

Neuadd y Sir Y Rhadyr Brynbuga NP15 1GA County Hall Rhadyr Usk NP15 1GA

Tuesday, 29 October 2024

Dear Councillor

#### CABINET

You are requested to attend a **Cabinet** meeting to be held at **Steve Greenslade Room**, **County Hall, Usk** on **Wednesday**, **6th November**, **2024**, at **4.30 pm**.

#### AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence
- 2. Declarations of Interest
- 3. PETITION TO REINSTATE MONMOUTH NIGHT SHELTER AT 1 40 MONMOUTH MARKET HALL UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF CHURCHES IN MONMOUTH

Division/Wards Affected: Monmouth

<u>Purpose:</u> To consider a petition referred to Cabinet from a meeting of Council and received from Churches of Monmouth requesting the Council to facilitate the reinstatement of a homeless night shelter using Monmouth Market Hall, under the management of Monmouth Churches.

Author: Ian Bakewell - Strategic Housing Manager

Contact Details: ianbakewell@monmouthshire.gov.uk

# 4. PUBLIC HEALTH (WALES) ACT 2017 - SPECIAL PROCEDURES LICENSING

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#### Division/Wards Affected: All

<u>Purpose:</u> To seek approval from members to set an appropriate fee structure and scheme of delegated authority for the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 ("the Act") in respect of special procedure licensing.

The question of whether a function is an executive function [i.e. one for Cabinet] or a Council function of the Licensing Committee, is determined by either the relevant legislation itself or by the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Functions and Responsibilities) (Wales) Regulations 2007, made by Welsh Government. In this instance the Act specifically delegates certain functions to the Licensing Committee [established under Section 6 of the Licensing Act 2003], whilst being silent on other functions. This means that by virtue of Section 13 of the Local Government Act 2000, where the Act is silent, the function by default becomes the responsibility of an Executive under a local authority's executive arrangements.

Author: Linda O'Gorman, Principal Licensing Officer

Contact Details: lindaogorman@monmouthshire.gov.uk

5. REAL LIVING WAGE ACCREDITATION

Division/Wards Affected: All

<u>Purpose:</u> To seek approval for the authority to begin the process of becoming an accredited Real Living Wage employer, to ensure that those in our supply chains are paid a wage that recognises the true cost of living.

<u>Author:</u> Matthew Gatehouse, Chief Officer – People, Performance and Scrutiny Phillipa Green, Head of HR

<u>Contact Details:</u> <u>matthewgatehouse@monmouthshire.gov.uk</u> <u>philippagreen@monmouthshire.gov.uk</u>

#### 6. FORMER ABERGAVENNY LIBRARY

Division/Wards Affected: All

<u>Purpose:</u> This report is brought forward to declare surplus the Former Abergavenny Library, transferring from the CYP portfolio to Landlord Services.

<u>Authors:</u> Cath Saunders, Strategic Programme Lead - Learning, Skills & Economy Nicholas Keyse, Acting Head of Landlord Services

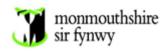
<u>Contact Details:</u> <u>nicholaskeyse@monmouthshire.gov.uk</u> <u>cathsunders@monmouthshire.gov.uk</u>

Yours sincerely,

Paul Matthews Chief Executive

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## **CABINET PORTFOLIOS**

County		
Councillor	Area of Responsibility	Ward
Mary Ann Brocklesby	Leader Lead Officer – Paul Matthews, Matthew Gatehouse Whole Authority Strategy and Direction Whole authority performance review and evaluation Relationships with Welsh Government, UK Government and local government associations Regional Relationships with City Regions and Public Service Board Strategic Procurement Local Food production and consumption, including	Llanelly
Paul Griffiths	agroforestry and local horticulture         Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic         Development Deputy Leader         Lead Officer – Frances O'Brien         Economic Strategy         Local development plan and strategic development plan         including strategic housing sites         Homelessness, affordable housing delivery and private         sector housing (empty homes, leasing scheme, home         improvement loans, disabled facilities grants and         adaptive tech)         Supporting Town Centres including car parking and         enforcement         Development Management and Building Control         Skills and Employment         Broadband connectivity	Chepstow Castle & Larkfield
Ben Callard	Cabinet Member for Resources         Lead Officers – Peter Davies, Frances O'Brien, Jane         Rodgers         Finance including MTFP and annual budget cycle         Benefits         Human resources, payroll, health and safety         Land and buildings         Property maintenance and management         Emergency planning	Llanfoist & Govilon

Mortup Crououtt	Cabinet Member for Education	Lanadown
Martyn Groucutt		Lansdown
	Lead Officers – Will McLean, Ian Saunders	
	Early Years Education	
	All age statutory education	
	Additional learning needs/inclusion	
	Post 16 and adult education	
	School standards and improvement	
	Community learning	
	Sustainable communities for learning Programme	
	Youth service	
	School transport	
Ian Chandler	Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and	Llantilio Crossenny
	Accessible Health Services	
	Lead Officer – Jane Rodgers	
	Children's comises	
	Children's services	
	Fostering & adoption	
	Youth Offending service	
	Adult services	
	Whole authority safeguarding (children and adults)	
	Disabilities	
	Mental health and wellbeing	
	Relationships with health providers and access to health	
	provision	
Catrin Maby	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the	Drybridge
	Environment	ý 0
	Lead Officer – Frances O'Brien, Ian Saunders	
	Decarbonisation	
	Transport planning, public transport, highways and MCC	
	fleet	
	Active travel	
	Waste management, street care, litter, public spaces,	
	and parks	
	Pavements and back lanes	
	Flood alleviation, management and recovery	
	Countryside, biodiversity, and river health	
Angela Sandles	Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement	Magor East with
	Lead Officers – Frances O'Brien,, Matthew Gatehouse,	Undy
	Jane Rodgers, Ian Saunders	
	Community inequality and poverty (health, income,	
	nutrition, disadvantage, discrimination, isolation and cost	
	of living crisis)	
	Citizen engagement and democracy promotion including	
	working with voluntary organisations	
	Citizen experience - community hubs, contact centre,	
	and customer service and registrars, communications,	
	public relations and marketing	
	Leisure centres, play and sport	
1	Tourism Development and Cultural strategy	1

Public conveniences         Electoral Services and constitution review         Ethics and standards         Welsh Language         Rights of way         Trading Standards, Environmental Health, Public         Protection, and Licencing	

# Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

### Our purpose

To become a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life.

#### **Objectives we are working towards**

- Fair place to live where the effects of inequality and poverty have been reduced;
- Green place to live and work with reduced carbon emissions and making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency;
- Thriving and ambitious place, where there are vibrant town centres and where businesses can grow and develop
- Safe place to live where people have a home where they feel secure in;
- Connected place where people feel part of a community and are valued;
- Learning place where everybody has the opportunity to reach their potential

### **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.

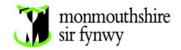
**Fairness**. We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did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

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#### SUBJECT: PETITION TO REINSTATE MONMOUTH NIGHT SHELTER AT MONMOUTH MARKET HALL UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF CHURCHES IN MONMOUTH MEETING: CABINET DATE: 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: MONMOUTH

#### 1. PURPOSE

1.1 To consider a petition referred to Cabinet from a meeting of Council and received from Churches of Monmouth requesting the Council to facilitate the reinstatement of a homeless night shelter using Monmouth Market Hall, under the management of Monmouth Churches. (See Appendix 1).

#### 2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To consider the petition referred to at **Appendix 1.**
- 2.2 To agree to the action proposed by the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development & Deputy Leader, to establish how the Council could work together with Churches in Monmouth to find suitable accommodation and provide support to homeless people in Monmouth.
- 2.3 To be report back to the Place Scrutiny Committee in respect of the action taken.

#### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The petition was received by Place Scrutiny Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024 and in accordance with the Council's petition scheme it was referred to Full Council where it was considered on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024.
- 3.2 As the action requested by the petition related to the exercise of executive functions, members referred the petition to a meeting of Cabinet for consideration.

#### 4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 Churches in Monmouth has operated a Housing Group for several years. The group recognises the issue of both housing and housing support needs in Monmouth together with the lack of affordable housing in Monmouth. The Group, therefore, has and continues to be, very active in supporting vulnerable and/or homeless households, including providing assistance to rough sleepers. The Group advocates on behalf of individuals and often liaises with the Housing Options Team. The Council very much welcomes and values the role the Group.
- 4.2 Due to the lack of affordable housing and incidents of rough sleeping, the Group considers there is a need for a night shelter in Monmouth to support any arising incidents of rough sleeping. The Group wishes to directly deliver such provision.
- 4.3 The Council subsequently received a Petition in March 2024, from Churches in Monmouth, requesting the Council to enable the group to reinstate and manage a night shelter in Monmouth. **See Appendix 1.** The Council has been requested to make available the Monmouth Market Hall to the Group for this purpose. The Petition is

sponsored and supported by Councillor Louise Brown and was considered by the Place Scrutiny Committee on 11th July 2024 and Full Council on 19th September 2024. Full Council passed a motion that the Petition should be referred to Cabinet.

- 4.4 Churches in Monmouth have previously provided winter night shelter provision in Monmouth. The Group has previously received practical and financial support from the Council in this regard. Initially, the Group utilised their own premises and for the most recent night shelter arrangement in 2020, the Council made available the vacant Monmouth Market Hall. This arrangement was provided under the emergency Covid-19 public health measures, to ensure nobody had to sleep rough during the pandemic. The arrangement ended when a prospective letting of the Market Hall office space had been identified, although due to various reasons, the anticipated letting did not materialise.
- 4.5 Since being last used as a night-shelter, the Council's Estates Service has continued to actively market Monmouth Market Hall for letting. Earlier in the year, the Council identified a new prospective tenant for the vacant office space and has since signed up to a lease agreement. As a result, Monmouth Market Hall is no longer available for any other use. Churches in Monmouth have been made aware of this letting.
- 4.6 Also of relevance, since the last night-shelter provision, Welsh Government homeless policy has changed significantly. Welsh Government has required local authorities to transform homeless services to a Rapid Rehousing approach for homelessness to be 'rare, brief and unrepeated.' Core aims of Rapid Rehousing are to prevent homelessness and reduce rough sleeping. A further core aim is when people need temporary accommodation, it is of a high standard. Ideally self-contained. Where prevention is not possible or appropriate, stable housing and support should be provided through a range of models, thereby, reducing the dependency on emergency housing.
- 4.7 To meet the requirements of Welsh Government guidance, the Council produced a Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, which was approved by <u>Cabinet on 5th April 2023</u>. The Priorities of the Plan are:
  - Priority 1 Prevent homelessness at the earliest opportunity.
  - Priority 2 Increase the supply of affordable and settled accommodation.
  - Priority 3 Provide timely and effective support to sustain accommodation.
  - Priority 4 Maximising resources and benefits through well connected partnerships
- 4.8 Welsh Government's Rapid Rehousing Guidance to local authorities is that the use of floor space for homeless purposes is not acceptable and Welsh Governments recent consultation of the 'White Paper on Ending Homelessness' intends to legislate against the use of shared sleeping space. **See Paragraph 7.**
- 4.9 Furthermore, Welsh Government has legislated in respect of rough sleepers. Homeless legislation has increased the responsibilities of local authorities by making Rough Sleeping a Priority Need category, meaning that the Council has a duty to provide interim accommodation whilst assessing their application, and a duty to provide ongoing to temporary accommodation, which would be subject to further tests such as intentionality or local connection.
- 4.10 As a result of the change in legislation and the Council's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, the Council seeks to ensure that no-one who is eligible for housing assistance has a need to sleep rough . In addition to the responsibility to reduce rough sleeping,

service changes to increase homeless and support provision that will directly and indirectly benefit rough sleepers include:

- The availability of assertive outreach to identify and support rough sleepers. Currently delivered by Llamau;
- The introduction of Housing First supported accommodation for those homeless who have experienced chronic health and social care needs;
- The Council's portfolio of temporary accommodation has been increased, with a particular focus on single persons accommodation through the Monmouthshire Lettings Service. Identifying more accommodation, particularly in the Monmouth area is a priority.
- The availability of drug and alcohol support. Currently delivered by Gwent Drug & Alcohol Service.
- More funds are available to prevent homelessness through Welsh Government's Discretionary Homeless Prevention Grant and
- The establishment of the multi-agency Housing Intervention Panel to consider and identify solutions to complex cases.
- Acquiring temporary homeless accommodation or identifying opportunities to repurpose Council owned properties for homeless use.
- A Landlords Forum has been re-established for Monmouthshire to further encourage and support landlords to make available their accommodation.
- Continuing to support those people currently in accommodation who may be at risk of eviction due to difficulty maintaining the terms of their contract and, therefore, the possibility of not sustaining their occupation. E.g. through Housing Support, facilitating interventions of other support agencies, temporary accommodation management decisions etc.
- 4.11 The Council is committed to further improving and extending homeless provision and build on above, consideration is, therefore, also being given to:
  - Expanding the capacity of the Assertive Outreach service;
  - Expanding the capacity of the Housing First support service;
  - Continuing to identify additional temporary and permanent single persons accommodation, particularly in Monmouth, through leasing (through the Housing Options Team's Monmouthshire Lettings initiative) and acquisitions (through the Council and local housing associations) of single persons accommodation, but prioritising Monmouth;
  - Reviewing arrangements between the Council and Churches in Monmouth to strengthen the support available for vulnerable and homeless people and identify additional accommodation.
  - Hold a Landlords Forum in Monmouth in the Spring.
- 4.12 Unfortunately there may still be instances of rough sleeping due to individuals losing their homeless duties and/or being ineligible for further assistance. For example, due to having lost temporary accommodation due to eviction, refusal of suitable offers of temporary/permanent accommodation, not having a local connection to Monmouthshire and non-engagement.

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

5.1 No negative implications have been identified with this proposal. **See Appendix 2.** 

#### 6. OPTIONS APPRAISAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT

6.1 An analysis of two options have been considered in Table One below, Option One is the preferred option.

Option	Benefit	Risk
<b>Option 1:</b> The <u>recommended</u> <u>option</u> is to establish how the Council can work effectively with Churches in Monmouth to find suitable accommodation and provide support to homeless people in Monmouth.	<ul> <li>Churches in Monmouth and the Council have a shared vision for homelessness and supporting vulnerable people</li> <li>The role of Churches in Monmouth can potentially complement existing support arrangements in Monmouth. Thereby, increasing resources.</li> <li>The proposal aligns with the Council's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and the priority - Maximising resources and benefits through well connected partnerships</li> <li>It will help to prevent more homelessness</li> <li>There is potential to identify new landlords and additional accommodation</li> <li>It will help increase awareness about homelessness in Monmouth.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Any arrangements to support individuals need to be with their consent.</li> <li>Churches in Monmouth may not agree with or wish to align themselves with the Council's approach to homeless and supporting vulnerable people.</li> </ul>
Option 2 – not to work with Churches in Monmouth	There are no benefits to this option	<ul> <li>There may be reputational risks associated with this option.</li> <li>Vulnerable and homeless residents of Monmouth may not benefit from the potential complementary support that Churches in Monmouth may be able to provide.</li> </ul>

#### Table One: Options Appraisal

#### 7. REASONS

- 7.1 The Council has homeless responsibilities under Part 2 Housing (Wales) Act 2014. The Council is also expected to implement Welsh Government Rapid Rehousing Guidance.
- 7.2 Welsh Government's Rapid Rehousing: Guidance. How we will help those who experience homelessness find settled housing faster. First published: 24 August 2022 Last updated: 24 August 2022 specifically states:

#### What are the standards for temporary accommodation/ settled homes?

The pandemic has highlighted the need to ensure people are able to access to suitable accommodation of a standard that maintains a sense of dignity and respect. We have been clear that temporary accommodation is self-contained and as a minimum has ensuite facilities. Floor space will continue to not be tolerated under any circumstances.

7.3 Also, the Welsh Government Consultation on the White Paper on Ending Homelessness states and is setting out the intentions of:

#### Prohibiting shared sleeping space

**502.** Shared sleeping space is currently permitted (within the prescribed timeframes) in basic and higher standard temporary accommodation.

We understand shared sleeping space is rarely used but we propose to make clear in legislation, shared sleeping space is never permitted, regardless of the temporary or emergency nature of accommodation.

7.4 Working with Churches in Monmouth contributes to the Council's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and the priority - Maximising resources and benefits through well connected partnerships.

#### 8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no financial implications with this report. Should the proposed collaboration be successful with Churches in Monmouth, there could potentially be financial and cost avoidance benefits to the Council through increased homeless prevention and reduced use of Bed and Breakfast through identifying alternative accommodation and new landlords.
- 8.2 Any possible arising expenditure that may need to be incurred to prevent homelessness, such as facilitating access to private rented accommodation, would be funded from the Welsh Governments Discretionary Homeless Prevention Grant.

#### 9. CONSULTEES

9.1 Cabinet; Senior Leadership Team; Head of Rural Development, Housing & Partnerships; Acting Head of Landlord Services; Housing Options Team Manager.

#### 10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

• Welsh Government's Rapid Rehousing: Guidance - How we will help those who experience homelessness find settled housing faster. First published: 24 August 2022 Last updated: 24 August 2022

#### 11. AUTHORS:

Ian Bakewell – Strategic Housing Manager

12. CONTACT DETAILS: TEL: 01633 644479 EMAIL ianbakewell@monmouthshire.gov.uk; This page is intentionally left blank



# PETITION

# **RESTORE NIGHT SHELTER IN MONMOUTH**

# PETITION TO THE COUNCILLORS OF MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (MCC)

We, the undersigned, are supporting There's NO PLACE Like Home proposal to reinstate the Night Shelter based at Market Hall, Priory St, Monmouth NP25 3XA, under the management of Churches In Monmouth Housing Group, for the purpose of providing emergency, temporary accommodation, and 'out of hours' advice and support, to vulnerable people. Churches In Monmouth Housing Group had responsibility for the management of Monmouth Nightshelter until the Covid Pandemic lockdown in 2020 when the building was taken back under the control of Monmouthshire County Council. Prior to the pandemic, Churches in Monmouth Housing Group had provided furniture, equipment (kitchen, dining, etc.,) through fundraising and community donations. These resources are still stored within the building, but have not been used for nearly 4 years.

Given the increasing level of hidden and recorded homelessness in Monmouth, it is a travesty that the Nightshelter building and resources are no longer used, forcing homeless and vulnerable people to sleep out on the streets, in subways and churchyards or other unsuitable accommodation e.g. fleeing abusive relationships. Returning the management of the property to the Churches in Monmouth Housing Group would provide a much needed warm and safe accommodation at very little cost to MCC as the Nightshelter was staffed by qualified volunteers. In addition, it would demonstrate community compassion, potentially reducing criminality, antisocial behaviour and restoring dignity and hope to homeless and vulnerable people.

NAME	ADDRESS & POSTCODE	SIGNATURE
Alison Ellis	N125 3PX	Alle
SHELLA CAOTTY	N1255 541	from
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There's NO PLACE Like Home – Night Shelter Petition

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J. Yeares	NPQS. 5FJ	WHY OP.
Peceie thidde	NFZS SUQ	Pattalle
Bettan Powell	NP25 SFH	Bromel
Sara Clatic	NP25 STN	S Clark
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Brigid Hamilton-Jones	NP25 5AT	B.M. Han
Samuel Perry	NP25 5FG	Somethome 1
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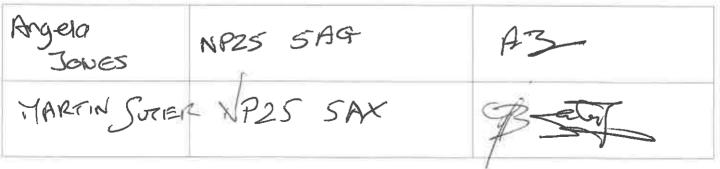
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HELEN YOUNG	NPISIDL	HRYang
Harlin Davies	NP25 SRW	HDanies
RICHARD WOOD	NP25 5DF	Zahard Wood

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RevTim	NP25 34A	tttD
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AULPARRY	NP166LT	4



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There's NO PLACE Like Home - Night Shelter Petition

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LYNNE PARKER HAYS	NIPas 4TA	HOR
LEE BAILEY	NP25 JER	How Mill
Eurita van Gestel	NP25 SAE	Success
VENNY Westow	NP25 3NW	Herst
WILL WRIGHT	CF23 SNG	Culton
Emma York	NP25 4TL	Emma York
MATT STEVENS	HR9 6EM	MS
GORDON BLSMAR	GUSLANIS	GR_
DIANA WEBSTER	NP25 5JS	DINSehole
NADINE LEWIS	NPZ6 4PZ	Mis

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NELLY PENN-1	HEGHLAND COTTAGE HR9 6DY	nettop
ELAINE LOE	NP253LZ	E Toe

Oeraidine Smith	NP253JN.	aman
DARREN POWELL	NP25 5BE	D. Powell
Alison O'Nell	NP2S SFN	AUNIA
Twy David	NPZS 3PA	Stafe
KAREN DOek	NP25 4SE	12 sal
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## There's NO PLACE Like Home – Night Shelter Petition

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Norme Mass-Blerk	NP25 5GD	Mason Blacks
AMY DUNSTALL	CF37 212F	ADAApitl
MICHIELLE PARILER	NP25 4NB	Maker
ELEANOL. HUMER	LOODLEA HOUSE MPDTSNG	co-tto-
Louise workey	NPES 53G	white
hannah wookey	NPZS Sbg	hurddy.
Carla Boyle	NP25 SEL	C.B.gto
M. NEEDMAR	NP23 SUW	Am.
Lin Morris	NP7 SLL	dy Noore
Ann Lewis	N 07 5 LG	Jacken
Kathy Price	K.Price	NP25 566.

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# Appendix 2

monmouthshire Integrated Impact Assessment document sir fynwy (incorporating Equalities, Future Generations, Welsh Language and Socio Economic Duty)		
Name of the Officer: Ian Bakewell	Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal:	
Phone no: 01633 644479 E-mail: ianbakewell@monmouthshire.gov.uk	Proposal for the Council to work together with Churches in Monmouth to find suitable accommodation and provide support to homeless people in Monmouth.	
Name of Service area	Date: 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	

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

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	<ul> <li>The Churches in Monmouth Group provide support and assistance to those in hardship, including homelessness and rough sleepers, in Monmouth.</li> <li>The Council also has a statutory duty to provide homelessness assistance to assistance to anyone over the age of 16.</li> <li>The Council also provides housing support.</li> </ul>	There are no negative impacts with this proposal.	N/A
Page 28	The aim of both organisations is to prevent and relieve homelessness in Monmouth, and so establishing a means to work together where possible on this common goal can only benefit anyone who becomes homeless.		
	Through working together the Council can help Monmouth Churches to strengthen the support they provide eg though the Council sharing of information and advice, awareness training etc		
Disability	As above	As above	As above

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Gender reassignment	As above	As above	As above
Marriage or civil partnership	Neutral	As above.	As above
Pregnancy or maternity	As above	As above	As above
Race	Neutral	As above	As above
Biligion or Belief	Neutral	As above.	As above
\$€×	Neutral	As above	As above
Sexual Orientation	As above	As above	As above

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

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

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice	Homeless applications for housing advice are most common from households on low incomes. Coupled with a lack of access to affordable social housing and affordable private rented properties in the County it makes it difficult for many households to find a home to live in.	There are no negative implications	The proposal continues to build upon on existing arrangements eg income maximisation, stable accommodation.
Page 30	<ul> <li>Working with Churches in Monmouth will enable both organisations to maximise resources and support available to alleviate homelessness in Monmouth.</li> <li>One proposal is that Monmouth Churches is integrated into the Community Conversation initiative for Monmouth. The Council's Housing Support Gateway team will also attend and link in with this initiative.</li> <li>Through working together the Council can help Monmouth Churches to strengthen the support they provide eg though the Council sharing of information and advice, awareness training etc</li> </ul>		

## 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
Policy Making Effects on the use of the Welsh language, Promoting Welsh language Treating the Welsh language no less favourably	Welsh Language will be factored into those areas of services where there is written information.	None	N/A
<b>Operational</b> Control Control	Welsh speakers are however, positively encouraged to apply for vacancies. Existing staff are encouraged through the Council's training unit to access Welsh lessons.	None	N/A
Service delivery Use of Welsh language in service delivery Promoting use of the language	Actions to improve the Council's delivery of the Housing Service provide an opportunity to promote that anyone approaching the Council in respect of a housing issues can deal with the Council in Welsh in person, by phone, email, Twitter, Facebook, letters, forms etc	None	N/A

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

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	<b>Positive:</b> Working with the Churches in Monmouth Group will expand the resources the Council already utilises to alleviate homelessness in Monmouth. It should help to strengthen the effectiveness of existing support arrangements.	The proposal will build on existing work that contributes positively to the well-being goals.
Pag	<b>Negative:</b> There are no negative impacts	
Aresilient Wales Meintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	Positive: Neutral Negative: N/A	N/A
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	<b>Positive:</b> Working with the Churches in Monmouth Group will help to positively contribute to positive health outcomes for the people of Monmouth. This proposal supports people's physical and mental wellbeing because it is well understood the effects of homelessness and poor housing has on individual's health and well-being. <b>Negative:</b> None.	<ul> <li>The proposal links with existing arrangements relating to:</li> <li>Increase the number of new affordable home delivered.</li> <li>Continue to increase the number of households assisted into the private rented sector through Monmouthshire Letting Service (MLS).</li> </ul>

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?
		<ul> <li>Continue to work with the benefits section to ensure access to Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP).</li> <li>Continue to work with partners to deliver timely support such as         <ul> <li>Pobl Young Persons Supported Housing.</li> <li>Llamau</li> <li>Emphasis</li> <li>Housing First</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	Positive: Yes Negative: None	This proposal will help vulnerable and homeless people to be more connected in Monmouth through Churches in Monmouth.
<b>Aglobally responsible Wales</b> Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	Positive: N/A Negative: N/A	N/A.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	Positive: N/A Negative: N/A	N/A
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	<b>Positive:</b> Working with the Churches in Monmouth Group will contribute to mitigating against inequality, particularly accessing accommodation. It supports positive health	<ul> <li>The proposal will indirectly establish links to measures that contribute to a more equal Wales:</li> <li>Continue to increase the number of new affordable home delivered.</li> </ul>

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?
Page 34	outcomes and overcoming poor housing conditions/circumstances for vulnerable and homeless people in Monmouth. This proposal supports people's physical and mental wellbeing because it is well understood the effects of homelessness has on individual's health and well-being. Addressing households' wellbeing health and poor housing conditions will allow those households to fulfil their potential and improve lifestyle outcomes. <b>Negative:</b> None.	<ul> <li>Continue to increase the number of households assisted into the private rented</li> <li>sector through Monmouthshire Letting Service (MLS).</li> <li>Continue to work with the benefits section to ensure access to Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP).</li> <li>Continue to work with our partners such as <ul> <li>Pobl Young Persons Supported Housing.</li> <li>Llamau</li> <li>Emphasis</li> <li>Housing First</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

4. 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?
Page 35	Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future	MCC is committed to delivering a Rapid Rehousing approach to homelessness in Monmouthshire. The Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan will address those household that are currently experiencing a short-term housing crisis (the "here" and "now") with a long-term planning for the future through its preventative work (going further upstream) in identifying trigger issues of homelessness. Working with Churches in Monmouth Group will compliment the work of the Council in delivering the RRTP.	<ul> <li>The Council will continue to operate a pro-active and positive approach to tackling homelessness in the County to both address short-term need but plan for the long-term as per the Council's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan</li> <li>We will:</li> <li>Review the Housing Support Grant Programme</li> <li>Continue to increase the number of new affordable home delivered.</li> <li>Continue to increase the number of households assisted into the private rented sector through Monmouthshire Letting Service (MLS).</li> <li>Continue to work with the benefits section to ensure access to Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP).</li> <li>Continue to work with our partners such as <ul> <li>Pobl Young Persons Supported Housing.</li> <li>Llamau</li> <li>Emphasis</li> <li>Housing First</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Collaboration	Working together with other partners to deliver objectives	Working with Churches in Monmouth contributes to the Council's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and the priority - Maximising resources and benefits through well connected partnerships.	The information and advice and awareness raising that the Council can share with Churches in Monmouth can help strengthen working together.

Sustainable Development Principle		Principle principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why. mitigate any negative in to positive	
Involvement	Involving those with an interest and seeking their views	Churches in Monmouth Group is a community group who seek to improve their local community. Their aims have been supported by local residents via the means of a petition. Churches in Monmouth share the same vision and expectations of the Council in terms of addressing homelessness	N/A
Page 3 Prevention worse	Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting	Working with community groups, such as the Churches in Monmouth Group, builds on current resources available to the council in reducing the occurrence of homelessness in the County and compliments the council's commitment to Rapid Rehousing.	
Integration other bodies	Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on	The proposal positively impacts on well-being e.g., potential for additional support in alleviating homelessness.	N/A

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

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	The Council works within robust Safeguarding policies for both adults and children. Supporting those who are homeless contributes to the authority's safeguarding responsibilities.	None.	Support the Churches in Monmouth Group in respect of Safeguarding policy, practice and and procedures adopted by the Council
Corporate Parenting ບຸ	The proposal supports Corporate Parenting.	None.	As above

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

- Welsh Government's Rapid Rehousing: Guidance How we will help those who experience homelessness find settled housing faster. First published: 24 August 2022 Last updated: 24 August 2022
- Welsh Government's White Paper on Ending Homelessness, published 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 (<u>Consultation Template</u>)
- Welsh Government: Addendum Homelessness (Priority Need and Intentionality) (Wales) Regulations 2022 (code-of-guidance-addendum.pdf)
- LGBT+ Homelessness: More Common, More Hidden, More Neglected ChamberUK
- Monmouthshire County Council Housing & Communities Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan April 2022-March 2027
- Rapid Re-Housing Action Plan 2022 2027

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7. 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 section should summarise the key issues arising from the evaluation. This summary must be included in the Committee report template

**Positive:** Churches in Monmouth has operated a Housing Group for a number of years. The group recognises the issue of both housing and housing support needs in Monmouth together with the lack of affordable housing in Monmouth. The Group, therefore, has and continues to be very active in supporting vulnerable and/or homeless households, including providing assistance to rough sleepers. The Group advocates on behalf of individuals and often liaises with the Housing Options Team. The Council very much welcomes and values the role the Group.

Negative: None.

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8. 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
Meeting arranged with Churches in Monmouth to discuss working.	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Ian Bakewell, Strategic Housing Manager

9. 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.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1			
2			
3			

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# Agenda Item 4

#### MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

## SUBJECT: Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 – Special Procedure Licensing

DIRECTORATE: Social Care, Safeguarding and Health MEETING: Cabinet Date to be considered: 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024 DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All Wards

#### 1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To seek approval from members to set an appropriate fee structure and scheme of delegated authority for the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 ("the Act") in respect of special procedure licensing.
- 1.2. The question of whether a function is an executive function [i.e. one for Cabinet] or a Council function of the Licensing Committee, is determined by either the relevant legislation itself or by the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Functions and Responsibilities) (Wales) Regulations 2007, made by Welsh Government.
- 1.3 In this instance the Act specifically delegates certain functions to the Licensing Committee [established under Section 6 of the Licensing Act 2003], whilst being silent on other functions. This means that by virtue of Section 13 of the Local Government Act 2000, where the Act is silent, the function by default becomes the responsibility of an Executive under a local authority's executive arrangements.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 2.1 Approve the Fees set out in Section 3.8 of this report below.
- 2.2 Approve the Scheme of Delegation set out in Section 3.9 to 3.11 of this report below.

## 3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 This report seeks to obtain approval from cabinet to set an appropriate fee structure and scheme of delegated authority for the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 in respect of special procedure licensing.
- 3.2 Fees for the special procedure licensing regime have been calculated by the Special Procedures Implementation Group ("SPIG") and approved by Public Protection Wales ("PPW") to be consistently applied by local authorities across Wales.
- 3.3 Where the Act is silent on where the delegation of powers rests (and therefore defaults to an executive function), it is proposed that these powers be delegated to Chief Officer Social Care, Safeguarding, The Head of Public Protection, The Principal Environmental Health Officer and The Principal Licensing Officer.
- 3.4 The current legislative framework for Special Procedures is inadequate. The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 ("the 1982 Act") is the primary means of enforcing standards in this sector through the application of a registration scheme. However, the requirement for local authorities to adopt this scheme is voluntary and

those that have adopted it cannot refuse registration of the individual or premises unless they have been convicted of an offence under Part VIII of the 1982 Act. Importantly, the 1982 Act does not require a 'competency test' for those performing the procedures to demonstrate an appropriate knowledge of hygiene and infection control.

- 3.5 The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 received Royal Assent on 3 July 2017. Part 4 of the act set out the requirements for a mandatory licensing scheme for practitioners carrying out 'special procedures' in Wales. The intention of the licensing scheme is to improve and sustain standards of infection prevention and control in the special procedures industry and assure the safety and health of clients and practitioners alike. The four special procedures are specified and are:
  - acupuncture (including dry needling)
  - body piercing
  - electrolysis
  - tattooing (including semi-permanent make-up)

## <u>Fees</u>

- 3.6 Section 76 of Part 4 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 allows local authorities that have issued a Special Procedures Licence or an Approved Premises Certificate to charge a fee. The amount of fee to be charged by a local authority is to be determined having had regard to the costs incurred or expected to be incurred by the authority. The national fees for new application and renewal fees were endorsed by PPW in November 2023 and are based on the principles of Hemmings case law; the variation and other fees were endorsed by PPW in August 2024. As required by regulations these fees will collectively be reviewed after one year from implementation and at the end of each subsequent three-year period.
- 3.7 Total fees for practitioners and premises are divided into application fee and compliance fee which is payable once the application has been granted. The application fee covers the cost of processing the application, inspection and issuing documentation. The compliance fee is a reasonable contribution to the running of the licensing scheme, advising licence holders, following up complaints, additional inspections, and ongoing support.

3.8	Each local authority	is required to	approve fees	as per the f	ollowing table.
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Licence Type	New	Renewal
Special Procedures Licence	£203	£189
(3yr licence)	(£159 Application	(£148 Application
	£44 Compliance)	£41 Compliance)
Approved Premises	£385	£345
Certificate (3yr licence)	(£244 Application	(£204 Application
	£141 Compliance)	£141 Compliance)
Special Procedure Licence	£131	
Variation (Add Procedure)		
Special Procedure Licence	£26	
Variation (Change of Detail)		
Replacement Licence	£13	
Temporary Special	£92	
Procedure licence		

Special Procedure approved premises variation (Add Procedure)	£189
Approved Premises Variation (Structural Change	£189
Approved Premises - Change of Detail	£26
Replacement Licence	£13
Approved Premises Temporary Approval (Ancillary Event)	£385
Approved Premises Temporary Approval (Convention / Main Purpose)	£680

## **Delegated Authority**

- 3.9 In order to deal efficiently with applications and enforcement, it is proposed that the powers listed below in Sections 3.10 and 3.11 be delegated to:
  - Chief Officer Social Care, Safeguarding
  - The Head of Public Protection
  - The Principal Environmental Health Officer
  - The Principal Licensing Officer
- 3.10 Section 61(1) Power to designate an individual performing a special procedure to be licensed.

Section 65(2) - Power to issue a refusal notice for a special procedure licence Section 65(3) - Power to issue a Special Procedures Licence where all the applicable licensing criteria is met.

Section 66(3&6) - Power to issue a refusal notice for a special procedure licence (in the case of a relevant offence)

Section 67 - Power to renew a Special Procedures Licence where all the applicable licensing criteria is met.

Section 68 - Power to issue a revocation notice for a special procedure licence Section 70(1) - Power to issue an approval certificate for a premises or vehicle.

Section 70(1) - Power to renew an approval certificate for a premises or vehicle.

Section 70(1) - Power to refuse an approval certificate for a premises or vehicle.

Section 72(4) - Power to take reasonable steps for bringing a voluntary termination notice to the attention of appropriate persons.

Section 77(2) - Power to issue a stop notice.

Section 78(1) - Power to issue a remedial action notice in respect of a Special Procedures Licence.

Section 79(1) - Power to issue a remedial action notice in respect of an Approved Premises Certificate.

Section 80(2) - Power to issue a completion certificate in respect of a Special Procedure Licence or an Approved Premises Certificate.

Section 97 - Power to carry out enforcement action and consultation in respect of intimate piercing.

Schedule 3 Paragraph 15(3) - Power to issue a warning notice.

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3.11 The officers specified at paragraph 3.9 above be deemed authorised officers for the purposes of Sections 98 to 107, Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 and shall have the power to nominate any supplementary officers as appropriate.

## 4 **REASONS**:

4.1 The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 will place a statutory duty on local authorities in Wales to administer and enforce the special procedures licensing scheme. To ensure that the Local Authority can fulfil this statutory obligation efficiently, an appropriate fee structure and scheme of delegated powers is required to be adopted.

## 5. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

5.1 The national fees concerning the new licensing scheme have been calculated based on the principles of cost recovery. As required by regulations these fees will collectively be reviewed after one year from implementation and at the end of each subsequent three-year period. The licence fees can be adjusted where a deficit or surplus is identified which is in accordance with the case law R(on the application of Hemmings(t/a Simply Pleasures Ltd) and others) v Westminster City Council [2015].

## 6. WELLBEING AND FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS

6.1 This report is only to approve an appropriate fee structure and scheme of delegated authority for the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 in respect of special procedure licensing. An integrated impact assessment is therefore considered unnecessary.

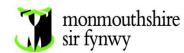
## 7. CONSULTEES:

7.1 There is no requirement under the constitution for external consultation

## 8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Public Health (Wales) Act 2017

 AUTHOR: Linda O'Gorman Principal Licensing Officer
 CONTACT DETAILS: Tel: 01633 644214 Email: <u>lindaogorman@monmouthshire.gov.uk</u>



## SUBJECT: REAL LIVING WAGE ACCREDITATION

MEETING:CABINETDATE:6th November 2024DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

#### 1. PURPOSE:

1.1 To seek approval for the authority to begin the process of becoming an accredited Real Living Wage employer, to ensure that those in our supply chains are paid a wage that recognises the true cost of living.

## 2. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 To proceed with an evaluation of the authority's supply chain in order to determine the costs associated with paying the real living wage to employees of third parties contracted to work at the authority's sites.
- 2.2 To bring forward a further report in due course detailing the plan to pay this rate to contractors, including the potential costs involved.
- 2.3 Subject to recommendation 2.2 being fulfilled, to pursue accreditation as a Real Living Wage employer.

## 3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The Real Living Wage is an unofficial hourly rate of pay overseen by the Living Wage Foundation. It is based on the cost of living and is set according to how much people need to earn in order to afford a decent standard of living. It is not a legal requirement, and organisations choose whether to pay it. It is different to the National Minimum Wage and the National Living Wage, both of which are set by the UK Government. It is presently set at £12 compared to £11.44 for the National Living Wage.
- 3.2 Becoming an accredited Real Living Wage employer is consistent with the aspirations of the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act and the council's Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy.
- 3.3 Monmouthshire County Council has been paying its employees the Real Living Wage for more than ten years, going back to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014. We are not presently an accredited employer. To achieve this status, we would need to extend this commitment and put in place plans to review our supply chain and make arrangements so that people who are employed by our contracted third-party suppliers are also paid the Real Living Wage. This covers services but not goods. Specifically, it applies to contractors who have staff working

on our sites or other locations where we work (such as in peoples' homes) for two hours a week or more for at least eight weeks.

- 3.4 As the authority already pays the Real Living Wage to its directly employed staff, the specific steps needed are:
  - Pay the Real Living Wage to all directly employed staff over the age of 18;
  - Have a plan to extend the Real Living Wage to all regular sub-contracted staff. This involves identifying third-party staff who work regularly on the premises, or other sites where the organisation carries out work.
  - Ensure that payment of the real Living Wage is included in all relevant procurement processes for contracted workers.
  - Complete and submit an application form.
- 3.5 In Wales, Cynnal Cymru works in partnership with the Real Living Wage Foundation to support employers with accreditation. Initial meetings have been held with Cynnal Cymru and the procurement team at Ardal, the shared procurement service hosted by Cardiff Council. These have informed our understanding of the pathway to accreditation. Cardiff Council has been an accredited Real Living Wage employer since 2015. More recently Bridgend and Rhondda Cynon Taff Councils have achieved accredited status and Powys Council has committed to becoming accredited.
- 3.6 Subject to approval, officers will continue to work with Cynnal Cymru on the application process. Following accreditation, the Council can use the accredited logo and will be registered on the Real Living wage Foundation's website. Accreditation is subject to annual monitoring

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

- 4.1 Initial analysis has identified that this will have a positive effect on groups possessing protected characteristics, who are disproportionately likely to have lower incomes or be in debt, and experience problems related to these.
- 4.2 The analysis also highlights a positive effect on the authority's application of the socioeconomic duty and the national well-being goals established by the Well-being of Future Generations Act. There were no effects, either positive or negative, on the Welsh Language or safeguarding.

## 5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

5.1 A full options appraisal will be developed when the costs of implementation have been received.

## 6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 6.1 Research by Cardiff Business School has identified that 94% of Living Wage Employers benefited from the accreditation, with employers reporting improvements in recruitment and reputation.
- 6.2 Full evaluation criteria will be developed as part of the evaluation of the supply chain outlined above.

## 7. REASONS:

7.1 To progress with the commitment in the Community and Corporate Plan for Monmouthshire to be a fair place to live and respond to recent increases in housing, food and fuel prices and the increased cost of living.

## 8. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

- 8.1 As contracts are renewed or new ones awarded, suppliers would need to commit to paying the Real Living Wages as part of their contractual arrangements with the authority. This is likely to lead to an uplift in costs for some contracts. The potential financial impact of any uplifts cannot be accurately determined at this stage, as it will depend very much on the nature of contracts being renewed into the future. A further report about the plans and resource implications for paying the RLW to contractors will be brought to Cabinet in due course.
- 8.2 Welsh Government have already provided finding to ensure that all care workers in Wales are paid the Real Living Wage and this has been implemented in Monmouthshire. The authority already pays the Real Living Wage to its own staff.

## 9. CONSULTEES:

Strategic Leadership Team Cabinet

## 10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None

## 11. AUTHORS

Matthew Gatehouse, Chief Officer – People, Performance and Scrutiny Phillipa Green, Head of HR

## 12. CONTACT DETAILS:

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E-mail:	matthewgatehouse@monmouthshire.gov.uk
	philippagreen@monmouthshire.gov.uk

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SUBJECT:Former Abergavenny LibraryDIRECTORATE:CYP / ResourcesMEETING:CabinetDATE:6th November 2024DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:All

#### 1. PURPOSE:

This report is brought forward to declare surplus the Former Abergavenny Library, transferring from the CYP portfolio to Landlord Services.

#### 2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**:

That Cabinet agrees the following:

- (i) That the former Abergavenny Library transfer from the CYP portfolio to Landlord Services.
- (ii) That Landlord Services invite proposals for the leasing or purchase of the site in accordance with the policy objectives of the Asset Management Strategy.

## 3. KEY ISSUES:

#### Background

- 3.1 The Former Abergavenny Library was closed in 2014/15, with the library relocated following completion of the development of the new hub at the Abergavenny Town Hall. In the subsequent years, the former library has been utilised for a number of services including Adult Education and most recently MCC's Pupil Referral Service (PRS).
- 3.2 Whilst the PRS has managed to utilise the accommodation for several years, the increase in service users along with the Council's commitment to develop new PRS provisions in the north and the south of the county, the Pupil Referral Service are vacating the former library to relocate to the Bryn-Y-Cwm property on Old Hereford Road, Abergavenny.
- 3.3 The current accommodation in the old library does not enable delivery of the Curriculum for Wales and does not have appropriate facilities in terms of intervention/ break out spaces to enable adults to support young people to regulate their emotions when in crisis, or to access planned therapeutic support and intervention
- 3.4 The proposed accommodation will provide dedicated teaching and learning spaces for pupils along with specialist art, science, and life skills areas. There will be areas for outside learning and therapeutic support and intervention. Pupils will be taught in a safe and secure environment. There will also be dedicated space for teaching staff to deliver EOTAS provision and enable them to collaborate more effectively.

- 3.5 All users of the Bryn Y Cwm site have been relocated elsewhere apart from the Youth Centre which will remain on site. This will enable the Youth Service to work more closely with pupils using the PRS and enhance the service currently provided.
- 3.6 The permanent dedicated site at Bryn Y Cwm, will also enable pupils currently located at the Attik in Monmouth to come together on one site and to benefit from the combined skills and expertise of dedicated PRS staff who are currently working across the two sites.
- 3.7 By vacating the former library, an opportunity is created to explore alternative uses for the property including letting or disposal. Declaring the site surplus and transferring the asset to the portfolio of Landlord Services will enable officers to explore opportunities to generate a financial return and maximise social benefit.
- 3.8 The property itself is located on Library Square, Abergavenny and consists of a combination of two large ground floor rooms and first floor smaller meeting/classrooms and kitchen spaces. The property condition is reasonable considering its age. Any occupier will need to invest in the site, as well as adhere to the listed building status.
- 3.9 The property is subject to a restrictive covenant that reduces the number of potential uses, namely that of a public house, restaurant or hot-food takeaway. The covenant does not prevent the property being used for commercial or community uses.
- 3.10 Landlord Services will market the opportunity, and invite offers for the site. Any decision to award a tender would be presented before Cabinet, with any recommendation based on an evidence-based scoring criteria, in accordance with the Council's Asset Management Strategy. It is proposed that marketing would commence in early December with a further report to Cabinet, subject to offers received, in February-March 2025.

## 4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION:

4.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment has been undertaken, attached as Appendix 1.

4.2 A summary from Section 8 of the Integrated Impact Assessment identifying the significant positive and negative impacts is detailed below.

#### **Positive Impact**

- The proposal will enable an underutilised asset to be repurposed.
- The proposal to offer the site for community or commercial use will enhance the availability of opportunities that are open, accessible and of interest to people of all ages and abilities.
- This proposal will strengthen and widen the opportunities available to people in a way that meets their needs. Therefore, likely to increase and advance equality of opportunity for people with disabilities in Monmouthshire.
- The proposal may enable people with learning disabilities / physical disabilities and mental health issues to access a new community initiative within a well-known property in Abergavenny.

#### **Negative Impacts**

- The creation of a further facility in close proximity to a number of existing community assets may negatively impact the sustainability of existing community facilities.

## **5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

Option	Benefits	Risks	Recommendation
Do not declare the site surplus	• Whilst the property would be vacant, the property would be retained for the delivery of other council services should the need arise.	<ul> <li>That the property falls into disrepair and remains underutilized, in conflict with the commitments of the Asset Management Strategy to maximise the use of property.</li> <li>The property would continue to result in costs to MCC through utilities and business rates.</li> </ul>	
Declare the site surplus and advertise for prospective occupiers	<ul> <li>The property could generate a financial return.</li> <li>The property is a well-known asset and is suitable for a range of different commercial or community uses.</li> <li>MCC would offset any ongoing running costs associated with the asset.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>That no offers are received for the property.</li> <li>That the property fails to be repurposed and remains vacant.</li> <li>The property requires investment to repurpose, which may prohibit our ability to identify a user or introduce capital costs to MCC.</li> </ul>	Recommended the site is declared surplus and transferred to Landlord Services to advertise.

## 6. EVALUATION CRITIERIA

6.1 Landlord Services will be responsible for assessing the merits of proposals received for the property and evaluating the extent to which they can be delivered or are sustainable alternative uses.

## 7. REASONS:

- 7.1 The Pupil Referral Services have relocated from the property to the Bryn-Y-Cwm building and the asset is currently vacant.
- 7.2 The property lends itself to a range of different uses and has potential to generate a financial return to MCC. Maximising the use of property that is under-utilised features in the principles of the Council's Asset Management Strategy.

## 8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

8.1 The annual running costs (utilities and business rates) of the former library at the time of occupation was approximately £24,000 per annum. Whilst MCC will not be incurring these costs since the property has been vacated, MCC will continue to incur holding

costs (standing charges, business rates) until liability is transferred (via lease or transfer).

- 8.2 Relocation of the Pupil Referral Service to the Bryn-Y-Cwm has not resulted in additional costs to MCC.
- 8.3MCC would generate a rental for hire of the property, as well as offset any ongoing holding costs (business rates and utilities) which would be met by the tenant.

## 9. CONSULTEES:

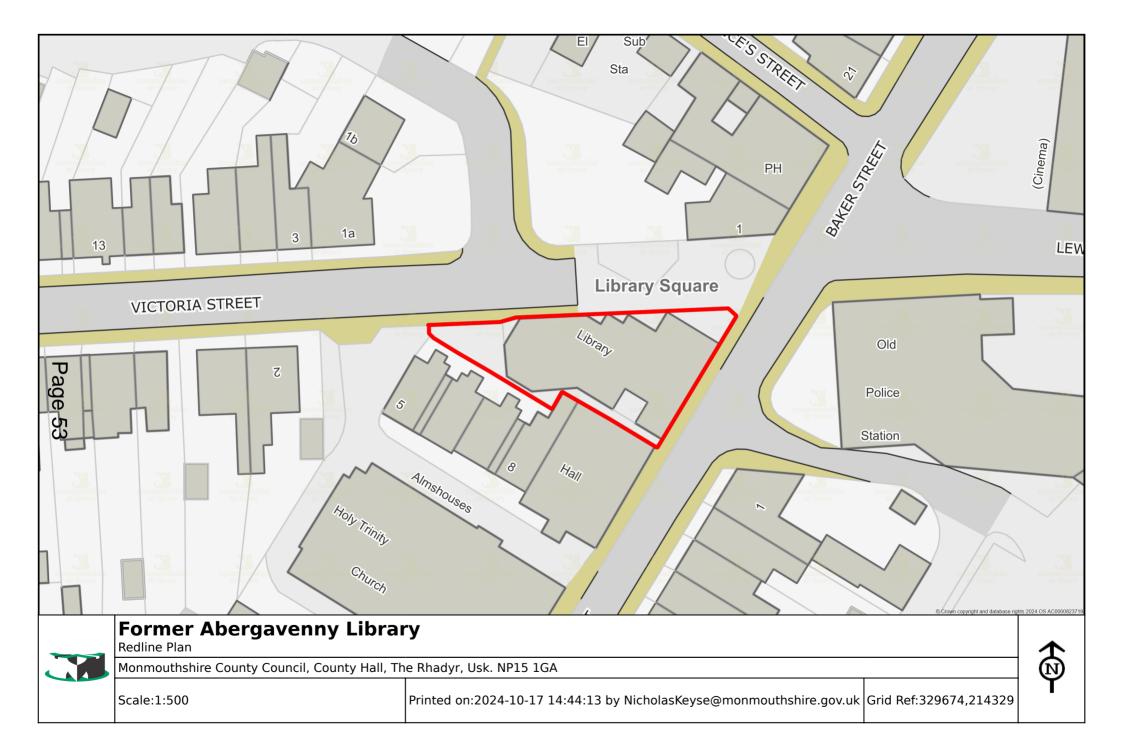
- CYP Directorate Management Team
- Landlord Services
- John Rogers, MCC Legal Services
- Lucinda Boyland Community Development and Delivery Manager

#### **10.BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

Appendix 1 – Integrated Impact Assessment Appendix 2 – Redline Plan

#### 12. AUTHOR:

Cath Saunders, Strategic Programme Lead - Learning, Skills & Economy Nicholas Keyse, Acting Head of Landlord Services



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## **Integrated Impact Assessment document**

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

Name of the Officer; Nicholas Keyse	Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal
<b>Phone no:</b> 01633 644773	This report is brought forward to declare surplus the Former Abergavenny Library, transferring from the CYP portfolio to Landlord Services.
E-mail: nicholaskeyse@monmouthshire.gov.uk	
Name of Service area	Date: 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
СҮР	
Resources	

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	The former occupier, the PRS, will continue to deliver services from a new location at Bryn-Y- Cwm, Old Hereford Road, Abergavenny. The repurposing of the former library will enable other occupiers to be identified and that may contribute to community development. The property will require investment to be made open, accessible and of interest to people of all ages.	None identified at this point	We will ensure that all protected characteristics are considered in arriving at any recommendation on a future occupier of the site.

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	Declaring the site surplus will enable opportunities for commercial or community development to be explored, further extending the range of opportunities that people with disability can access.	No impact identified at this stage	We will ensure that all protected characteristics are considered in arriving at any recommendation on a future occupier of the site.
Gender reassignment	No impact identified at this stage	No impact identified at this stage	No mitigating actions identified at this stage
Marriage or civil partnership	No impact identified at this stage	No impact identified at this stage	No mitigating actions identified at this stage
Pregnancy or maternity	No impact identified at this stage	No impact identified at this stage	No mitigating actions identified at this stage
Race	No impact identified at this stage	No impact identified at this stage	No mitigating actions identified at this stage
Religion or Belief	No impact identified at this stage	No impact identified at this stage	No mitigating actions identified at this stage
Sex	No impact identified at this stage	No impact identified at this stage	No impact identified at this stage

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?
Sexual Orientation	No impact identified at this stage	No impact identified at this stage	No mitigating actions identified at this stage

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

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

	Describe any positive impacts your	Describe any negative impacts	What has been/will be done to
	proposal has in respect of people	your proposal has in respect of	mitigate any negative impacts or
	suffering socio economic	people suffering socio economic	better contribute to positive
	disadvantage	disadvantage.	impacts?
Socio-economic Duty and Social ຜູ້Justice	Declaring the site surplus to requirements will enable a marketing exercise to be undertaken, inviting proposals for the land and such that different uses can be explored. It is anticipated that interest will exist in this well-known property and it will present an opportunity to enhance the provision of services within the locality.	No impact identified at this stage	No mitigating actions identified at this stage

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
Policy Making Effects on the use of the Welsh language, Promoting Welsh language Treating the Welsh language no less favourably	Marketing details for the property will be made available in Welsh and English.	No impact identified at this stage	No mitigating actions identified at this stage
Operational Recruitment & Training of workforce	No impact identified at this stage .	No impact identified at this stage	No mitigating actions identified at this stage
Service delivery Use of Welsh language in service delivery Promoting use of the language	No impact identified at this stage	No impact identified at this stage	No mitigating actions identified at this stage

3. Policy making and the Welsh language.

**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!

	Does the proposal contribute to this goal?	What actions have been/will be taken to
Well Being Goal	Describe the positive and negative impacts.	mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<b>A prosperous Wales</b> Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	Positive: This proposal will enable us to repurpose an underutilized asset and offer an opportunity that could enhance the availability of opportunities to the community. Negative: should a community-use be recommended, it may detract from existing community assets in the area.	No mitigating actions identified at this stage
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	Positive: the property benefits from a small garden which should feature in the proposals of any occupier, such that opportunities for growing or biodiversity are captured.	No mitigating actions identified at this stage
<b>A healthier Wales</b> People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	Positive: The proposal is consistent with the commitments of the Asset Management Strategy, which includes maximizing the use of Council assets. The properties layout and location lend themselves to a range of uses.	No mitigating actions identified at this stage
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	Positive: Proposals received for this property will need to evidence how they are meeting a market need or gap, and the opportunities to connect with existing communities.	No mitigating actions identified at this stage
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local	No impact identified at this stage	No mitigating actions identified at this stage

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?
social, economic and environmental wellbeing		
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	No impact identified at this stage	No mitigating actions identified at this stage
<b>A more equal Wales</b> People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or pircumstances	No mitigating actions identified at this stage	No mitigating actions identified at this stage

	Development ciple	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?
Long Term	Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future	The implementation of the proposal will enable proposals to be received that consider the short- and long-term opportunities of the Former Library. The property lends itself to meet a range of uses which can support people to access services or offers.	No mitigating actions identified at this stage

	Development ciple	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?
Collaboration	Working together with other partners to deliver objectives	The proposal to release the property and offer it as a community or commercial opportunity provides further potential for working with our community and voluntary sector partners.	No mitigating actions identified at this stage
	Involving those with an interest and seeking their views	Invitations to tender will be made available to all parties and MCC Estates will manage the advertising process directly. Any recommendation relating to the future of the site will be presented to Cabinet for consideration.	No mitigating actions identified at this stage
Prevention	Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse	No impact identified at this stage	No mitigating actions identified at this stage
<b>S</b> Integration	Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies	•	No mitigating actions identified at this stage

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

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	None identified at this stage	.No impact identified at this stage	No mitigating actions identified at this stage
Corporate Parenting	No impact identified at this stage	No impact identified at this stage	No mitigating actions identified at this stage

## - ∠. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

In accordance with the requirements of the Asset Management Strategy, vacant property should be repurposed to ensure they are generating a financial and social return. Any recommendation to Cabinet to accept a proposal will be informed by a scoring matrix, considering the financial offer, experience and standing of the applicant, details of the proposed use, conditionality, etc.

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?

**Positive Impact** 

• The proposal will enable an underutilised asset to be repurposed.

- The proposal to offer the site for community or commercial use will enhance the availability of opportunities that are open, accessible and of interest to people of all ages and abilities.
- This proposal will strengthen and widen the opportunities available to people in a way that meets their needs. Therefore, likely to increase and advance equality of opportunity for people with disabilities in Monmouthshire.
- The proposal may enable people with learning disabilities / physical disabilities and mental health issues to access a new community initiative within a well-known property in Abergavenny.

## **Negative Impacts**

- The creation of a further facility in close proximity to a number of existing community assets may negatively impact the sustainability of existing community facilities.
- 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
Landlord Services will commence marketing the opportunity	December/January 2024/25	Landlord Services
\$4		

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.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1.	Internal SCH decision making	13.03.24	DMT asked for assurance that people within supported living arrangements who used to access Greenfingers are being appropriately supported with day time opportunities of their choice.
2.	Informal Cabinet	19.03.24	

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