

# Public Document Pack



Neuadd Y Sir  
Y Rhadyr  
Brynbuga  
NP15 1GA

Dydd Mawrth, 4 Hydref 2022

Annwyl Cynghorydd

## **PENDERFYNIADIAU AELOD CABINET UNIGOL**

Hysbysir drwy hyn y caiff y penderfyniadau dilynol a wnaed gan aelod o'r cabinet eu gwneud **Dydd Mercher, 12fed Hydref, 2022,**.

### **AGENDA**

1. DOD Â DIRWYON LLYFRGELL I BEN

Yr eiddwch yn gywir,

**Paul Matthews**  
**Prif Weithredwr**

**PORTFFOLIOS CABINET**

<b>Cynghorydd Sir</b>	<b>Meysydd o Gyfrifoldeb</b>	<b>Ward</b>
Mary Ann Brocklesby	<p><b>Arweinydd</b> Prif Swyddog – Paul Matthews, Matthew Gatehouse</p> <p>Stratgaeth a Chyfeiriad yr Awdurdod Cyfan Adolygiad a gwerthusiad o berfformiad yr Awdurdod Cyfan Cabinet Cyfun Prifddinas-Ranbarth Caerdydd Gweithio rhanbarthol Perthynas gyda'r Llywodraeth CLILIC, LGA a'r Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus</p>	Llanelly
Paul Griffiths	<p><b>Aelod Cabinet ar gyfer Economi Gynaliadwy a Dirprwy Arweinydd</b> Prif Swyddog – Frances O'Brien</p> <p>Dygnwch economaidd a chynaliadwyedd gan ffocysu ar yr economi sylfaenol Cynllun Datblygu Lleol a'r Cynllun Datblygu Strategol Buddsoddi mewn canol trefi a chymdogaethau a Datblygu Stiwardiaeth Rheoli Adeiladau Sgiliau a chyflogaeth gan gynnwys swyddi gwyrdd a phrentisiaethau Cysylltiadau band-eang Safonau masnach, lechyd amgylcheddol, lechyd cyhoeddus, Trwyddedu</p>	Castell Cas-gwent a Larkfield
Rachel Garrick	<p><b>Aelod Cabinet ar gyfer Adnoddau</b> Prif Swyddogion – Peter Davies, Frances O'Brien, Matthew Phillips, Jane Rodgers</p> <p><i>Cyllid</i> <i>Datblygu a chynnig y gyllideb i'r Cyngor</i> <i>Digidol a Thechnoleg Gwybodaeth</i> <i>Adnoddau Dynol, y Gyflogres ac lechyd a Diogelwch</i> <i>Caffael strategol – hyrwyddo lleoliaeth</i> <i>Tir ac Adeiladau</i> <i>Cynnal a chadw a rheoli eiddo</i> <i>Rheoli'r Fflyd</i> <i>Cynllunio Brys</i></p>	Castell Cil-y-coed

<p>Martyn Groucutt</p>	<p><b>Aelod Cabinet ar gyfer Addysg</b>  Prif Swyddogion – Will McLean, Ian Saunders</p> <p>Addysg Blynyddoedd Cynnar  Addysg statudol ar gyfer pob oedran  Anghenion dysgu ychwanegol/cynhwysiant  Addysg ôl-16 ac ar gyfer oedolion  Safonau a Gwella Ysgolion  Dysgu Cymunedol  Y Rhaglen Ysgolion ar gyfer y 21ain Ganrif  Gwasanaethau Ieuenctid</p>	<p>Lansdown</p>
<p>Sara Burch</p>	<p><b>Aelod Cabinet ar gyfer Cymunedau Cynhwysol a Byw</b>  Prif Swyddogion – Frances O'Brien, Ian Saunders, Jane Rodgers, Matthew Gatehouse</p> <p>Strategaeth Tai Fforddiadwy  Digartrefedd  Diogelwch yn y Gymuned  Teithio Llesol  Canolfannau Hamdden  Chwarae a Chwaraeon  Gwybodaeth ar gyfer Twristiaid, Amgueddfeydd, Theatrau ac Atyniadau</p>	<p>Cantref</p>
<p>Tudor Thomas</p>	<p><b>Aelod Cabinet ar gyfer Gofal Cymdeithasol, Diogelu a Gwasanaethau Iechyd Hygyrch</b>  Prif Swyddog – Jane Rodgers</p> <p>Gwasanaethau Plant  Maethu a Mabwysiadu  Gwasanaeth Troseddu Ieuenctid  Gwasanaethau Oedolion  Diogelu ar draws yr Awdurdod Cyfan (Plant ac Oedolion)  Anableddau  Iechyd meddwl a lles  Perthynas gyda darparwyr iechyd a mynediad at ddarpariaeth iechyd</p>	<p>Parc</p>
<p>Catrin Maby</p>	<p><b>Aelod Cabinet ar gyfer Newid Hinsawdd a'r Amgylchedd</b>  Prif Swyddogion – Frances O'Brien, Matthew Gatehouse</p> <p>Datgarboneiddio  Cynllunio Trafnidiaeth  Creu, bwyta a chaffael bwyd yn lleol gan gynnwys</p>	<p>Drybridge</p>

	<p>amaeth-goedwigaeth a garddwriaeth leol  Cynllunio ar gyfer y rhwydwaith traffig  Trafnidiaeth gyhoeddus  Priffyrdd gan gynnwys y cefnffyrdd  Palmentydd a lonydd cefn  Lliniaru, rheoli ac adferiad yn dilyn llifogydd,  ansawdd dŵr afonydd  Rheoli Gwastraff  Gofal Stryd, sbwriel a gofodau cyhoeddus  Cefn Gwlad, Bioamrywiaeth a hawliau tramwy  cyhoeddus gan gynnwys parciau a gofodau agored  Cyfleusterau cyhoeddus</p>	
Catherine Fookes	<p><b>Aelod Cabinet ar gyfer Cydraddoldeb ac Ymgysylltu</b></p> <p>Prif Swyddogion – Frances O’Brien, Matt Phillips,  Matthew Gatehouse</p> <p>Anghydraddoldeb cymunedol (iechyd, incwm,  maetheg, anfantais, gwahaniaethu, arwahanrwydd)  Budd-daliadau  Yr iaith Gymraeg  Hyrwyddo democratiaeth ac ymgysylltu dinasyddion  Hybiau cymunedol a’r ganolfan gyswllt  Gwasanaethau cwsmeriaid a phrofiad dinasyddion  Cyfathrebu, cysylltiadau cyhoeddus, marchnata  Gweithio gyda mudiadau gwirfoddol  Cofrestryddion  Gwasanaethau Etholiadol  Adolygu’r Cyfansoddiad  Moeseg a safonau</p>	Tref

# Nodau a Gwerthoedd Cyngor Sir Fynwy

## Ein diben

Adeiladu Cymunedau Cynaliadwy a Chydnerth

### Amcanion y gweithiwn tuag atynt

- Rhoi'r dechrau gorau posibl mewn bywyd i bobl
- Sir lewyrchus a chysylltiedig
- Cynyddu i'r eithaf botensial yr amgylchedd naturiol ac adeiledig
- Llesiant gydol oes
- Cyngor gyda ffocws ar y dyfodol

## Ein Gwerthoedd

**Bod yn agored.** Rydym yn agored ac yn onest. Mae pobl yn cael cyfle i gymryd rhan mewn penderfyniadau sy'n effeithio arnynt, dweud beth sy'n bwysig iddynt a gwneud pethau drostynt eu hunain/eu cymunedau. Os na allwn wneud rhywbeth i helpu, byddwn yn dweud hynny; os bydd yn cymryd peth amser i gael yr ateb, byddwn yn esbonio pam; os na allwn ateb yn syth, byddwn yn ceisio eich cysylltu gyda'r bobl a all helpu - mae adeiladu ymddiriedaeth ac ymgysylltu yn sylfaen allweddol.

**Tegwch.** Darparwn gyfleoedd teg, i helpu pobl a chymunedau i ffynnu. Os nad yw rhywbeth yn ymddangos yn deg, byddwn yn gwranddo ac yn esbonio pam. Byddwn bob amser yn ceisio trin pawb yn deg ac yn gyson. Ni allwn wneud pawb yn hapus bob amser, ond byddwn yn ymrwymo i wrando ac esbonio pam y gwnaethom weithredu fel y gwnaethom.

**Hyblygrwydd.** Byddwn yn parhau i newid a bod yn hyblyg i alluogi cyflwyno'r gwasanaethau mwyaf effeithlon ac effeithiol. Mae hyn yn golygu ymrwymiad gwirioneddol i weithio gyda phawb i groesawu ffyrdd newydd o weithio.

**Gwaith Tîm.** Byddwn yn gweithio gyda chi a'n partneriaid i gefnogi ac ysbrydoli pawb i gymryd rhan fel y gallwn gyflawni pethau gwych gyda'n gilydd. Nid ydym yn gweld ein hunain fel 'trefnwyr' neu ddatrys-wyr problemau, ond gwnawn y gorau o syniadau, asedau ac adnoddau sydd ar gael i wneud yn siŵr ein bod yn gwneud y pethau sy'n cael yr effaith mwyaf cadarnhaol ar ein pobl a lleoedd.

**Caredigrwydd** – Byddwn yn dangos caredigrwydd i bawb yr ydym yn gweithio gyda nhw, gan roi pwysigrwydd perthnasoedd a'r cysylltiadau sydd gennym â'n gilydd wrth wraidd pob rhyngweithio.

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**SUBJECT: ENDING LIBRARY FINES**

**MEETING: Individual Cabinet Member Decision – Cllr Catherine Fookes**

**DATE: 12 October 2022**

**DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All**

**1. PURPOSE:**

- 1.1 To remove social and economic barriers to the use of public libraries through the removal of fines for overdue books.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That the practice of charging of library fines for overdue books is ended with immediate effect to ensure that money does not present a barrier to people being able to access this important service.

**3. KEY POINTS:**

- 3.1 Libraries provide everyone with the opportunity to access information, resources, activities and cultural opportunities. They are places of learning and enjoyment, enabling people to come together and encouraging them to be active, healthy and engaged. Like many of our most treasured public services they are free at the point of use.
- 3.2 Historically, library fines were applied to encourage the timely return of books with the money raised used to cover the costs of sending printed overdue reminders to customers.. Email and text alerts have replaced printed notices and customers are given the option to renew online, by telephone or in person at one of the libraries which reduces transaction costs.
- 3.3 There is a growing movement in the UK and globally to remove the use of fines. Research has highlighted that these can result in the loss of members and non-return of books where fines have built to a level where they impact some of the most vulnerable and economically disadvantaged citizens. At a time when so many are struggling with finances we need to remove the risk that this could be seen as a barrier to people accessing this valuable public service.
- 3.4 Fines have not yet been re-introduced following suspension in March 2020 during the pandemic. In addition to this any unpaid fines were removed from customer accounts and several “book amnesty” events have been promoted in hubs, this has resulted in the return of many books that were previously out of circulation. In doing this we have sent a strong message to our customers that their presence by far offers more value than the principle of fines and fines therefore are counter-productive. In turn this results in increased stock circulation and customer retention.

- 3.5 Evidence suggests that fines are a barrier to members returning items and often people who are financially vulnerable will be discouraged from visiting libraries. In Monmouthshire, where the service is part of community hubs, the gateway to help and advice, we must do all we can to remove barriers to accessing services. .

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

- 4.1 Library fines directly impact equality, since fines are more likely to fall upon citizens who are less digitally connected and therefore unable to pick up overdue SMS and email alerts. Those with ease of access to own technology will be likely to obtain frequent reminders and updates and so will in turn find it easier to renew issues and avoid fines.
- 4.2 Fines are also a significant barrier to library use for our citizens who are financially vulnerable with loss of opportunities to learning, literacy, well-being and social engagement.

#### **5 OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

- 5.1 The two clear options are either to continue with fines or not. The only inclusive and fair option is to stop fines. This option has no negative financial impact for the council and benefits our whole communities.

#### **6 EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

- 6.1 Evaluation is not required.

#### **7 REASONS:**

To ensure that Monmouthshire Libraries are inclusive learning and well-being spaces for all.

#### **8 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

In the three years leading up to the Covid19 closure the income accrued from library fines in total amounted to £21,408,96. These were largely paid in cash and the administrative and security costs associated with banking and collection marginally exceeded the income.

It is therefore not financially viable to take fines as the cost to service outweighs the income accrued. In addition, the budget set by Council for 2022-23 reduced the pressure on community hubs to generate income meaning that the pressure to generate revenue from fines has been removed.

#### **9 CONSULTEES:**

Cabinet  
Strategic Leadership Team



**10 BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

None

**11 AUTHOR:**

Cheryl Haskell, Strategic Head of Service Monmouthshire Libraries

**12 CONTACT DETAILS:**

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# Integrated Impact Assessment document

(incorporating Equalities, Future Generations, Welsh Language and Socio Economic Duty)

<p><b>Name of the Officer: Cheryl Haskell</b></p> <p><b>Phone no: 077454 313890</b></p> <p><b>E-mail:</b></p>	<p><b>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal:</b></p> <p>To remove social and economic barriers to use of public libraries through the removal of fines for overdue books</p>
<p><b>Name of Service area: Monmouthshire Community Hubs &amp; Library Service</b></p>	<p><b>Date: 12/10/2022</b></p>

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

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	With regards to notification of overdue books and fines are via text and email. It is likely that if fewer older people have less access to digital technology they may be disadvantaged in comparison to younger people in receiving notice of overdue books and fines. Children are unaffected.	We presently don't have data that would enable us to measure the impact of this.	Proposal to remove fines for overdue books will remove the risk of non notification and fines.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Disability	Fines may negatively impact people with disability where fear may lead to them not coming into the service for advice and support with council enquiries that assist their wellbeing. This is in addition to free access to computers that allow access to benefits, work and learning opportunities.	We presently don't have data that would enable us to measure the impact of this.	Proposal to remove fines for overdue books will remove the risk of non notification and fines.
Gender reassignment	At this stage no positive or negative impact has been identified on this group	We presently don't have data that would enable us to measure the impact of this.	At this stage no positive or negative impact has been identified on this group.
Marriage or civil partnership	At this stage no positive or negative impact has been identified on this group	We presently don't have data that would enable us to measure the impact of this.	At this stage no positive or negative impact has been identified on this group.
Pregnancy or maternity	Libraries provide a space for women who are pregnant and young parents to meet, socialize and connect with other parents and children. Library fines could prevent pregnant mums to be and young parents from using the services where fines prove to be prohibitive.	We presently don't have data that would enable us to measure the impact of this.	Proposal to remove fines for overdue books will remove the risk of non notification and fines.
Race	.Fines may impact race where notifications for overdue books are not provided in a chosen language as this could inhibit reading and understanding.	We presently don't have data that would enable us to measure the impact of this.	Proposal to remove fines for overdue books will remove the risk of non notification and fines.

<b>Protected Characteristics</b>	<b>Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic</b>	<b>Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic</b>	<b>What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?</b>
Religion or Belief	At this stage no positive or negative impact has been identified on this group	We presently don't have data that would enable us to measure the impact of this.	At this stage no positive or negative impact has been identified on this group.
Sex	At this stage no positive or negative impact has been identified on this group	We presently don't have data that would enable us to measure the impact of this.	At this stage no positive or negative impact has been identified on this group.
Sexual Orientation	At this stage no positive or negative impact has been identified on this group	We presently don't have data that would enable us to measure the impact of this.	At this stage no positive or negative impact has been identified on this group.

### **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.

	<b>Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage</b>	<b>Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.</b>	<b>What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?</b>

<p><b>Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice</b></p>	<p>Proposal to remove fines will improve outcomes financially for people who are otherwise disadvantaged socially and economically as it negates the impact of them having to pay for overdue books. In turn people in this group are more likely to require support to access services that support their well-being and therefore if they do not feel threatened by library debt would not be afraid to return for support.</p>	<p>We do not presently hold data that would demonstrate positive or negative impact in this group.</p>	<p>Proposal report to remove fines</p>
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### 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><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>As this proposal reaches out to all of our communities, it is hoped that it will encourage Welsh speakers to return where they had otherwise allowed membership to lapse as a result of fines. Of late there has been a conscious effort to increase and improve Welsh language reading materials in our hubs and this it is hoped will also prove to be positively welcomed by Welsh speakers.</p>	<p>We do not presently hold data that would demonstrate positive or negative impact in this group.</p>	<p>Increase in purchase of Welsh language reading resources across all age groups.</p>
<p><b>Operational</b></p> <p>Recruitment &amp; Training of workforce</p>	<p>We always endeavour to recruit a proportion of Welsh speakers to our teams and to date have Welsh speakers or learners in all hubs. This is done with a view to being able to provide equal access for Welsh and English speakers, readers and learners.</p>	<p>We do not presently hold data that would demonstrate positive or negative impact in this group.</p>	<p>All vacant posts welcome applications from Welsh speakers.</p>
<p><b>Service delivery</b></p> <p>Use of Welsh language in service delivery</p> <p>Promoting use of the language</p>	<p>We always endeavour to recruit a proportion of Welsh speakers to our teams and to date have Welsh speakers or learners in all hubs. This is done with a view to being able to provide equal access for Welsh and English speakers, readers and learners.</p>	<p>We do not presently hold data that would demonstrate positive or negative impact in this group.</p>	<p>All vacant posts welcome applications from Welsh speakers.</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>Individuals often seek support through libraries to help with access to education and employment through use of books to study and free computers. The removal of fines will remove barriers where people are fearful of returning after accruing large fines.</p>	<p>Proposal to remove fines for overdue books will remove the risk of people not returning.</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>We do not presently hold data that would demonstrate positive or negative impact in this group.</p>	<p>We do not presently hold data that would demonstrate positive or negative impact in this group.</p>
<p><b>A healthier Wales</b> People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>Individuals often seek support through libraries to improve wellbeing through befriending, group activities, use of books to study and free computers. Our community hub approach goes beyond this by supporting access to a whole range of services such as benefits, housing, Foodbanks and work with partner agencies to provide holistic support. In addition Community Learning classes aim to enhance skills and knowledge that support access to work and education. Our spaces are much more than simply libraries. The removal of fines will remove barriers where people are fearful of returning after accruing large fines.</p>	<p>Proposal to remove fines for overdue books will remove the risk of people not returning.</p>
<p><b>A Wales of cohesive communities</b> Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>Libraries provide a common vision and a sense of belonging for all communities. Library fines go against this principle and so this impacts the</p>	<p>Proposal to remove fines for overdue books will remove the risk of people not returning.</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?
	diversity of people's different backgrounds and circumstances and how this is appreciated and positively valued. Fine free libraries aim to provide inclusive and safe spaces those from different backgrounds with a view to supporting opportunities and positive outcomes in our communities. They are places where strong and positive relationships are developed between people from different backgrounds and communities. Removing fines can only positively benefit this outcome.	
<p><b>A globally responsible Wales</b> Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing</p>	Individuals often seek support through libraries to help with access to education and employment through use of books to study and free computers. In turn this improves chances for access to education and employment and this supports the local economy. Strong local economies have a wider national and sometimes global advantage. Therefore fine free libraries can only have a positive impact in visitor numbers and memberships that support wider agendas. Fine free will remove barriers where people are fearful of returning after accruing large fines.	Proposal to remove fines for overdue books will remove the risk of people not returning.
<p><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</p>	Our ibraries provide spaces and resources that aim to spark curiosity, imagination and fun. Libraries enable people to develop new creative skills that support users to flourish and enriches the lives of children and adults by providing arts and cultural experiences in local settings.	Proposal to remove fines for overdue books will provide wholly inclusive spaces for all.

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?
	The offer celebrates diversity, promotes inclusivity, values identity and contributes to an active local cultural economy.	
<p><b>A more equal Wales</b> People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances</p>	<p>Libraries are one of the only public spaces we can spend time in without being expected to spend any money at all. They incur no monthly membership fees and they do not charge for entry or length of time members spend in them. The only negative impact on this to now has been the policy of library fines for overdue books. This as already stated mainly impacts those on lower incomes and who are experiencing additional health issues. Our aim is to provide spaces that welcome all, regardless of characteristics. Libraries, unlike profit-seeking companies, are designed to serve whole communities. They are multifunctional spaces which offer not only a wealth of intellectual resources, but also practical services like low-cost printing, free WiFi, and computer use. They are also centres for community-building (something which is needed today more than ever), hosting activities and workshops ranging from summer reading schemes to educational courses for job-seekers.</p>	<p>Proposal to remove fines for overdue books will provide wholly inclusive spaces for all.</p>

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>It is anticipated that the removal of fines will encourage people to return who previously had moved away from the service through fear of financial penalties being accrued. This goes toward the principle of maintaining lifelong members who are able once again to feel at ease with accessing the range of services on offer.</p>	<p>No negative impact arising in this area.</p>
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>Community Hubs have always worked alongside a range of partner agencies to provide holistic support that aims to maintain or improve wellbeing outcomes in our communities, and libraries sit at the heart of this. Or ability to link people to supportive services is likely to reduce the need for access to complex care and support. In addition Monmouthshire libraries hold strong links with all libraries across Wales to achieve common national as well as local goals.</p>	<p>Removing fines should remove access and barriers to other services provided.</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 data-bbox="349 328 517 512">Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p> <p data-bbox="141 549 297 576">Involvement</p>	<p data-bbox="544 264 1328 639">There is a growing movement across Wales and wider that supports the principle of removing fines to increase confidence and visitor numbers in libraries, the reasons for this are already outlined in this report. Whilst there continues to be scope for growth in this area, Monmouthshire would be amongst those libraries leading the way in this area. This has reputational advantage but most of all is beneficial to the needs of our communities, where it is clear that libraries have never before played a more important role than they do at this time.</p>	<p data-bbox="1350 256 2051 320">Removing fines should remove access and barriers to other services provided.</p>
 <p data-bbox="349 655 506 951">Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p> <p data-bbox="152 895 293 922">Prevention</p>	<p data-bbox="544 655 1328 871">Research in this area suggests that where the risk of fines is eliminated there is a greater chance that people are more likely to return and also return books. This approach therefore would result in the return of books that have previously disappeared from circulation through the fear of returning to the library.</p>	<p data-bbox="1350 655 2051 719">Removing fines should remove access and barriers to other services provided.</p>
 <p data-bbox="349 991 517 1254">Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p> <p data-bbox="159 1238 300 1265">Integration</p>	<p data-bbox="544 991 1283 1094">As illustrated in the previous points listed above, this proposal can only positively impact most, if not all, of the well being goals.</p>	<p data-bbox="1350 991 2051 1054">Removing fines should remove access and barriers to other services provided.</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?**

	<b>Describe any positive impacts your proposal has</b>	<b>Describe any negative impacts your proposal has</b>	<b>What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?</b>
Safeguarding	Our libraries become trusted and familiar places for people who use them in our communities. All of our colleagues have safeguarding training and follow local and national safeguarding protocols. They may be considered to be the eyes and ears within our services, and they identify situations where they feel someone may be at risk or require further support. Therefore libraries and hubs are at the heart of ensuring safe communities. Fine free libraries can only underpin the importance of this whereby it is hoped people will return without fear of financial threats.	.No negative impacts identified in this area	NA
Corporate Parenting	This proposal does not impact children and young people.	NA	NA

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

[Library fine survey: results and summary report revealed | Libraries Connected](#)  
[Libraries: Powys becomes latest council in Wales to drop fines - BBC News](#)  
[Fine free libraries | Fine Free Libraries](#)

Throughout the pandemic and into Covid recovery there has been extensive research into the benefits of fine free libraries, and this continues to be a growing movement, Wales is no exception to this trend. It is widely considered that fines act as an inhibitor to library membership, and that the principle of fines affect those who are on the lowest incomes and also people who have health difficulties. As we move towards what appears to be a very difficult few years for our citizens who are most economically and socially disadvantaged by the cost of living crisis, we are clear that libraries and hubs have never played a more important role than they do at this time. We remain committed that our libraries and hubs should be safe spaces that are accessible to all members of our communities, and we should remove all possible barriers, fines are at the forefront of this.

We recognize there will be a need to market and promote the changes to ensure that these changes, if agreed, reach out to all members of the community. To that end we will work alongside partner agencies in asking them to help us communicate this to those people who may not have access to information through social media and technological channels. This could include organisations such as CAB, local places of worship, Foodbanks, housing and mental health organisations, whilst recognizing this is not exclusive and other organisations may also be approached.

**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?**

This proposal seeks to request that we immediately remove social and economic barriers to the use of public libraries through the removal of fines for overdue books.

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**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
<b>Reach out to partner agencies to help us market and promote this proposal.</b>	<b>Immediately upon approval</b>	<b>Cheryl Haskell</b>

**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>
	<i>e.g. budget mandate, DMT, SLT, Scrutiny, Cabinetetc</i>		

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