

# Public Document Pack



County Hall  
Rhadyr  
Usk  
NP15 1GA

Friday, 9 June 2023

## Notice of meeting

### Public Services Scrutiny Committee

**Monday, 19th June, 2023 at 10.00 am**  
**The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA with remote attendance**

*Please note that a pre meeting will be held 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting for members of the committee.*

## AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Election of Chair.	
2.	Appointment of Vice-Chair.	
3.	Apologies for Absence.	
4.	Declarations of Interest.	
5.	Public Open Forum.  <b>Select Committee Public Open Forum ~ Guidance</b>  Our Select Committee meetings are live streamed and a link to the live stream will be available on the meeting page of the Monmouthshire County Council <a href="#">website</a>  If you would like to share your thoughts on any proposals being discussed by Select Committees, you can submit your representation <a href="#">via this form</a>  Please share your views by uploading a video or audio file (maximum of 4 minutes) or; Please submit a written representation (via Microsoft Word, maximum of 500 words)	

You will need to register for a [My Monmouthshire account](#) in order to submit the representation or use your log in, if you have registered previously.

The deadline for submitting representations to the Council is 5pm three clear working days in advance of the meeting.

If representations received exceed 30 minutes, a selection of these based on theme will be shared at the Select Committee meeting. All representations received will be made available to councillors prior to the meeting.

If you would like to suggest future topics for scrutiny by one of our Select Committees, please do so by emailing [Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

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|------------|--|---------|
| <b>6.</b>  | <b>Presentation regarding the Early Years Integration and Transformation Pilot and Flying Start: To review the effectiveness of the pilot and the implications for Flying Start (verbal update).</b> |         |
| <b>7.</b>  | <b>To consider a report on the short and long-term problems with public transport in Monmouthshire (report to follow).</b>   |         |
| <b>8.</b>  | <b>Public Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme and Action List.</b>  | 1 - 4   |
| <b>9.</b>  | <b>Cabinet and Council Work Planner.</b>   | 5 - 12  |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24th April 2023.</b>  | 13 - 22 |
| <b>11.</b> | <b>Next Meeting: Monday 23rd October 2023 at 10.00am.</b>  |         |

**Paul Matthews**

**Chief Executive**

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Jill Bond	West End;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jan Butler	Goetre Fawr;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Steven Garratt	Overmonnow;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Meirion Howells	Llanbadoc & Usk;	Independent
County Councillor Penny Jones	Raglan;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Malcolm Lane	Mardy;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Dale Rooke	Chepstow Castle & Larkfield;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Frances Taylor	Magor West;	Independent Group
County Councillor Armand Watts	Bulwark and Thornwell;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru

## Public Information

### Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

A copy of this agenda and relevant reports can be made available to members of the public attending a meeting by requesting a copy from Democratic Services on 01633 644219. Please note that we must receive 24 hours notice prior to the meeting in order to provide you with a hard copy of this agenda.

### Welsh Language

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English. We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.

# Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

## Our purpose

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

### Objectives we are working towards

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

## Our Values

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

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

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

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

**Kindness:** We will show kindness to all those we work with putting the importance of relationships and the connections we have with one another at the heart of all interactions.

**Role of the Pre-meeting**

1. Why is the Committee scrutinising this? (background, key issues)
  2. What is the Committee’s role and what outcome do Members want to achieve?
  3. Is there sufficient information to achieve this? If not, who could provide this?
- Agree the order of questioning and which Members will lead
  - Agree questions for officers and questions for the Cabinet Member

**Questions for the Meeting**

Scrutinising Performance

1. How does performance compare with previous years? Is it better/worse? Why?
2. How does performance compare with other councils/other service providers? Is it better/worse? Why?
3. How does performance compare with set targets? Is it better/worse? Why?
4. How were performance targets set? Are they challenging enough/realistic?
5. How do service users/the public/partners view the performance of the service?
6. Have there been any recent audit and inspections? What were the findings?
7. How does the service contribute to the achievement of corporate objectives?
8. Is improvement/decline in performance linked to an increase/reduction in resource? What capacity is there to improve?

Scrutinising Policy

1. Who does the policy affect ~ directly and indirectly? Who will benefit most/least?
2. What is the view of service users/stakeholders? What consultation has been undertaken? Did the consultation process comply with the Gunning Principles? Do stakeholders believe it will achieve the desired outcome?
3. What is the view of the community as a whole - the ‘taxpayer’ perspective?
4. What methods were used to consult with stakeholders? Did the process enable all those with a stake to have their say?
5. What practice and options have been considered in developing/reviewing this policy? What evidence is there to inform what works? Does the policy relate to an area where there is a lack of published research or other evidence?
6. Does the policy relate to an area where there are known inequalities?
7. Does this policy align to our corporate objectives, as defined in our corporate plan? Does it adhere to our Welsh Language Standards?

8. Have all relevant sustainable development, equalities and safeguarding implications
9. been taken into consideration? For example, what are the procedures that need to be in place to protect children?
- 10.
11. How much will this cost to implement and what funding source has been identified?
- 12.
13. How will performance of the policy be measured and the impact evaluated

## General Questions:

### Empowering Communities

- How are we involving local communities and empowering them to design and deliver services to suit local need?
- Do we have regular discussions with communities about service priorities and what level of service the council can afford to provide in the future?
- Is the service working with citizens to explain the role of different partners in delivering the service, and managing expectations?
- Is there a framework and proportionate process in place for collective performance assessment, including from a citizen's perspective, and do you have accountability arrangements to support this?
- Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out? If so, can the Leader and Cabinet/Senior Officers provide members with copies and a detailed explanation of the EQIA conducted in respect of these proposals?
- Can the Leader and Cabinet/Senior Officers assure members that these proposals comply with Equality and Human Rights legislation? Do the proposals comply with the Local Authority's Strategic Equality Plan?

### Service Demands

- How will policy and legislative change affect how the council operates?
- Have we considered the demographics of our council and how this will impact on service delivery and funding in the future?
- Have you identified and considered the long-term trends that might affect your service area, what impact these trends could have on your service/your service could have on these trends, and what is being done in response?

### Financial Planning

- Do we have robust medium and long-term financial plans in place?
- Are we linking budgets to plans and outcomes and reporting effectively on these?

### Making savings and generating income

- Do we have the right structures in place to ensure that our efficiency, improvement and transformational approaches are working together to maximise savings?

- How are we maximising income?
- Have we compared other council's policies to maximise income and fully considered the implications on service users?
- Do we have a workforce plan that takes into account capacity, costs, and skills of the actual versus desired workforce?

Questions to ask within a year of the decision:

- Were the intended outcomes of the proposal achieved or were there other results?
- Were the impacts confined to the group you initially thought would be affected i.e. older people, or were others affected e.g. people with disabilities, parents with young children?
- Is the decision still the right decision or do adjustments need to be made?

**Questions for the Committee to conclude...**

Do we have the necessary information to form conclusions/make recommendations to the executive, council, other partners? If not, do we need to:

- (i) Investigate the issue in more detail?
- (ii) Obtain further information from other witnesses – Executive Member, independent expert, members of the local community, service users, regulatory bodies...

Agree further actions to be undertaken within a timescale/future monitoring report...

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## Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2023-24

Public Services Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
24 <sup>th</sup> April 2023  Invite People Scrutiny Committee	<b>Hate Crime in Monmouthshire</b>	To request the Chief Inspector of the Police to attend to discuss hate crime and the Police's response.	Andy Mason Sharran Lloyd Chief Inspector John Davies	External Scrutiny
	<b>County Lines and Exploitation</b>	To invite the St Giles Trust to discuss the support they offer young people who have been involved with county lines or are at risk of becoming exploited.	St Giles Trust	External Scrutiny
19 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	<b>Early Years Integration and Transformation Pilot and Flying Start</b>	To review the effectiveness of the pilot and the implications for Flying Start.	Beth Watkins Sue O'Brian	Verbal Report
	<b>Public Transport in Monmouthshire</b>	To consider a report on the short and long-term problems with public transport in Monmouthshire.	Christian Schmidt	Policy/Performance Review
23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2023	*To be confirmed*			
11 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	* To be confirmed*			
19 <sup>th</sup> February 2024				
15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024				

## Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2023-24

Public Services Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
To be confirmed	<b>Integrated Services Partnership Board</b>	To discuss the role and remit of the Integrated Services Partnership Board and how it delivers services in Monmouthshire.	Jane Rodgers and Nikki Needle  Chair of the ISPB ~Melanie Laidler	Performance Review
To be confirmed	<b>VAWDASV Regional Strategy</b>	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny on the strategy.	To be confirmed	External Scrutiny
To be confirmed	<b>Pre-decision Scrutiny of the Public Service Board Annual Report</b>	To undertake pre-decision scrutiny of the report and to draw agree any items for future scrutiny.	Richard Jones Sharran Lloyd	Pre-decision Scrutiny/Performance Monitoring
To be confirmed	<b>Dentistry Services for young people</b>			
To be confirmed	<b>Rural Transport services (Stagecoach)</b>			
	<b>Flooding ~ Jointly with Place Scrutiny Committee</b>			

## Action List for Public Services Scrutiny Committee

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> April 2023</b>	
<b>Minute:</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Officer / Member</b>
4	To distribute statistical detail from the Police on hate crime and provide contact details for the Equality and Diversity Team of the Police and to remind members of crime reporting mechanisms via social media,	Hazel Ilett
5	To invite St Giles Trust to return to a County Lines Scrutiny Workshop in July ~ date to be confirmed.	Hazel Ilett

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Committee / Decision Maker	Meeting date / Decision due	Report Title	Responsible Cabinet Member	Purpose	Author	Date item added to the planner
Council	01-Jul-25	RLDP for Adoption	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the RLDP following receipt of the Inspector's report, making it the County's Development Plan as defined by S38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	23-Aug-22
Council	01-Sep-24	RLDP submission for examination	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To endorse the submission of the Deposit RLDP to the Welsh Government for examination by an independent Inspector. By agreeing, Council will be saying it wants this document to be the adopted RLDP for Monmouthshire.	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	23-Aug-22
Council	18-Apr-24	RLDP Deposit Plan endorsement for consultation	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To endorse the Deposit RLDP for public consultation and engagement.	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	5-Jan-23
ICMD	17-Apr-24	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 4 held on 7th March 2024	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Dave Jarrett	30-Mar-23
Cabinet	10-Apr-24	Adoption of Abergavenny Placemaking Plan	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the Abergavenny Placemaking Plan, co-produced with Abergavenny Town Council, to inform future regeneration priorities and grant bids	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22
	06-Mar-24	2023/24 Revenue and Capital Monitoring - Month 9	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Jon Davies	27-Apr-23
Cabinet	18-Jan-24	Adoption of Magor Placemaking Plan	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the Magor with Undy Placemaking Plan, co-produced with Magor with Undy Town Council, to inform future regeneration priorities and grant bids	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22
Cabinet	18-Jan-24	Adoption of Monmouth Placemaking Plan	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the Monmouth Placemaking Plan, co-produced with Monmouth Town Council, to inform future regeneration priorities and grant bids	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22
Cabinet	10-Jan-24	Monmouthshire Destination Management Plan			Matthew Lewis	10-Feb-22
ICMD	03-Jan-24	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 3 held on 7th December 2023	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Dave Jarrett	30-Mar-23

Cabinet	13-Dec-23	Local Flood Strategy	Catrin Maby	To adopt the Local Flood Strategy Plan	Mark Hand / Ross Price	4-Oct-22
Cabinet	13-Dec-23	2023/24 Revenue and Capital Monitoring - Month 6	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Jon Davies	27-Apr-23
Cabinet	13-Dec-23	Pavement Café Policy	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the pavement café policy as the basis for making decisions on applications for licences	Mark Hand / Paul Keeble	4-Oct-22
Cabinet	13-Dec-23	Road Safety Strategy	Catrin Maby	To adopt the Road Safety Strategy	Mark Hand / Paul Keeble	4-Oct-22
Council	26-Oct-23	Appointment of Monmouthshire Local Access Forum		To secure the appointment of members to the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum for its next 3 year period.	Matthew Lewis	18-Jan-23
ICMD	25-Oct-23	LDP Annual Monitoring Report	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To endorse the LDP Annual Monitoring Report for submission to WG	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	16-Jan-23
ICMD	25-Oct-23	Planning Annual Performance Report	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To endorse the Planning Department Annual Performance Report for submission to WG	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	16-Jan-23
Council	23-Oct-23	Appointment of Monmouthshire Local Access Forum		To secure the appointment of members to the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum for its next 3 year period.	Matthew Lewis	18-Jan-23
Council	23-Oct-23	RLDP Preferred Strategy consultation report	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To endorse the RLDP Preferred Strategy including any proposed changes arising from the public consultation.	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	3-Oct-22
ICMD	11-Oct-23	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 2 held on 14th September 2023	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Dave Jarrett	30-Mar-23
Cabinet	11-Oct-23	Local Transport Plan	Catrin Maby	To adopt the Local Transport Plan	Debra Hill-Howells / Christian Schmidt	4-Oct-22

Cabinet	11-Oct-23	Economic Development Strategy		REFRESHING THE MONMOUTHSHIRE BUSINESS GROWTH & ENTERPRISE STRATEGY and action plan in setting the economic ambition for the county and providing a strategic framework that guides future economic	Hannah Jones	9-Jan-23
Cabinet	04-Oct-23	Economic Development Strategy			Deb Hill Howells	16-May-23
Cabinet	04-Oct-23	2023/24 Revenue and Capital Monitoring - Month 4	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Jon Davies	27-Apr-23
Cabinet	06-Sep-23	Proposal to establish a Welsh medium seedling school in Monmouth		Cabinet to consider objection report and make final determination on how to proceed.	Debbie Graves	27-Mar-23
ICMD	02-Aug-23	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 1 held on 22nd June 2023	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Dave Jarrett	
ICMD	02-Aug-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 11	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - parking/waiting restrictions at Justins Hill and Wyesham Avenue, Wyesham; Main Road and Castle Way, Portskewett; Loading Restriction, DYLS	Mark Hand	28-Mar-23
ICMD	02-Aug-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 12		'Agreement to make the traffic order - parking/waiting restrictions at Justins Hill and Wyesham Avenue, Wyesham; Main Road and Castle Way, Portskewett; lane leading to Sugarloaf Llanwenarth car park; and Wonastow	Mark Hand	24-May-23
ICMD	02-Aug-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 10	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - Exception Orders to identify those restricted roads that will remain 30mph in September 2023 instead of defaulting to 20mph	Mark Hand	3-Oct-22
Cabinet	26-Jul-23	The Review of Respite Services For People With Learning Disabilities			Ceri York	14-Mar-23
Cabinet	26-Jul-23	Month 2 report and budget recovery plan			Jon Davies	8-Jun-23
Cabinet	26-Jul-23	Respite Opportunities for People with Learning Disabilities	Tudor Thomas - Social Care & Safeguarding	To provide an overview of the Review of Respite Services for people with learning disabilities and seek approval for implementation of the report's recommendations	Ceri York	9-Dec-22

Council	20-Jul-23	Freedom of the Borough Presentation			Joe Skidmore	5-May-23
Council	20-Jul-23	Standards Committee Annual Report		This report is the first annual report from the Standards Committee to Council as required by the change in law set out in the Local Government and Elections Act 2021. It has to report on the discharge of the Committee's	Matt Phillips	10-Oct-22
ICMD	12-Jul-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 10	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - prohibition of driving Pwll Du, Llanelly Hill	Mark Hand	19-May-23
ICMD	12-Jul-23	transfer the school balances for both Deri View and King Henry VIII School to the new King Henry VIII 3 – 19 School.	Rachel Garrick - Resources	Both King Henry VIII school and Deri View Primary school are closing on 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023 and the new King Henry VIII 3 – 19 School will open on 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2023, under a statutory closure of schools the financial balances transfer to the Local Authority,	Nikki Wellington	4-Apr-23
Cabinet	05-Jul-23	RESERVATION OF GRAVE PLOTS IN LLANFOIST CEMETERY		To seek cabinet approval to cease the provision of reserving grave spaces (not incl cremated remains plots) in Llanfoist Cemetery	Rhian Jackson	7-Nov-22
Cabinet	05-Jul-23	2022/23 Revenue and Capital Monitoring - Outturn Report	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Jon Davies	27-Apr-23
ICMD	28-Jun-23	Highway Traffic Regulation Order	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - making permanent the part-time prohibition of driving on Cross Street and Market Street Abergavenny	Mark Hand	6-Jun-23
Council	22-Jun-23	Gwent Public Services Board Well-being plan		To approve the Public Services Board's Well-being Plan that sets out the steps being taken collaboratively by public services to improve wellbeing in Gwent ahead of approval by the Gwent Public Services Board.	Richard Jones	20-Jan-23
Council	22-Jun-23	Chief Officer Children and Young People's Report 2023			Will McLean	14-Feb-23
Cabinet	07-Jun-23	Adoption of Transforming Chepstow Masterplan	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the Transforming Chepstow Masterplan, co-produced with Chepstow Town Council, to inform future regeneration priorities and grant bids	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22
Cabinet	07-Jun-23	Transforming Towns Strategic Grant regeneration priorities and LUF3 bid	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To agree the priority projects for bids for WG Strategic grant funding to 24/25 and the submission for round 3 of Levelling Up Funding	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22



Cabinet	07-Jun-23	Proposal to establish a Welsh medium seedling school in Monmouth		Cabinet to consider the results of the consultation, recommendations and decide whether to publish statutory notices.	Debbie Graves	27-Mar-23
Cabinet	07-Jun-23	Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy	Rachel Garrick - Resources	To endorse the Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy	Scott James	22-Aug-22
ICMD	24-May-23	Highway Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 9	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - including Llantrisant 20mph village lane, 40mph through road, possibly Llantrisant (Usk to Wentwood) 50mph; 20mph Gilwern and surrounding villages	Mark Hand	14-Apr-23
Council	18-May-23	Political Balance Report		The Council is required to review at, or as soon as practicable after, the Council's annual meeting, the representation of different political groups on the bodies to which the Council makes appointments.	Matt Phillips	2-Feb-23
Council	18-May-23	Outside Bodies Report		To appoint representatives to serve on outside	Matt Phillips	2-Feb-23
Council	18-May-23	Appointments to Committees		To appoint committees together with their membership and terms of reference in accordance with the Council's Constitution.	Nicola Perry	2-Feb-23
Council	18-May-23	Constitution update		For the Monitoring Officer to bring proposed amendments and highlight changes made over the previous 12 months	Matt Phillips	2-Feb-23
Council	18-May-23	Corporate Parenting Strategy			Diane Corrister	24-Aug-22
Cabinet	17-May-23	Review of Home to School Transport Policy 24/25.	Martyn Groucutt - Education	The purpose: Is to seek approval to commence consultation on proposed amendments to the Home to School Transport Policy for the academic year 2024/25.	Deb Hill Howells	12-Apr-23
Cabinet	17-May-23	Monnow Street public realm improvements	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To agree how we proceed with proposals for Monnow Street public realm following consultation	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	6-Mar-23
ICMD	10-May-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 9 MOVED TO 24TH MAY	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - including Llantrisant 20mph village lane, 40mph through road, possibly Llantrisant (Usk to Wentwood) 50mph; 20mph Gilwern and surrounding villages	Mark Hand	3-Oct-22

Council	20-Apr-23	Motion for the Rivers and Oceans update		Deferred - new date to be advised	Hazel Clatworthy	10-Jan-23
Council	20-Apr-23	Community and Corporate Plan		To seek approval of a new Community and Corporate Plan that sets the direction for the council and county of Monmouthshire, articulating the authority's purpose and priorities alongside the steps we will take to deliver these, the	Matt Gatehouse	6-Feb-23
ICMD	12-Apr-23	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 4 held on 9th March 2023	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Dave Jarrett	
Cabinet	05-Apr-23	Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan	Sara Burch - Inclusive and Active Communities	To agree a plan to transition the delivery of homelessness that minimises the use of and the time homeless applicants spend in temporary accommodation	Rebecca Cresswell / Ian Bakewell	24-Jan-23
ICMD	22-Mar-23	Non Domestic Rates application for Hardship Relief - RESTRICTED	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Ruth Donovan	
ICMD	22-Mar-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 8	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - including Monmouth Road, Raglan no right turn onto A40; resi permit parking at Exmouth Place, Chepstow and Ross Road, Abergavenny; 3T weight restriction on Old Wye Bridge Chepstow; waiting	Mark Hand	
Council	09-Mar-23	Pay Policy		To approve the publication of Monmouthshire County Council's Pay Policy, in compliance with the Localism Act."	Sally Thomas	1-Feb-23
Council	09-Mar-23	Council Tax Premiums			Peter Davies	18-Jan-23
Council	09-Mar-23	Capital Strategy & Treasury Strategy			Jon Davies	17-May-22
Council	09-Mar-23	Youth Council			Jade Atkins	7-Dec-22
ICMD	08-Mar-23	Proposed amendment to primary school catchment area – Llandenny Village	Martyn Groucutt - Education		Debbie Graves	10-Jan-23

ICMD	08-Mar-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 8 DEFERRED TO 22 MARCH	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - including Monmouth Road, Raglan no right turn onto A40; resi permit parking at Exmouth Place, Chepstow and Ross Road, Abergavenny; 3T weight restriction on Old Wye Bridge Chepstow; waiting	Mark Hand	
Council	02-Mar-23	Final Budget Sign Off including Council Tax Resolution			Jon Davies	
Cabinet	01-Mar-23	2023/4 Final Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals			Jon Davies	17-May-22
Cabinet	01-Mar-23	2023/4 WCF/Trust Treasury Fund Investments			Dave Jarrett	17-May-22
Cabinet	01-Mar-23	Month 9 budget monitoring report			Jon Davies	6-Feb-23
Cabinet	01-Mar-23	Monmouthshire ECO Flex 'Joint Statement of Intent and Memorandum of Understanding'			Steve Griffiths	16-Nov-22
Cabinet	01-Feb-23	Tudor Street				9-Jan-23
ICMD	25-Jan-23	Highway Traffic Regulation Amendment Order No 7	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order	Mark Hand	15-Dec-22
ICMD	25-Jan-23	Community Council and Police Precepts - final	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Jon Davies	17-May-22
Council	19-Jan-23	'To determine the name for the new 3-19 School in Abergavenny		'To determine the name for the new 3-19 School in Abergavenny	Cath Saunders	28-Nov-22
Council	19-Jan-23	Council Diary		To confirm the Council Diary 23/24	John Pearson	14-Dec-22

Council	19-Jan-23	Appointments		A report for Council to appoint or ratify a number of appointments to bodies and positions	Matt Phillips	
Council	19-Jan-23	Community and Corporate Plan				
Council	19-Jan-23	Tudor Road Call-In			Nicola Perry	3-Jan-23
Council	19-Jan-23	Council Tax Reduction Scheme			Ruth Donovan	31-May-22
Cabinet	18-Jan-23	Garden Waste			Carl Touhig	21-Dec-22
Cabinet	18-Jan-23	Draft Revenue & Capital Proposals			Jon Davies	
Cabinet	18-Jan-23	Council Tax Premiums Consultation - Long Term Empty Properties and Second Homes			Ruth Donovan	
Cabinet	18-Jan-23	Proposal to establish a Welsh Medium Seedling school in Monmouth		To seek cabinet approval to commence statutory consultation processes to establish a Welsh Medium seedling provision in Monmouth.	Debbie Graves	23-Sep-22
ICMD	11-Jan-23	Clydach Ironworks Enhancement	Sara Burch - Inclusive and Active Communities	To seek approval for the transfer of land associated with the Clydach Ironworks Enhancement Scheme	Matthew Lewis	8-Dec-23
ICMD	11-Jan-23	Welsh Church Fund Working Group			Dave Jarrett	17-May-22
Cabinet						

## Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

Meeting of Public Services Scrutiny Committee held at The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA with remote attendance on Monday, 24th April, 2023 at 10.00 am

### Councillors Present

County Councillor Armand Watts (Chairman)  
County Councillor (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: Jill Bond, Jan Butler,  
Penny Jones, Malcolm Lane, Frances Taylor,  
Sue Riley (substitute for Dale Rooke)

Also in attendance: County Councillor Sarah  
Burch (Cabinet Member)  
Inspector Ioan Williams

### Officers in Attendance

Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager  
Robert McGowan, Policy and Scrutiny Officer

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Dale Rooke

#### 1. Declarations of Interest

None.

#### 2. Public Open Forum

No submissions were received.

#### 3. Hate Crime in Monmouthshire

The Inspector for Monmouthshire Ioan Williams attended on behalf of Chief Inspector John Davies to give an overview and broad understanding of hate crime in Monmouthshire. The chair advised that the committee had sought a statistical breakdown of crime in the county and how it compared with neighbouring authorities. He explained that the committee was interested in how we can evolve the conversation and increase awareness as well as gain more specific context as to where incidences are happening, because if the figures only show the hate crimes that have been reported and we know some people are not reporting, then we don't have a full picture. The chair reminded the committee that some questions asked of Monmouthshire County Council Staff, with input from St Giles Trust at the previous meeting had been sent to the Police to guide the discussion today.

The inspector provided a short introduction to the Police's role in terms of hate crime and how they support reporters:

I'll give you a general overview of hate crime in in the Monmouthshire area and how we how we deal with that on a daily basis. We don't have daily occurrences, levels are relatively low but any incident of hate crime is too many. In comparison with some other

Gwent areas, it is low. In terms of how we deal with reports, Gwent Police generate a daily briefing document every 24 hours and there's a specific section within it that relates to hate crime, to ensure early engagement, early action and hopefully early resolution. We have dedicated hate crime officers within the force who log hate crime incidences or even a hate incidence. It doesn't necessarily have to be a criminal matter for any incident to fall under that banner and be flagged to those specialist officers and they manage that engagement from that point forward. If it is a criminal matter, then an officer is allocated to investigate it and they will maintain that sort of investigatory oversight with the support of the specialist hate crime officer. From an overarching perspective, hate crime is managed well from my perspective and we do have clear oversight of it and as explained, specialist officers who are able to support, and investigate criminal matters.

### **Challenge:**

- *Is there significant underreporting of hate crime?*

I think that all crime is underreported ultimately and that we're doing as much as we can in terms of enabling more reporting of crime through various reporting mechanisms, such as our social media reporting mechanisms, which has shown an increase in conversations with people who potentially may not have reported crime previously if just traditional telephony reporting was only available. I think all crime tends to be underreported, but I haven't noticed anything significant in terms of hate crime specifically being underreported. I think that work is being done and further work does need to be done in terms of our wider engagement, so that people will generally feel more comfortable in reporting matters affecting them.

- *Is there any evidence of the change in demography increasing case numbers? For example, particularly in the South, where we've had an influx of people for economic reasons, then post Brexit, we have EU citizens who have settled here. I've heard of the broader Asian Community having been targeted in some regions post covid and I'm wondering if possibly the LGBTQ+ community has faced increased hate crime? I also wonder whether the relationship the public has with the Police has changed, as due to a lack of resources, the Police do not attend community meetings and I just wonder if some of these factors may play a role?*

In terms of whether there is a specific demographic or group that have been targeted post Brexit, there's nothing that I've been aware of or seen in any significant quantity around any targeted groups. I think the relationship generally is very good and what I would say is that the majority of instances that I review from a hate crime or hate incidents perspective are generally around sexual orientation and disability ~ these are the two things that pop up more often than not. Incidences don't generally tend to be related to race, immigration or aspects like that, from my perspective.

In terms of the point around police presence, there are logistical problems in Monmouthshire as there are only a number of us who work in the area and there's a huge area to cover with a significant number of councillors, so we are reviewing how we keep you updated, but when we have had issues, in my opinion, we've dealt with them swiftly and we have a very good relationship with councillors, for example, you will all

probably be aware of issues in Caldicot last summer and that it was a problem that had been simmering for years and I feel that we dealt with that robustly and conducted a number of action days, a number of arrests and we removed some real problematic individuals from the area and the issues have reduced, so what I would say is if there are significant problems, we are dealing with them. Engagement can and will be better and I think once we have two sergeants in post, they'll be able to manage that relationship more effectively. I am aware that people do report incidences to yourselves, which then come to the police third hand and that is problematic, particularly if it's specific incidents whereby you know the public are reluctant to speak with us directly, but we'd much rather know about it, so we can take some mitigation from that point, so if you do get information please pass it to us.

- *How many hate crimes are reported in an average year and for the public's benefit, please could you define what hate crime is and explain how you deal with different hate crimes differently?*

I'll need to send you statistical information following the meeting, but in terms of the second question, every front line officer will have a perspective on what hate crime is and I haven't the official definition with me, but my understanding would be that it's where an individual has been targeted because of a disability, faith or religion or a sexual orientation or where such factors may be related to the incident.

- *How many officers have you got to deal with hate crime and how broad is the training?*

I'll need to provide that information after the meeting in terms of specialist training, but we have force training days for all officers.

- *What are we doing with schools to ensure they are reporting it? What else are we doing aside from talking to schools?*

In terms of how can involve the conversation and increase awareness specifically in schools, we have school's liaison officers who are allocated specifically to schools and they undertake a specific training package around schools policing, dealing with young people and hate crime would be part of their training package. What are we doing with schools to ensure that they are reporting it? Well we have that direct link with the school's liaison officer who the teachers are able to call upon directly to report those aspects back to us, so that SLO, as we term them, are a proven tool in ensuring adequate reporting from the school to the police.

- *Do you think austerity has impacted on the service you can offer?*

In terms of wider resourcing for policing and how austerity is has impacted us, that's a question I cannot answer, but what I would say is that we have good officers in the Monmouthshire Neighbourhood Policing Team and we have excellent supervision and I'm really confident that going forward that we have enough resources to deal with the problems that can and will arise. We have recruitment ongoing now, which we will get a percentage of in the Monmouthshire area, so I'm happier in our position going forward into the next 12 months. I'm confident that we will have better engagement with you, from the public from a wider perspective and we have the capacity and capability to deal with things effectively.

- *In respect of radicalisation of young people via online activity. What preventative measures are in place if we think there is an issue? I'm aware of some inappropriate and unhelpful remarks on community Facebook pages relating to people of different ethnic groups, such as Asian people running a village store and appreciating you cannot monitor people's social media, I just wonder whether the Police ever review these?*

Whilst we have cybercrime capabilities, but we can't actively monitor people's Facebook groups, but I accept your point and officers are able to offer advice around matters like that or just have conversations with people to help people's understanding of differences in culture, so if you are aware of a problem or an issue and wanted to raise it with us, please do, because we can help in some way. We have an officer in Gwent Police's headquarters who leads our diversity and inclusion team and she has a multitude of resources available and excellent relationships within the community and with community leaders, so as councillors, we would ask you to assist us in highlighting where conversations may need to happen.

- *I'm concerned that there is a reluctance within schools when an issue is raised to deal with it via police because of the long-term effects of being labelled a criminal from a very young age, but I feel this needs to be balanced against the long-term effects of those on the receiving end of it, bullying being an example. So does this reluctance to criminalise impact on the recording of hate crimes?*

A real drive for Gwent Police recently has been to record crime in in the most appropriate way, so a hate crime or hate incident is recorded regardless as it's from the perspective of the reporter, so if they feel that a particular aspect has had an influence in the crime being committed, then it will be recorded and investigated as such. In terms of Schools Liaison Officers, in my experience, I've seen the difference good engagement with schools can make, where pupils have confidence in them and feel able to report incidences, so these officers are invaluable. We've got two School Liaison Officers allocated to Monmouthshire for 32 schools and their remit is one for the North and one for the South.

In terms of your point about criminalizing young people, I don't want young people to be criminalized as we know people make mistakes when they're young and make bad choices and depending on the threshold of what that is, a reasonable approach has to be taken. The Youth Offending Service support us and have officers seconded to them and they pick up all lower-level issues with young people, so we apply a common sense approach when dealing with young people, but have the ability to escalate things, should the offence be severe. The YOS are exceptional and they deliver intervention and prevention programs working alongside the Police, Probation Services and all the other services.

#### **Chair's Summary:**

The Chair thanked Inspector Ioan Williams for attending and provided comprehensive and honest answers to the committee. Actions agreed:



1. loan to collate the statistical information on hate crime and send to the scrutiny team for distribution to Members.
2. loan to provide contact details for the Equality and Diversity Team for Members.
3. The Police to send a reminder of the various social media channels to report crimes.

#### **4. County Lines and Exploitation**

The Chair welcomed Danielle, former senior case worker on the serious organized crime and CSU Finance project and Rebecca, Team Leader for Community Projects in Wales to the meeting to talk about the services provided by St Giles Trust to young people who may have been radicalised or become involved in county lines activity. The chair reminded the committee that the People Scrutiny Committee will be hosting a scrutiny workshop for Members on County Lines in July (date to be confirmed) and that all Members would be invited to the session.

Danielle and Rebecca explained that St Giles Trust is a national charity that has been operating for 60 years and 10 years in Wales, using expertise and real life/lived experience to empower people who may have been held back by poverty, been exploited or abused or those dealing with addictions or mental health problems or have been caught up in the criminal justice system. They provided a detailed explanation of the services provided, slides being available on the website together with the agenda. Following detailed discussion, Members asked the following questions.

#### **Challenge:**

How are the projects that are delivered in the Gwent area that you have explained in detail funded?

The Wedge service is funded by the police crime commissioner, who funds nearly all of the projects apart from the girls empowerment which I believe is funded by Newport Capsule. We received Top-Up funding via our head office in the South Wales area to deliver it across Gwent and we have funding for children in need. Some of the contracts were Ministry of Justice contracts, but we do go for small pots of money from businesses and other avenues.

- *I'm interested to know about the charity aspect, whether fundraising is on a local basis or a London basis?*

We have team members in Wales and our own Development Manager in Wales, but the main team is in London. We try to resource anything locally and hold our own fundraising events.

- *My background has been in victim offender mediation, family mediation and community mediation, the ethos of which is to try and get a greater understanding of how the victim feels by the action they're experiencing. Do you think we do enough of that, whether it's within the curriculum or via other means,*

*because if we could get people to understand that, maybe there would be greater respect?*

There's always more that can be done on that level, but St Giles Trust doesn't just deliver sessions to young people, but also to parents, teachers and the police, so we give the information to everybody who needs it, but yes, there is always more that can be done.

- *It would be good to hear of some examples, but I understand because of confidentiality, that may not be possible. I'm interested in the root causes, whether these are external factors such as the cost of living, or whether it's people's ability to cope with things or implications from their home life, so whether there are links to counselling and support from Mind, Cams etc. I'm also wondering how big the problem is and whether there's a massive need out there that you're not able to help, when you'd really like to and haven't got endless resources.*

Due to confidentiality, we can't discuss examples, but what I will say is that you know that when the problem changes, the trend changes, for example, there could be a big problem in one area and then it will calm down and it's a case of moving the problem. I think the police help with the disruption and social services and schools have eyes on the community, so I think the trend and the problem moves and changes constantly. In terms of the root of the problem, the cost of living is not helping, because poverty is increasing in families and post covid, there are a lot of children struggling in returning to school. Also other issues could be factors, such as employment issues, where parents may be out of work or struggling financially. In terms of counselling and referral to other organisations, some people are referred to Mind and Cams via GP's and we use the well-being officers within schools and colleges to highlight services.

- *You mentioned that caseworkers have up to 15 cases each? Is that manageable?*

Sometimes we have really complex cases others, whereas others are a bit of a light touch, just giving awareness and information, doing some work with the families and ensuring that they're linking in with the teachers or getting some additional help from other organizations. In terms of the caseworkers, they are allocated referrals for the whole of Gwent, but what we tend to do when we receive a referral is to look at everyone's caseloads to see who has capacity, and to ensure everyone has a mix of complex ones and light touch ones. We have a waiting list, but the quality of the service is important, and we have delivered to quite a few schools in the Gwent area but if you could let more schools know that we are available, that would be helpful.

- *I'm very interested to note that you um you encourage self-referral by young people? I've not heard about your service before so how are you getting your message across to those young people so that they can self-refer?*

We use the opportunity in schools, also attend youth clubs and any other event and there have been football events in the summer, music events, so we try and get to those and network as much as we can. We do have some self-referrals, but they less common. Usually the children approach the caseworker after the school session, so in

terms of how we reach out to them, whilst we are on You Tube, I think they're just using web search.

Whilst we know poverty can be a factor, county lines can easily come in good demographic areas and good schools and it's more a question of the vulnerability and availability of the young people, so it does need more awareness. We highlight in our presentations that it's not just an issue for the single parent household or the one facing poverty, or the big housing estates. We have worked with parents who are professionals, teachers, nurses or GP's. That's where we find the self-referrals tend to come in, so whereas kids used to be targeted if they had vulnerabilities like being in a family in receipt of benefits and wanting to belong to something, now perpetrators of this crime know that those kids are more noticeable now and are targeting kids whose parents are professionals, those who don't have the involvement of a social worker, because it is easier for them to move them around and because there are not on anyone's radar. So we must look for shifts and different trends, but the criminals are always looking for ways around it, to reduce the eyes on their operation, so the situation is changing constantly.

- *What do you think the root causes of those people getting involved? Is it money, social media glamorization of the criminal lifestyle?*

I think people want to belong. Some children could have professional parents who are out working all the time and don't have anyone at home monitoring them and they want to belong to something, so they're easily targeted and they start liking pictures on social media and then these people know what they like and entice them in by messages asking if they want to make some money or do want to be involved, so I think they are targeted through social media, so the demographics are always changing.

I'm wondering if you have a view on whether as a rural county that is in close proximity to major cities, whether you have noticed more illegal economic activity in the south of the county since the bridge tolls were axed and whether you have seen greater sophistication in the way that these gangs operate particularly with younger children?

I think this would be more of a question for the Police, because they would have that type of information. The county lines activity doesn't necessarily have to come from England, as there are well established networks in Wales, with networks in bigger cities targeting these smaller towns where they know that they can build a network, because there's less activity, so it's changed and now it's just any opportunity to get into small areas. We have caseworkers in Gwent, Cardiff, Swansea, Bristol, Somerset and Gloucester, so we see young people who have been exploited and moved around different counties. If we find they're being relocated by Social Services into a different residential home or care home, we're able to have that seamless handover of information between our teams. We regularly discuss whether trends are changing.

- *What would be a snapshot of your typical week?*

Caseworkers would book their appointments ahead, which could be in a school setting or a community setting. Young people could be NEET (not in education or employment) so we may need to go into the family home and help them develop a CV, we may be identifying positive networks for them, but we may also be receiving phone calls from

parents to say the young person has gone missing or been arrested and we'll do what we can as a multi-agency member with the other services to try and relocate or ensure that child is safe.

- *How do you win trust, for example, how do you liaise with people and communicate with families, who you know may not necessarily want to liaise with Social Services because they don't trust them or the Police. How do you overcome that and build up that trust?*

There's a large amount of our caseworkers that have lived experience, so they can relate to the issues and the needs of the child in the family. I have my own lived experience, having grown up in a household where there was domestic violence and involvement of Social Services and I ended up getting into the wrong crowd when I was a teenager, so I have experience of addiction, of prison and of probation services, so I've experienced quite a lot of the stuff that the young people have experienced themselves. I was expelled from school, I couldn't get a job because of my criminal record, so all these things I have personal experience about and when I'm talking with parents, I bridge the gap between the social services. I speak to them because they look up to people on the street. These young people turn away from statutory services, so what I do is I come in with my lived experience and talk to these people exactly how they would sit and talk to their friends so I have a conversation with them and they will listen to what I've said because I can speak to them with the experiences that they've gone through and we can bridge that gap between the Professional Services and between these families and young people. Because of the knowledge we have, the experiences we have, people listen to what we have to say because they don't see us as just reading it from a book or giving them advice that you haven't experienced. Our lived experience helps us to educate them and they do listen to us.

You also give them validation and care which perhaps they haven't had an awful lot of in their upbringing and you're showing them that empowerment is the key. A lot of them lack confidence and lack self-esteem and it's just seeing somebody like myself, who has been through the experiences they've been through, such as prison, and then managed to turn it around, you can become positive role models, showing them that there's a life after this and you can have nice trainers that you bought yourself without being involved in crime, you can have a good job and you can still be a part of your community, you don't have to be a sheep and follow the people who are involved in crime and you can make your own way in life. This is the huge part of the job we do.

### **Chair's Summary:**

Thank you so much for coming along and it's really lit the committee up, in terms of our interest and concern in this issue I can speak confidently for all the committee in our desire to invite you back to us in the next month or two to do a workshop on county lines, which we really looking forward to. So thank you for coming along and explaining everything to us. The work you do is extremely impressive and this is this is the kind of stuff that reminds me why we do what we do and try to cooperate with you and understand what you do in helping young people.

## **5. Public Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme and Action List**

The work programme was noted and invitations for the next meeting were agreed.

**6. Cabinet and Council Work Planner**

Noted.

**7. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st March 2023**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

**8. Next Meeting**

19th June 2023.

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