

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held at Council Chamber - Council Chamber on Thursday, 7th December, 2023 at 2.00 pm

PRESENT: County Councillor Meirion Howells (Chairman)
County Councillor Su McConnel (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: Rachel Buckler, Laura Wright, Tony Kear, Catrin Maby, Jan Butler, Ian Chandler, Sara Burch, Alistair Neill, Mary Ann Brocklesby, Fay Bromfield, Jane Lucas, Emma Bryn, Peter Strong, Paul Griffiths, Jackie Strong, Rachel Garrick, Steven Garratt, Angela Sandles, Ben Callard, John Crook, Tomos Davies, Dale Rooke, Catherine Fookes, Sue Riley, Jayne McKenna, Jill Bond, Louise Brown, Lisa Dymock, Tony Easson, Christopher Edwards, Martyn Groucutt, Simon Howarth, Richard John, David Jones, Penny Jones, Malcolm Lane, Phil Murphy, Paul Pavia, Maureen Powell, Frances Taylor, Tudor Thomas, Armand Watts and Ann Webb

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Paul Matthews	Chief Executive
Jane Rodgers	Chief Officer for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health
Will McLean	Chief Officer for Children and Young People
Amy Gullick	Local Democracy Officer
Frances O'Brien	Chief Officer, Communities and Place
Matthew Gatehouse	Chief Officer People, Performance and Partnerships.
Ian Saunders	Chief Officer Customer, Culture and Wellbeing.
James Williams	Chief Officer Law & Governance
Diane Corrister	Head of Children's Services
Morwenna Wagstaff	Head of Service , Inclusion

1. Apologies for Absence

County Councillor Maria Stevens.

2. Declarations of Interest

County Councillor Paul Pavia declared a personal non prejudicial interest in relation to agenda items 6 and 8, as an Associate Consultant of Practice Solutions. He is not involved with the project team or the project.

3. Chair's Announcement

The Chair's announcement was noted.

4. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 26th October 2023

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 26th October 2023 were confirmed as an accurate record.

5. RELOCATION OF PUPIL REFERRAL SERVICE SOUTH MONMOUTHSHIRE

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The Cabinet Member for Education presented the report to Council to seek the approval and capital investment to relocate the Pupil Referral Service (PRS) from its current location in the South of the county at Hanbury House in Chepstow to the staff houses on the former Mounton House School Site in Pwllmeyric.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/Npj6L7wldiA?feature=shared&t=218>

Upon being put to a recorded vote, Council resolved to accept the recommendations:

- That Council agree to the capital investment of £1.2m to improve and remodel the accommodation to facilitate this relocation.
- That the investment is funded via a budget virement of £500k from the Schools refurbishment grant capital scheme to partially meet the costs of this proposal.
- That to the extent that the remaining £700k cannot be met from other identified Education capital grant funding, a maximum of £700k will be funded via prudential borrowing over a 30-year period that will be met from the PRS budget.

Votes For: 23

Votes Against: 21

Abstentions: 0

Recorded Vote: Relocation of Pupil Referral Service South Monmouthshire

NAME	For	Against	Abstain
Councillor J BOND	X		
Councillor M A BROCKLESBY	X		
Councillor F BROMFIELD		X	
Councillor L BROWN		X	
Councillor E BRYN		X	
Councillor R BUCKLER		X	
Councillor S BURCH	X		
Councillor J BUTLER		X	
Councillor B CALLARD	X		
Councillor I CHANDLER	X		
Councillor J CROOK	X		
Councillor T DAVIES		X	
Councillor L DYMOCK		X	
Councillor A EASSON	X		
Councillor C EDWARDS		X	
Councillor C FOOKES	X		
Councillor S GARRATT	X		
Councillor R GARRICK	X		
Councillor P GRIFFITHS	X		
Councillor M GROUCUTT	X		
Councillor S.G.M. HOWARTH		X	
Councillor M HOWELLS	X		

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Councillor R JOHN		X	
Councillor D. W. H. JONES		X	
Councillor P. JONES		X	
Councillor T KEAR		X	
Councillor M LANE		X	
Councillor J LUCAS		X	
Councillor C MABY	X		
Councillor S MCCONNEL	X		
Councillor J MCKENNA		X	
Councillor P MURPHY		X	
Councillor A NEILL	-	-	-
Councillor P PAVIA		X	
Councillor M POWELL		X	
Councillor S RILEY	X		
Councillor D ROOKE	X		
Councillor A SANDLES	X		
Councillor M STEVENS	-	-	-
Councillor J STRONG	X		
Councillor P STRONG	X		
Councillor F TAYLOR		X	
Councillor T THOMAS	X		
Councillor A WATTS	X		
Councillor A WEBB		X	
Councillor L WRIGHT	X		
TOTAL	23	21	0

6. ANNUAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2022 / 2023, SOCIAL CARE, SAFEGUARDING AND HEALTH

The Chief Officer for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health presented the Annual Directors Report for 2022/23. Members noted that preparing and publishing an annual report of the Statutory Director of Social Services is a requirement under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act (2014). The report is required to show how social care in Monmouthshire meets the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act and the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/Npj6L7wldiA?feature=shared&t=2572>

Council resolved to accept the recommendations:

- **For Council to receive and endorse the Annual Report 2022/23.**
- **That Council tasks the Chief Officer of Social Care, Safeguarding and Health to maintain focus on the priority actions as set out in the concluding section of the report.**

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County Councillor Alistair Neill joined the meeting at 13:05pm.

7. SAFEGUARDING EVALUATION REPORT

The Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Accessible Health Services presented the Safeguarding Evaluation Report. Members received the report which evaluated the progress of Monmouthshire County Council's key safeguarding priorities during 2022 / 2023, highlighting progress, identifying risks and setting out actions and priorities for 2023 - 2024.

Members were informed about the effectiveness of safeguarding in Monmouthshire and the work that is in progress to support the Council's aims in protecting children and adults at risk from harm and abuse. Additionally, Members were informed about the progress made towards meeting the standards in the Council's Corporate Safeguarding Policy approved by Council in July 2017, amended July 2022.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/Npj6L7wldiA?feature=shared&t=6776>

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

- **For members to scrutinise the Annual Safeguarding Evaluation Report and Activity prior to its presentation at Council in November 2023.**

County Councillor Jayne McKenna left the meeting at 15:58pm and rejoined at 16:28pm.

8. OUTCOME of CALL-IN OF DEVELOPING THE FUTURE OF MY DAY MY LIFE BASES

The Chair of the Place Scrutiny Committee presented a report of the Committee on the Call-In of Developing the Future of the My Day My Life Bases.

Full Council were provided with the opportunity to consider the decision taken by Cabinet on 15th November concerning 'Developing the Future of the My Day My Life Bases'. This follows the call-in of the decision and the subsequent recommendation of the People Scrutiny Committee to refer the matter to full Council.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/Npj6L7wldiA?feature=shared&t=9569>

Upon being put to a recorded vote, Council resolved to accept the Cabinet decision:

Votes to accept the Cabinet decision: 23

Votes to refer the decision to Cabinet for reconsideration (with reasons): 22

Recorded Vote: Report of the Place Scrutiny Committee: Call-In of 'Developing the Future of the My Day My Life Bases'

NAME	ACCEPT	REFER	Abstain
Councillor J BOND	X		
Councillor M A BROCKLESBY	X		
Councillor F BROMFIELD		X	
Councillor L BROWN		X	
Councillor E BRYN		X	
Councillor R BUCKLER		X	
Councillor S BURCH	x		

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Councillor J BUTLER		X	
Councillor B CALLARD	X		
Councillor I CHANDLER	X		
Councillor J CROOK	X		
Councillor T DAVIES		X	
Councillor L DYMOCK		X	
Councillor A EASSON	X		
Councillor C EDWARDS		X	
Councillor C FOOKES	X		
Councillor S GARRATT	X		
Councillor R GARRICK	X		
Councillor P GRIFFITHS	X		
Councillor M GROUCUTT	X		
Councillor S.G.M. HOWARTH		X	
Councillor M HOWELLS	X		
Councillor R JOHN		X	
Councillor D. W. H. JONES		X	
Councillor P. JONES		X	
Councillor T KEAR		X	
Councillor M LANE		X	
Councillor J LUCAS		X	
Councillor C MABY	X		
Councillor S MCCONNELL	X		
Councillor J MCKENNA		X	
Councillor P MURPHY		X	
Councillor A NEILL		X	
Councillor P PAVIA		X	
Councillor M POWELL		X	
Councillor S RILEY	X		
Councillor D ROOKE	X		
Councillor A SANDLES	X		
Councillor M STEVENS	-	-	-
Councillor J STRONG	X		
Councillor P STRONG	X		
Councillor F TAYLOR		X	
Councillor T THOMAS	X		
Councillor A WATTS	X		
Councillor A WEBB		X	
Councillor L WRIGHT	X		
TOTAL	23	22	

*County Councillor MaryAnn Brocklesby left the meeting at 18:10pm
County Councillor Frances Taylor left the meeting at 18:10pm*

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County Councillor Jackie Strong left the meeting at 18:10pm
County Councillor Sue Riley left the meeting at 18:10pm
County Councillor Fay Bromfield left the meeting at 18:10pm
County Councillor Armand Watts left the meeting at 18:10pm

9. Motions to Council

10. Submitted by County Councillor Paul Pavia

This Council notes:

- *Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men. 1 in 8 men will be diagnosed, rising to 1 in 4 for Black men. As many as 69% of those treated with surgery may experience urinary incontinence as a result.*
- *1 in 25 men aged over 40 will experience some form of urinary leakage every year.*
- *1 in 20 men aged 60 or over will experience bowel incontinence in the UK.*
- *Men who need to dispose of their sanitary waste (including incontinence pads, pouches, stoma, catheter, colostomy, ileostomy waste by-products) often have no direct access to a sanitary bin in male toilets.*
- *A survey of men living with incontinence reveals that 95% feel anxiety due to a lack of sanitary bins in men's toilets for disposing of pads hygienically.*
- *Nearly one third of men surveyed have been forced to carry their own waste in a bag.*

This Council believes:

- *that men should be able to safely and hygienically dispose of incontinence products easily and with dignity wherever they go.*
- *that men who need to dispose of their sanitary waste should have direct access to a sanitary bin in male toilets.*

This Council resolves:

- *That the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment should consider as soon as reasonably practicable the provision of at least one sanitary bin in all County Council male toilets – both public and in council buildings.*
- *To encourage other providers of public and workplace toilets in our area to make male sanitary bins available in their facilities.*
- *To support Prostate Cancer UK's 'Boys need Bins' campaign.*
- *That the Leader of the Council should write on behalf of the Council to our local MP and MS asking them to support Prostate Cancer UK's 'Boys need Bins' campaign and request that respective Governments look to update any necessary regulations to ensure that 'suitable means for the disposal of sanitary dressings' is provided in all toilets.*

<https://www.youtube.com/live/Npj6L7wldiA?feature=shared&t=15947>

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Upon being put to a vote, Council resolved to amend the motion as follows:

- *That the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment should consider as soon as reasonably practicable the provision of at least one sanitary bin and other facilities within the toilets that would make them stoma friendly in all County Council male toilets – both public and in council buildings.*

Upon being put to a vote Council resolved to accept the new substantive motion.

*County Councillor Tony Easson left the meeting at 18:31pm
County Councillor Frances Taylor rejoined the meeting at 18:50pm*

10.1. Submitted by County Councillor Richard John

This Council:

*Notes the Welsh Government's phase 2 consultation on a Fairer Council Tax
Recognises the crippling impact that Welsh Government's options 2 and 3 would have on Monmouthshire families, with council tax rises of up to 16%
Requests the Leader write to the Minister for Finance and Local Government opposing any changes to council tax which disproportionately impact on Monmouthshire residents.*

<https://www.youtube.com/live/Npj6L7wldiA?feature=shared&t=18011>

Upon being put to a vote Council resolved to accept the motion.

*County Councillor Fay Bromfield rejoined the meeting at 18:58pm
County Councillor Tudor Thomas left the meeting at 19:00pm
County Councillor Catherine Fookes left the meeting at 19:01pm
County Councillor Armand Watts rejoined the meeting at 19:24pm*

11. Members Questions

12. From County Councillor Louise Brown to County Councillor Paul Griffiths, Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development

Following on from the motion approved by Council on High Beech roundabout on the 23rd June 2022, please can you update Council on the progress being made to improve High Beech roundabout traffic congestion problems?

<https://www.youtube.com/live/Npj6L7wldiA?feature=shared&t=19589>

*County Councillor Laura Wright left the meeting at 19:26pm
County Councillor Frances Taylor left the meeting at 19:26pm*

13. From County Councillor Louise Brown to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

What consideration has the Cabinet Member given to extending the consultation period for the Local Transport Plan?

<https://www.youtube.com/live/Npj6L7wldiA?feature=shared&t=19801>

14. Date of Next Meeting - 18th January 2023

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The meeting ended at 7.35 pm