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County Hall
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Tuesday, 2 November 2021

Dear Councillor

INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

Notice is hereby given that the following decisions made by a member of the cabinet will be made on Wednesday, 10 November 2021.

1. **AWPOG CAPITAL FUNDING FOR PSA PRIORITIES 2021/22** 1 - 12

Division/Wards Affected: All Wards

CABINET MEMBER: County Councillor L Dymock

AUTHOR & CONTACT DETAILS:

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Yours sincerely,

Paul Matthews
Chief Executive

CABINET PORTFOLIOS

County Councillor	Area of Responsibility	Ward
Richard John	<p>Leader Lead Officer – Paul Matthews, Matthew Gatehouse</p> <p>Whole Authority Strategy and Direction Whole authority performance review and evaluation CCR Joint Cabinet & Regional development Regional working Government relations LGA, WLGA and Public Service Board lead</p>	Mitchel Troy
Sara Jones	<p>Cabinet Member for Economy, Deputy Leader Lead Officer – Frances O’Brien</p> <p>Economic resilience and growth Place-making and Regeneration Town Centre investment and stewardship Development Management and Building Control Public relations / communications / marketing Skills and Employment Community broadband connectivity</p>	Llanover
Robert Greenland	<p>Cabinet Member for Governance & Strategic Planning, Deputy Leader Lead Officers – Frances O’Brien, Matthew Phillips, Matthew Gatehouse</p> <p>Local Development Plan and Strategic Development Plan Council and Executive decision-making Constitution review and implementation of change Law, ethics and standards Democracy promotion and citizen engagement Community Hubs and Contact Centre Whole authority customer service and experience</p>	Devauden
Philip Murphy	<p>Cabinet Member for Resources Lead Officers – Peter Davies, Frances O’Brien, Matthew Phillips, Julie Boothroyd</p> <p>Finance Digital and Information technology (including SRS) Human Resources, Payroll, Health and Safety Emergency Planning Strategic Procurement Land and Buildings (including - Estate, Cemeteries, Allotments, Farms) Fleet Management</p>	Caerwent

	<p>School and Community Transport (including commissioning and delivery) Property Maintenance Facilities Management (including Building Cleaning and Catering)</p>	
Paul Pavia	<p>Cabinet Member for Education Lead Officers – Will McLean, Ian Saunders</p> <p>Early Years education All age statutory education Additional learning needs / Inclusion Post 16 entitlement / offer School Standards & Improvement (incl Education Achievement Service commissioning) Community learning 21st Century Schools Programme Youth service / Outdoor Education Service / Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme</p>	Larkfield
Lisa Dymock	<p>Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing and Social Justice Lead Officers – Frances O’Brien, Ian Saunders, Julie Boothroyd, Matt Gatehouse</p> <p>Community inequality (health, income, nutrition, disadvantage, discrimination, isolation) Advancement of the Welsh language Housing Strategy, delivery / Homelessness prevention Trading standards / Environmental Health / Animal Welfare / Public Health / Licensing Community safety (including Police liaison) Registrars Service Physical activity (including Leisure centres, Sport, Active travel, Play) Countryside, biodiversity, public rights of way Tourist Information / Museums / Theatre / Attractions</p>	The Elms
Penny Jones	<p>Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health Lead Officer – Julie Boothroyd</p> <p>Children’s services Fostering & adoption Youth Offending Service Adult Services Whole authority safeguarding (children and adults) Disabilities Mental Health</p>	Raglan

Jane Pratt	<p>Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Neighbourhood Services – Jane Pratt Lead Officer – Frances O’Brien, Matthew Gatehouse</p> <p>Whole authority climate change / decarbonisation lead Strategic Integrated Transport (including transport planning) Traffic network management (including road safety, car parking & civil enforcement) Public Transport Highways – County Operations / South Wales Trunk Road Authority (SWTRA) Waste collection / Recycling / Street Cleansing / Street Lighting Grounds Maintenance, parks, open spaces and public conveniences Flood alleviation, management and recovery</p>	Llanelly Hill
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Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Our purpose

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Objectives we are working towards

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

Our Values

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

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

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

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



SUBJECT: AWPOG Capital Funding for PSA Priorities 2021/22

MEETING: Individual Cabinet Member Decision

DATE: 10 November 2021

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All Wards

1. PURPOSE:

To create a capital budget in 2021/22 to facilitate the upgrading of a number of fixed playgrounds in different parts of the county.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That a capital budget of £128,000 be created in 2021/22 to fund the upgrading of fixed play areas in the county and on other priorities already approved in the 2021/22 Play Action Plan, and that this is funded by an All Wales Play Opportunities Grant (AWPOG) of £128,000 from the Welsh Government, as set out in its grant variation letter dated 4th October 2021.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The Welsh Government has allocated additional capital and revenue funding by way of a variation to the AWPOG (All Wales Play Opportunities Grant) budget in the current financial year.
- 3.2 The council has already received £24,757 Holiday Playworks funding which, together with grants received from a number of town and community councils in the county, has enabled us to run play in the park sessions in the October and February half term holidays and the provision of autumn activity packs for all Year 4 pupils in all Monmouthshire primary schools.
- 3.3 In addition to the above provisions, the council has been allocated extra capital funding of £128,000 and revenue funding of £180,000. The revenue funding is described as the “Winter of Well-Being” fund and officers with a responsibility for play are in consultation with colleagues from across the authority to decide how this funding should be spent to best effect to build on activities similar to the Summer of Fun, taking into account the limitations of the colder weather. The final date for submission of the completed proposals form is 30th November.
- 3.4 The focus of this report is the additional capital funding of £128,000. The proposal is to spend £100,000 on continuing the programme of upgrading the council’s fixed playgrounds to a better standard of play value and the remaining £28,000 on other priorities contained in the approved Play Action Plan for 2021/22.

- 3.5 In 2019, as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) duty, an independent play consultant carried out play value assessments of 110 council play areas in the county, plus some play areas in town & community council ownership, such as the ones in Caldicot, Llanfoist and Govilon. Although the play areas are safe and regularly inspected, the assessments revealed that only three play areas in the county offered a good standard of play value, twelve offered an adequate standard of play value and the rest ranked as poor.
- 3.6 Since that time, investments in the play areas at The Bayfield and The Danes in Chepstow and at Chippenham village green in Monmouth have uplifted those areas to a good standard and further investments later this year at King's Fee, Goldwire Lane and Hendre Close in Monmouth should result in those areas being ranked as having a good standard of play value when the sites are re-assessed during the lifespan of the new PSA which will last for the period 2022-2025. This should also be the case for the new play areas provided at the Kingswood Gate development in Monmouth.
- 3.7 It is proposed to spend the £100,000 capital funding referred to in para 3.4 at the following sites – these sites have all been the subject of recent local consultation in the areas concerned:

No	Site	Amount	Comment
1	Belgrave Park Abergavenny	30,000	Failing site with further deterioration
2	Cadoc Close Caerwent	8,000	Re-provision as community nature space
3	Clydach Recreation Ground	34,000	Failing site – funding already in place for play areas at Gilwern Playing Field and Llanelly Hill
4	Dingestow Playing Field	10,000	Part of ongoing incremental improvements with local village hall committee
5	Garden City, Chepstow	10,000	Part of ongoing incremental improvements with local volunteer group
6	Trewen, Caerwent	8,000	Failing site
	Total	£100,000	

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

The EQIA is attached to this report at Appendix 1. This highlights the positive impacts of play on children/young people, families and communities.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Option	Benefits	Risks
Don't approve the report recommendation	None	The project is unlikely to go ahead within the specified spend and grant claim periods. The funding will be lost and will need to be returned with no benefits to the Monmouthshire community.
Approve the report recommendation	The funding will be available to spend within the specified timescale The equipment orders can be placed and the sites will benefit as part of an overall programme of improvement.	The works cannot be carried out in the lifespan of the grant. The scheme has been tendered and the orders placed but the installations cannot take place due to delays in the supply chain.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Progress will be monitored in February 2022 to ensure that the works are on target and the grant claimed by the end of the financial year.

7. REASON

This is a continuation of the council's planned investment to achieve significant community benefits, but there needs to be an approved budget in place to enable the necessary orders to be processed.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional resource implications, other than the staff time to process the orders and carry out the installations. All expenditure will be covered from external grant aid.

9. CONSULTEES

Chief Operating Officer MonLife Cabinet SLT

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Welsh Govt AWPOG grant variation letter dated 4th October 2021.

11. AUTHOR & CONTACT DETAILS:

Mike Moran, Community Infrastructure Coordinator

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Tel: 07894 573834

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<p>Name of the Officer Mike Moran Phone no: 07894 573834 E-mail: mikemoran@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>Play Sufficiency Action Plan Priorities – Additional Funding</p> <p>To upload additional Welsh Government grant money in the 2021/22 capital budget to spend on already approved priorities in the council’s Play Action Plan for 2021/22</p>
<p>Name of Service area: MonLife</p>	<p>Date 29 October 2021</p>

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

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Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	The target ages for play opportunities are children to 18, but principally to children in the 0-12 age range and for staffed play provision aged 5 to 12.	None	Close integration between the play, sports development, youth and community agendas
Disability	The action plan addresses inclusivity and meeting specific needs including open access play which provides inclusive play opportunities and the range of accessible fixed play equipment available.	None	Actions identified to sustain and enhance inclusivity
Gender reassignment	None	None	None

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?
Marriage or civil partnership	None	None	None
Pregnancy or maternity	None	None	None
Race	None	None	None
Religion or Belief	None	None	None
Sex	None	None	None
Sexual Orientation	None	None	None

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6. 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?
Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice	Play is important in children’s lives, for both its recreational value and for the important part that it plays in children’s physical and emotional health and well-being and in their personal development. Play is a common denominator that should be capable of being enjoyed by all children irrespective of their social or cultural background or the ability of their parents to pay for the opportunity to participate.	None	Accessible play opportunities contribute to children’s lives and to the well-being of their families and communities, and helps address inequalities by contributing to developing child friendly communities, including prioritising investment in more income-deprived LSOAs.

3. Policy making and the Welsh language.

How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:	Describe the positive impacts of this proposal	Describe the negative impacts of this proposal	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts
<p>Policy Making</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>We delivered bilingual playschemes in Abergavenny and Caldicot in 2019, which were well attended but the use of the Welsh language was minimal on the part of the children attending, despite the fact that we employed fluent Welsh speaking staff.</p>		<p>Will continue to explore the demand for Welsh language provision.</p> <p>Will also continue to promote bilingual signage on fixed play sites throughout the county.</p>
<p>Operational</p> <p>Recruitment & Training of workforce</p>			<p>Will seek when recruiting to increase the level of Welsh speaking staff</p>
<p>Service delivery</p> <p>Use of Welsh language in service delivery</p> <p>Promoting use of the language</p>	<p>All play publicity is produced bilingually and we will continue to do this</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!

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	Positive – Access to good quality play opportunities contributes to education, particularly in the younger age groups (foundation and primary phases)	The actions proposed to deliver the Play Action Plan are intended to support the delivery of good quality play opportunities
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	Positive – play opportunities extend across all open spaces and include those for environmentally focused play.	The actions proposed to deliver the Play Action Plan will help identify such opportunities and potential for partnership delivery
A healthier Wales People’s physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	Positive – Play is essential for the growth of children’s cognitive, physical, social and emotional development	The actions proposed to deliver the Play Action Plan are intended to support the delivery of good quality play opportunities
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	Positive – Play contributes not only to children’s lives but to the well-being of their families and communities.	The actions proposed are intended to support the delivery of good quality play opportunities and the delivery of the community open access play model.
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	Positive - Children’s right of play is enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Welsh Government has formally adopted.	
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	Positive – recreational activities form part of play opportunities.	
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	Play is established as one of children’s rights, internationally and by Welsh Government. Access to good quality play provision can be a way of reducing inequalities between children.	The Play Action Plan helps ensure a more integrated approach across the authority to provide for diverse needs and to seek to better understand demand, existing provision and opportunities

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>Long Term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p>Access to good quality play opportunities is a long term investment in children, families and communities. However short term pressures e.g. changes in the operating environment requiring changes in the delivery model require different approaches.</p>	<p>The delivery of the PSA actions are intended to provide a clearer and longer term focus and an attempt has been made to make these actions more strategic and integrated to support this.</p> <p>Progress against these long term ambitions will be reviewed as part of the review of the PSA during 21/22.</p>
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>Partnership working is central to the delivery of play opportunities.</p>	<p>The proposed actions include partnership delivery such as with Town and Community Councils</p>
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>Children's views are central to the assessment of the individual provision and through the Young People's Voices in Play toolkit to the identification of play needs.</p>	<p>A Young People's Voices in Play toolkit is under preparation to enable this approach to be more easily replicated</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>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>Actions are intended to support the longer term focus set out in the PSA/play action plan and contributing to the delivery of the well-being objective to give children and young people the best possible start in life.</p>	
 <p>Integration</p> <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>As securing play opportunities contributes positively to children, families and communities it is inherently impacting on people, economy and the environment.</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	Safeguarding requirements are a fundamental component of play provision.	N/A	Safeguarding procedures are reviewed through the SAFE process as new provision is planned and developed to ensure maintenance of existing standards. The safeguarding responsibilities of the Authority and partners for children and young people are fully integrated into the identification of appropriate actions and reflected in the play action plan.
Corporate Parenting	Looked after children have been supported to access the open access play provision and will benefit equally from improvements to fixed play provision in specific neighbourhoods.	N/A	Supporting looked after children to access the volunteering / employment opportunities through eh open access play scheme

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

- The Monmouthshire Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan 2019 and current review
- The Welsh Government / Play Wales Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit 2018
- Comprehensive play value assessment of all council fixed play sites 2019
- Play Wales reasearch project “Making it possible to secure play sufficiency”

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?

The positive impact that securing sufficient and accessible play opportunities can have on children, families and communities. The positive impact in providing for diverse needs. The challenges of better understanding demand, existing provision and opportunities including for disabled children. Developing mechanisms to engage with children and young people to enable a better identification of play needs.

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

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible
Seek approval to upload additional capital funding into the 2021/22 capital budget to enable improvements to be made in implementing priorities identified in the current Play Action Plan	ICMD 10 November 2021	Community Infrastructure Coordinator

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.

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Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1.	ICMD	10 November 2021	