilient Wales</b> Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>The project will comply with all planning regulations. There will be limited opportunities to contribute to biodiversity, due to the restrictions of the site, but opportunities to promote use of nearby green infrastructure will be taken by increasing the amount of cycle parking, Active Travel promotion and where possible customer behaviours.</p>	<p>To ensure this happens there are close working relationships and regular meetings with the project Team, Property Services and Asset Management as those service areas need to assist with the planning regulations for the building. MonLife leads on Active Travel plans and programmes and will support the project and leisure centre managers in demonstrating positive modal shifts.</p>
<p><b>A healthier Wales</b> People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>The centres will provide modern facilities where people can enjoy physical activity which will improve people's physical and mental health.</p>	<p>Ensure regular updates are given especially as the project nears completion to ensure communities are aware of the improved offer and opportunities. And actively engage with those populations of the communities who were not accessing leisure centre facilities.</p> <p>Our current digital/ virtual offer, whilst not extensive has had the opportunity to engage with existing customers as well as attracting new customers, mainly friends and family of existing customers.</p>
<p><b>A Wales of cohesive communities</b> Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>The centres will become more of a wellbeing hub with a variety of activities, families focused with a</p>	<p>Local people have benefitted from local facilities in the past 12 months. And whilst this has been</p>

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Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	combination of sporting and play opportunities available.	difficult for most, there have been some positive outcomes. We will capitalize on these positive outcomes including, visiting and looking after the local countryside, using your local leisure centre and a more flexible approach to programme to allow those customers who may be continuing home work and can access more service in the day time.
<b>A globally responsible Wales</b> Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	The centres will provide part of Monmouthshire's contribution to ensuring the Nation puts health and wellbeing at the centre of its forward planning. The aim of the facility for the majority of users will reduce the need to travel elsewhere, reducing pollution. Energy saving measures and renewable energy are being considered where practical, to reduce the carbon footprint of the build.	We will work with the contractor to ensure that, where possible, local materials and local labour are used, reducing the carbon footprint of the build.
<b>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</b> Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	As per the Welsh Language measures, signage will be bilingual and reception staff will be encouraged to undertake Welsh language training. The new facilities will provide an alternative venue for cultural events and activities, and programmes.	Staff are currently undertaking ongoing bespoke Welsh Language training as part of an authority wide approach to ensure the expectations of the Welsh Language measures are being met.
<b>A more equal Wales</b> People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	All communities will benefit from a variety of sporting and educational programmes.	Clubs and societies will be more aware of facilities and hard to reach groups will be targeted through various programmes via Sports Development and Youth Services.

**5. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?**

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p> <p><b>Long Term</b></p>	<p>The design for the new facilities will ensure the centres are being updated, facilities are relevant for today's needs but also consider the longer term needs and ensure features can be well maintained.</p>	<p>The project will need to work closely with site co-ordination to ensure disruption is kept at a minimum and that health and safety is at the forefront of any decisions made regarding the ongoing works. Consideration is also being given to ensuring the building uses renewable energy and is of a sustainable construction maximising the benefits that new and improvements can make. Working closely with landlord services to ensure we receive the support we need.</p>
 <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p> <p><b>Collaboration</b></p>	<p>Working closely with community groups, Sport Wales, 21<sup>st</sup> Century schools programme and the Alliance Leisure team to ensure all stakeholders are aware of the need for partnership working and collaboration. There are regular scheduled meetings with the project team and relevant MCC departments, landlord services to ensure lines of communication are maintained and everybody is up to date on plans.</p>	<p>Ensure the necessary project team are set up who met regularly and keep communication and consultation open. The project team are also working very closely with our landlord services teams to ensure consideration has been given to sustainability and energy efficiency for the building. And we are working towards the aspirations of the Council targets.</p>
 <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p> <p><b>Involvement</b></p>	<p>The manager at the sites will ensure there is consultation and dialogue with community groups and citizens as the project progresses. A key stakeholder being our secondary schools and young people.</p>	<p>We will work closely with groups that may be impacted directly by facility change and we will meet with other providers to explore opportunities, where practical. We represent MonLife on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century school stakeholder group, where there is an opportunity to have further dialogue with colleagues, including education.</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p><b>Prevention</b></p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>Investing in new and improved leisure facilities now will provide more and better opportunities for people of all ages to exercise. Encouraging exercise and healthy lifestyles now will prevent and reduce the number of health issues people face in the future, in particular conditions such as obesity and Type 2 diabetes, and more recently the unknown impact of mental health issues.</p>	<p>More recently the positive news of the reintroduction of the National Exercise Referral Scheme, by Public Health Wales. Whilst there are a number of measures that has to be achieved prior to implementation and the implementation will be in a virtual capacity, it is very positive news for us. Monmouthshire has more than 10 years experience of delivering the scheme through more than 33 clinical referring partners in Monmouthshire. Including GP surgeries, and cancer clinics and stroke rehabilitation referral routes.</p>
 <p><b>Integration</b></p> <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>This options appraisal will allow MonLife to move forward with cost certainty in the project ensuring the subsequent remodeling provides the best opportunities for future generations to enjoy health and wellbeing opportunities.</p>	<p>During the period of closure the service will work hard to ensure where possible service can continue with a phased modelling of re-design and building works.</p>

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

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?



Safeguarding	The leisure centres has very robust procedures in place for safeguard children and young people and the wider community. All information is clearly visible for customers to see at information points within the leisure centre and a fully trained duty officers is available for the whole duration of leisure centre opening times.	None.	MonLife has worked hard to continually improve their processes, knowledge and awareness of safeguarding measures. There is a training matrix in place, a number of officers leads on safeguarding training for MCC and deliver community safeguarding to clubs and organisations. And MonLife undertakes a safeguarding audit of its facilities, process and training on a quarterly process – Safe Audits.
Corporate Parenting	The leisure centres offer a means tested discounted access to single use activities (passport to leisure scheme).  Additionally our youth service manager sits on the Corporate Parenting panel, and promotes opportunities within MonLife.	None.	MonLife will continue to make improvements in their support and offer. This will include sharing the insight from the Corporate Parenting panel with MonLife DMT, to identify any further areas of development.

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

- Options appraisal with costs,
- A competitor analysis of the surrounding area,
- An analysis of local demographics,
- A latent demand to identify usage and potential growth,
- A robust business case – build on existing projections, pre COVID,
- Capitol cost projections.
- UK Active (surveys and reports undertaken).

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

Following the Covid pandemic, there is a heightened appreciation of the importance of physical activity in improving the health of people of all ages and forms part of a prevention strategy. The services provided by Leisure Centres will be even more important as we move towards recovery and supporting communities to return to improved fitness, activity and mental wellbeing. Therefore, an upgrade to the existing facilities is essential.

Forming an internal group to support the project will enable MCC to achieve the maximum benefits from investment, the build quality and support the aspiration of the Council to achieve their outcomes. MonLife are critical to the success of delivering the project and enabling the offer to grow and meet the needs of customers and the community.

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

<b>What are you going to do</b>	<b>When are you going to do it?</b>	<b>Who is responsible</b>
Formalise internal working group and structure	March 25th	Nick John
Engage Alliance Leisure (National Procurement Framework, for Leisure)	March 25th	Nick John

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

<b>Version No.</b>	<b>Decision making stage</b>	<b>Date considered</b>	<b>Brief description of any amendments made following consideration</b>
1	MonLife DMT	23rd June 2021	None.
2	Cabinet	7 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	None.

# Public Document Pack Agenda Item 8

## MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of County Council held  
at County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance on Thursday, 24th June, 2021 at 2.00 pm**

**PRESENT:** County Councillor M.Feakins (Chairman)  
County Councillor A. Webb (Vice Chairman)

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

### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Matt Phillips	Chief Officer People and Governance and Monitoring Officer
Paul Matthews	Chief Executive
Peter Davies	Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer, Resources
Will McLean	Chief Officer for Children and Young People
Nicola Perry	Senior Democracy Officer
Frances O'Brien	Chief Officer, Enterprise
Julie Boothroyd	Chief Officer Social Care, Safeguarding and Health
Matthew Gatehouse	Head of Policy and Governance
Mark Hand	Head of Place-making, Housing, Highways and Flood
Ian Saunders	Chief Operating Officer, MonLife
Hazel Clatworthy	Sustainability Policy Officer
Matthew Lewis (Countryside)	Interim Performance, Evaluation and Programme Development Lead for MonLife
Rachel Lewis	Planning Policy Manager

### **APOLOGIES:**

County Councillors R.J.W. Greenland, S.B. Jones and K. Williams

#### **1. Declarations of interest**

County Councillor Peter Fox declared a prejudicial interest in relation to agenda item 5.4 as a farm tenant with land identified in the RLDP.

County Councillor Peter Fox declared a prejudicial interest in relation to agenda item 6.3 as a relative is a Lave Net Fisherman.

#### **2. Public Questions**

None.

#### **3. Chairman's announcement and receipts of petitions**

The Chairman confirmed he was in receipt of a petition from County Councillor Louise Brown. County Councillor Brown presented the petition on behalf of local residents to introduce a

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20mph speed limit in the residential areas of Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Village, together with an indicative map. The petition had been signed by over 200 people, 85% from the local area.

The Chairman confirmed that the petition would be passed to relevant directorate.

#### **4. Reports for Council:**

#### **5. CHIEF OFFICER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ANNUAL REPORT**

The Chief Officer for Children and Young People presented his annual report, following which Members were invited to comment.

In response to concerns around an increase in vulnerable learners post Covid the Chief Officer explained how there has been continued reflection on how the pandemic will affect people in many different ways. It was recognised that those who have become newly vulnerable due to the pandemic may not yet have the resilience within them and is something to be cautious of. Our schools are supporting our children on a child-by-child basis to ensure they understand what the children need.

It was recognised that some staff had concerns regarding the return to school and measures have been put in place for support, a former headteacher has been recruited to act as a touchpoint for our leaders.

The majority of schools have dealt with the transitioning of primary to secondary school on a virtual basis and have used technology to a positive extent.

Officers work closely with EAS colleagues to plot and understand where schools are spending their resources and there is a sharp focus on making sure the grant funding is spent on interventions and support for disadvantaged learners that will make the most significant difference.

In response to concerns around the FSM gap, a draft strategy has been to Children and Young People Select Committee and officers will continue to develop that. Officers continue to work closely with EAS Vulnerable Learners Team to understand the key interventions. The final strategy with associated plans is expected in Autumn 2021.

With regards to discrimination, colleagues within the Education Welfare Team have worked closely with schools to ensure that our reporting mechanisms are effective and appropriate.

The Cabinet Member for Education thanked the Chief Officer for his report on behalf on Council, and commended the work of the entire CYP directorate.

#### **5.1. SHIRE HALL / MONMOUTH MUSEUM**

The Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing and Social Justice presented the report to inform members of progress on the feasibility study to establish a new cultural destination at the Shire Hall Monmouth including the relocation of the current Monmouth Museum and the review of museum collection storage. The report proposed a phased approach to the new provision.

It was intended that Shire Hall open at the start of the summer holidays with an initial visitor offer in place and slowly expand as is possible. It was hoped that fixed timetables would be ready in the next week.

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With reference to previous feasibility studies it was confirmed that this is a new piece of work and external consultants had been commissioned to carry out the feasibility study. The focus on Monmouth was a result of an Individual Cabinet Member Decision made in December 2020.

In terms of the feasibility study, the cost to date of hiring private consultants stands at £25,000.

In terms of the levelling up funding, the £250,000 requested in the report from capital receipts would be used as match funding for the levelling bid if that was successful.

With regards to proposals for attractions across Monmouthshire, officers are working on a MonLife Heritage Strategy, funded from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, due for completion towards the end of this year

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

**To note the progress in undertaking a feasibility study to establish a new cultural offer at Shire Hall incorporating the Monmouth Museum and the review of museum collection storage.**

**To approve the establishment of an initial phase within Shire Hall and to confirm that Monmouth Museum will not reopen in Market Hall.**

**To reopen key areas of Shire Hall for public use, subject to Covid regulations and any restrictions required to allow the completion of the phase 1 provision incorporating temporary museum displays.**

**To approve a £250,000 contribution from capital receipts to facilitate the initial phase of works, as recommended by Cabinet on 9 June 2021. That in turn will also provide a match funding contribution to the Levelling Up Fund bid for Monmouth that would if successful enable the longer-term vision to be achieved.**

**Future reports be presented to members as the long-term proposals for Shire Hall, Monmouth and for museum collection storage are further developed.**

#### **6. CLIMATE EMERGENCY STRATEGY UPDATE**

The Cabinet member for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure presented a report to set out progress towards Monmouthshire's Climate Emergency action plan which outlined how the council plans to reduce its carbon emissions to net zero by 2030, as committed to in the Climate Emergency declaration by Council in May 2019.

County Councillor Groucutt commended the work of Hazel Clatworthy, Sustainability Policy Officer. He asked if Council are acknowledging the climate emergency when the leading officer is part-time. The Cabinet Member thanked him for the positive comments, and acknowledged his concerns adding that this is being addressed.

It was requested that we make faster progress to move to electric vehicles. The Cabinet Member responded that we also need the capacity to charge vehicles and there are future plans for a new depot in the south of the County.

Issues around grass cutting and visibility were highlighted.

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Comment was made on the disconnect between the climate strategy and the development of new roads. The Cabinet Member agreed to provide data relating to idling traffic vs the increased amounts of traffic.

Reference was made to Magor Station and how it is now absorbed into WG policy and how it should be reflected in the action plan and subsequent progress.

Flooding and flood risk was suggested as an addition to the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

The Cabinet Member referred to fast charging points and highlighted that a Central Government strategy is in place to make improvements UK wide. She added that with regards to refuse collection we are still looking for suitable vehicles.

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

**That Council receives a progress update on actions being taken to reduce the authority's carbon emissions in line with its agreed policy commitment.**

**That the Climate Emergency Working Group is tasked with updating the action plan to reflect the latest evidence and potential solutions to deliver the council's agreed policy position.**

#### **7. MONMOUTHSHIRE REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PREFERRED STRATEGY**

The Cabinet Member for Economy presented the report to inform Council of the preparation of the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) Preferred Strategy and to seek Council's endorsement of the Preferred Strategy to be issued for statutory consultation/engagement and stakeholder involvement.

Following the stakeholder involvement, engagement and consultation on the Preferred Strategy, responses will be collated and carefully considered. A consultation report will be prepared and published containing details of the representations and the Council's response to them. This consultation report and the Preferred Strategy with any necessary amendments will be reported to Council in approximately November 2021 to seek approval of the Preferred Strategy. The Deposit Plan will then be prepared and considered by Council prior to a statutory six-week consultation and engagement period in Summer 2022

In doing so she raised an amendment to the recommendation to read:

2.1 That Council endorses the RLDP Preferred Strategy for statutory consultation/engagement and stakeholder involvement for an eight-week period.

The Head of Placemaking, Housing, Highways and Flooding addressed an earlier comment regarding electric vehicle charging. He explained that the RLDP has been drafted with the climate emergency very much in mind. Officers intend to include electric vehicle charging as a policy in the Deposit Plan.

A question was raised around housing targets and how local industry does not command the salaries to achieve house purchases. It was confirmed that the RLDP did not set out who builds the homes but there was a separate discussion taking place about whether the Council becomes a developer or supports affordable housing in different ways.

*County Councillor Howarth left at 16:34*

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County Councillor Dimitri Batrouni declared a non-prejudicial interest as a board member of Monmouthshire Housing Association. He referred to the phosphate issue being a significant problem. The officer that explained that they are making good progress with proactive discussions with stakeholders.

*County Councillor Davies left at 16:57*

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

**2.1 That Council endorses the RLDP Preferred Strategy for statutory consultation/engagement and stakeholder involvement for an eight-week period.**

### **8. Notices of Motion:**

#### **9. Submitted by County Councillor Richard John, Leader of the Council**

*This Council: Recognises that a more representative council is better equipped to reflect the views and experiences of the residents of our county. Regrets that in Wales only 28% of councillors are women and no local authority has ever achieved a 50:50 gender balance. Welcomes the improvement in female representation amongst Monmouthshire councillors to 35% in 2017. Resolves that all four political groups will take steps to help Monmouthshire County Council become the first local authority in Wales to achieve gender parity in 2022.*

Seconded by County Councillor Jane Pratt.

County Councillor Dimitri Batrouni supported the sentiment of the motion and proposed an amendment. To add: *and to increase the representation of other protected characteristics.*

County Councillor Martyn Groucutt seconded the amendment.

Upon being put to the vote the amended motion became the substantive motion.

*This Council: Recognises that a more representative council is better equipped to reflect the views and experiences of the residents of our county. Regrets that in Wales only 28% of councillors are women and no local authority has ever achieved a 50:50 gender balance. Welcomes the improvement in female representation amongst Monmouthshire councillors to 35% in 2017. Resolves that all four political groups will take steps to help Monmouthshire County Council become the first local authority in Wales to achieve gender parity in 2022 and to increase the representation of other protected characteristics.*

Following discussion Council resolved to accept the substantive motion.

#### **10. Submitted by County Councillor Paul Jordan**

*Monmouthshire County Council calls upon the Football Association of Wales to publish the review of their decision to relegate Abergavenny women's football club to tier 2. Abergavenny woman's football club have been in the top league for nine years and are the fourth most successful in the competition's history. The club strongly champions the development of local women's football. FAW have substituted Abergavenny for Aberystwyth in tier one who did not win one match last season. Gwent now has no representation despite being one of the most populous areas in Wales. This action of FAW flies in the face of fair play. Abergavenny WFC*

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*consistently upholds the true value of sport and we call upon the Football association of Wales to do likewise.*

Seconded by County Councillor Sheila Woodhouse.

Members were keen to support the motion and upon being put to the vote Council resolved to accept the motion.

#### **10.1. Submitted by County Councillor Tony Easson**

*This motion seeks Council's support in persuading National Resources Wales to withdraw their intention to restrict traditional Lave Net fishing methods to a "catch and release" policy across the Severn Estuary. I would seek an endorsement, and that my attached comments are sent to Natural Resources Wales, the Cabinet Member of Senedd for Rural Affairs, and copied to all MS's representing Newport East, Monmouth and S East Wales, plus the sole MS representing the Liberal Democrats.*

Seconded by County Councillor Jim Higginson.

*County Councillor Debby Blakebrough left the meeting at 17:37*

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure stated that she had not been notified of any consultation regarding this and thanked Councillor Easson for bringing the motion to Council.

Members were keen to support the motion and upon being put to the vote Council resolved to accept the motion.

#### **11. Submitted by County Councillor Kevin Williams**

Withdrawn and deferred to July Council.

#### **12. Submitted by County Councillor Armand Watts**

*Although the Settlement Scheme deadline is 30th June 2021 this council continues to reach out to EU citizens across Monmouthshire to ensure their rights as citizens are upheld and respected. This Council notes that EU children whose parents did not themselves apply may not realise that their children need to apply, or mistakenly believe that their UK born children are automatically UK citizens apply for settled status. Accordingly, this council will ensure that it informs its schools of this potential gap and focuses communication on those families and communities most likely to be affected.*

Seconded by County Councillor Dimitri Batrouni. County Councillor Batrouni declared a non-prejudicial interest as he works in this area. He added that it is prudent for the Council to remain conscious of the different ramifications of the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 deadline.



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The Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing and Social Justice welcome the motion recognising the importance of encouraging EU citizens to apply for settled status. She urged Members to share communication with their information networks.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was carried.

*County Councillor Joanne Watkins left the meeting at 17:42*

#### **13. Submitted by County Councillor Tudor Thomas**

*This council agrees that lessons need to be learnt from the recent campaign of Abergavenny county councillors to resurface the Hereford Road in Abergavenny. This council calls on the cabinet member responsible for highways to review:*

- *Policies and procedures of MCC Highways for the repair and maintenance of highways across the authority to ensure that they are safe and fit for purpose.*
- *The length of time in getting highways repaired to ensure safety.*
- *Communication with residents when they complain about unsafe highways.*

Seconded by County Councillor Martyn Groucutt.

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure thanked County Councillor Thomas for bringing the motion and took the opportunity to commend the hard work and efforts of the Highways Team. In doing so she proposed an amendment to the motion:

*This Council calls on the cabinet member responsible for highways to continue to review policies and procedures of MCC Highways for the repair and maintenance of highways across the authority to ensure that they are safe and fit for purpose, and to continue to work to improve communication with customers.*

*This Council agrees to a cross-party lobby to the Welsh Government to review its approach to funding, requiring both multiple year funding proposals to provide certainty for large scale projects that stretch beyond one financial year, and a fair funding mechanism that recognises the importance of the road network in rural areas, not just to cars but to walkers, cyclists and public transport users.*

Seconded by County Councillor Ann Webb.

There were frustrations that the amended motion did not address the points raised within the original motion.

The Chair of Strong Communities welcomed the suggestion that a new approach be presented to the Select Committee in the coming months.

Upon being put to the vote the amended motion was carried. Debate ensued.

County Councillor Dimitri Batrouni proposed an amendment, to remove point 2 of the amended motion. He did not consider point 2 to be an amendment to the original motion. Seconded by County Councillor Armand Watts.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was defeated.

Discussion returned to the substantive motion and upon being put the vote this was carried.

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### 14. Submitted by County Councillor Dimitri Batrouni

*For the Council to create a Bulwark and Thornwell taskforce consisting of members of the community, local businesses, the town council, and representatives from Monmouthshire Housing Association to explore options to regenerate this specific area of Chepstow.*

Seconded by County Councillor Armand Watts.

The Cabinet Member for Economy proposed an amendment:

*For the Council to work with the local members to explore the optimum approach to develop a Bulwark and Thornwell taskforce consisting of members of the community, local businesses, the town council and representatives from Monmouthshire Housing Association to explore options to regenerate this specific area of Chepstow.*

Seconded by County Councillor Maureen Powell.

Members were in support of the amended motion and upon being put to the vote this became the substantive motion.

The substantive motion was carried.

### 15. Members Questions:

### 16. From County Councillor Paul Jordan to County Councillor Paul Pavia, Cabinet Member for Education

*The Monmouthshire County Council Climate Emergency and Decarbonisation Strategy includes an action that all new Council buildings will operate with net zero carbon emission, and the existing King Henty VIII School site is one of the largest buildings in the Authorities estate. What design approach and technologies are being included to ensure that the new school in Abergavenny will actually operate with net zero carbon emissions, and what commitments being made to ensure these low carbon features are protected from any budget saving measures taken before construction?*

*Councillor G. Howard left the meeting at 18:55*

*Councillor D. Jones left the meeting at 18:56*

The Cabinet Member responded by thanking County Councillor Jordan for the question. He explained we are not at a stage of the design process to give this level of detail. We are currently out on consultation on the functioning government architecture for the proposed new school. He continued to explain that we had to separate consulting and agreeing on the function of the new school as opposed to what it might look like. However, net zero carbon is very much on the agenda for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Project and officers have produced performance and briefing documents for the contract and design teams which align to WG and Council's commitment to decarbonisation. He assured the Member that the project has been specified as being net zero carbon operational energy and during the next stages of the project a feasibility study will evaluate appropriate low and zero carbon technologies.

As a supplementary question County Councillor Jordan asked if we would take the opportunity of the exciting new school development to engage our pupils across Abergavenny in understanding the effects of climate change and how we can mitigate them?

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The Cabinet Member responded in the positive adding that the pupil voice is extremely important and has been through the current consultation process. With the roll out of the new curriculum he believed all schools are focused on the importance of the environment. As the development of the school takes place there will be opportunities for real-time learning with the contractors.

#### **17. From County Councillor Martyn Groucutt to County Councillor Paul Pavia, Cabinet Member for Education**

*The consultation document around the establishment of an all-through 4-19 school in Abergavenny says that one benefit of this arrangement is 'more effective transition between key phases of learning'. In that case why is the Nursery provision currently seen as such an important feature of the provision in Deri View Primary not a part of the proposals for the new school, to be replaced by provision made by the private sector over which the leadership and management of the school would have no direct control? What will happen to the current school staff who provide Nursery education if this preferred option is adopted?*

The Cabinet Member thanked County Councillor Groucutt for the question. He recognised that we advocate a mixed economy of early years education provision in Monmouthshire which provides a combination of local authority-maintained nursery classes and non-maintained settings. It was decided that in this development of the band B school project, to test the option of providing early education in a non-maintained setting rather than a school nursery class through the consultation process. The consultation process end on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021, so no final decision has been made. The Cabinet Member provided assurance that when the final decision is made all responses received during consultation will be taken into account. With regards to the last part of the question no decisions have been taken. However, the Authority has a job protection scheme and any decision that affects staff will ensure there is full engagement with staff, HR and unions.

As a supplementary County Councillor Groucutt asked if the Cabinet Member is aware of the opposition to the loss of maintained nursery provision at the new school among the local community.

The Cabinet Member stated that consultation sessions, particularly with Deri View parents and staff, have advocated strongly to maintain the nursery provision as part of the school. This will be reflected in the report to Cabinet for final decision

#### **18. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were confirmed as accurate.

**The meeting ended at 7.05 pm**

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