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County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Monday, 13 January 2025

Notice of meeting:

People Scrutiny Committee

**Tuesday, 21st January, 2025 at 10.00 am,
The Council Chamber, County Hall, 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.	Apologies for Absence.	
2.	Declarations of Interest.	
3.	Public Open Forum. Scrutiny Committee Public Open Forum ~ Guidance Our Scrutiny Committee meetings are live streamed and a link to the live stream will be available on the meeting page of the Monmouthshire County Council website If you would like to share your thoughts on any proposals being discussed by Scrutiny Committees, you can submit your representation in advance via this form <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 Scrutiny Committee meeting. All representations	

	<p>received will be made available to councillors prior to the meeting. If you would like to attend one of our meetings to speak under the Public Open Forum at the meeting, you will need to give three working days' notice by contacting Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk . The amount of time afforded to each member of the public to speak is at the chair's discretion, but to enable us to accommodate multiple speakers, we ask that contributions be no longer than 3 minutes.</p> <p>If you would like to suggest future topics for scrutiny by one of our Scrutiny Committees, please do so by emailing Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	
4.	Policy Update - Review of Homeseach Policy. To scrutinise the amendments to the policy (report to follow).	
5.	People Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme and Action List.	1 - 6
6.	Cabinet and Council Planner.	7 - 20
7.	To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th November 2024.	21 - 24
8.	Next Meeting: Tuesday 18th February 2025 at 10.00am.	

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive

**MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY**

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Jan Butler, Goetre Fawr;, Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Christopher Edwards, St. Kingsmark;, Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Simon Howarth, Llanelly Hill;, Independent Group
County Councillor Penny Jones, Raglan;, Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Maureen Powell, Pen Y Fal;, Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Sue Riley, Bulwark and Thornwell;, Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Maria Stevens, Severn;, Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jackie Strong, Caldicot Cross;, Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Laura Wright, Grofield;, 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.

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.

Monmouthshire Scrutiny Question Guide

Role of the Pre-meeting	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agree the order of questioning and which Members will lead - Agree questions for officers and questions for the Cabinet Member 	
Questions for the Meeting	
<p><u>Scrutinising Performance</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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? 	<p><u>Scrutinising Policy</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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

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| | <p>9. been taken into consideration? For example, what are the procedures that need to be in place to protect children?</p> <p>10.</p> <p>11. How much will this cost to implement and what funding source has been identified?</p> <p>12.</p> <p>13. How will performance of the policy be measured and the impact evaluated</p> |
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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...

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2024-25

People Scrutiny Committee (Meetings at 10am unless stated otherwise)				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
21 st January 2025	Review of Homesearch Policy	To scrutinise the amendments to the policy.	Rebecca Cresswell	Policy Update
18 th February 2025	Inclusion Strategy and Additional Learning Needs Policy	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny of the policy.	Morwenna Wagstaff	Pre-decision scrutiny
	Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals	To scrutinise the 2025/26 Draft Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals.	Jonathan Davies Peter Davies Cllr Callard	Budget Monitoring
1 st April 2025				
<i>To be confirmed</i>	Planning and Provision of School Places	To scrutinise data and projections for pupil places and the impact of future housing development.	Will Mclean Matthew Jones	Policy Development
Corporate and Community Plan Items for the Committee's consideration for inclusion into the People Scrutiny Forward Plan:				
Disability Confident Pledge				

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2024-25

People Scrutiny Committee (Meetings at 10am unless stated otherwise)				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
Participatory Budgeting Programme				
Race equality action plan for Wales				
LGBTQ+ action plan				
Disability Action Plan				
Gender Equality Action Plan				
Homes for Social Rent and work to bring empty properties back into use				
Review and update shared housing allocations policy				
Rapid Rehousing approach/rapid rehousing action plan delivery				

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2024-25

People Scrutiny Committee (Meetings at 10am unless stated otherwise)				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
Care without profit – increase in-county placement options				
Support effective discharge from hospital – integration between health and social care				
Provide a high-quality residential care facility for people with dementia				
Chief Officer for Social Care and Health Annual Report				
Safeguarding Performance Report				
Develop a broader 14-19 education offer through				

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2024-25

People Scrutiny Committee (Meetings at 10am unless stated otherwise)				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
collaboration with partners				

Action List for People Scrutiny Committee

Meeting:	25 th November 2024	
Minute:	Action	Officer / Member
4	<p>Scrutiny of the Blue Badge Scheme</p> <p>Do we have any data on possible abuse of scheme and whether it relates to award of badges for cases where badges shouldn't have been awarded or badges that have expired.</p> <p>Action: Cheryl to check whether there is any Monmouthshire data.</p>	<p>Cheryl Haskell</p> <p>Response sent to scrutiny to email to the committee</p>
4	<p>Reference was made to the length of the award of a blue badge - Members heard that a petition had been submitted to the Senedd about lifelong diagnoses and badges awarded for life.</p> <p>Action: The Committee requests the Cabinet Member make further inquiries as to the outcome of the Senedd petition.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member Angela Sandles</p> <p>Response sent to scrutiny to email to the committee</p>
4	<p>Request the Cabinet Member to make contact with Welsh Government in respect of the attendance allowance form and the need to simplify it.</p> <p>Action: To request the Cabinet Member takes this forward with Welsh Government.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member Angela Sandles</p> <p>Response sent to scrutiny to email to the committee</p>
4	<p>In relation to the SR1 form, the Committee asked Cheryl to make further enquiries with colleagues across Gwent and Welsh Government about approaches to ensure consistency.</p> <p>Action: Cheryl to check approaches taken by others.</p>	<p>Cheryl Haskell</p> <p>Response sent to scrutiny to email to the committee</p>

Action List for People Scrutiny Committee

	<p>The Committee requests the Cabinet Member to take forward the issue of parking in the disabled bays at county hall without blue badges and he need to consider temporary transient disabilities.</p> <p>Action: For the Cabinet Member to take forward the issue.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member Angela Sandles</p> <p>Response sent to scrutiny to email to the committee</p>
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Committee / Decision Maker	Meeting date / Decision due	Report Title	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	26th June 2025	Licensing Act Policy 2025	Angela Sandles - Engagement	Policy has to be approved by Full Council and it needs to be in place by 1 st July 2025	Linda O Gorman	10-Jan-25
Cabinet	05-May-25	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
ICMD	09-Apr-25	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 4	Ben Callard - Resources			
Council	06-Mar-25	Contract Procedure Rules	Ben Callard - Resources		Scott James	9-Jan-25
Council	06-Mar-25	2025/26 Final Budget sign off including CT resolution	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	13-Jun-24
Council	06-Mar-25	2025/26 Capital Strategy & Treasury Strategy	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	13-Jun-24
Cabinet	05-Mar-25	2025/26 Final Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Jun-24
Cabinet	05-Mar-25	2024/25 Revenue and Capital Monitoring Month 9	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Jun-24
Cabinet	05-Mar-25	2025/26 WCF/Mon Farm Strategy	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Jun-24

Cabinet	05-Feb-25	UK Shared Prosperity Fund post March 2025 – financial implications and impact	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Hannah Jones	10-Jul-24
ICMD	29-Jan-25	2025/26 Community Council and Police Precepts final	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	17-Dec-24
Council	23-Jan-25	Council Diary 2025/26	Angela Sandles - Engagement		John Pearson	
Council	23-Jan-25	GWENT REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD (RPB) AREA PLAN AND RPB ANNUAL REPORT 23/24	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Natasha Harris (Torfaen)	
Council	23-Jan-25	Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2025/26	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	13-Jun-24
Cabinet	22-Jan-25	Business case for the purchase of a property in Abergavenny to develop supported accommodation for care experienced young people	Ben Callard - Resources		Jane Rogers	7-Jan-25
Cabinet	22-Jan-25	2025/26 Draft Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Jun-24
Cabinet	22-Jan-25	Education Middle Tier	Martyn Groucutt - Education		Will McLean	20-Nov-24
ICMD	15-Jan-25	Decision to transfer Dixton Archive from Monmouth Museum to Herefordshire Record Office			Rachael Rogers	9-Dec-24
ICMD	15-Jan-25	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 3	Ben Callard - Resources		Dave Jarrett	13-Jun-24
ICMD	18-Dec-24	2025/26 Community Council and Police Precepts draft	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	13-Jun-24

ICMD	18-Dec-24	Council Tax Base 2025/26	Ben Callard - Resources		Ruth Donovan	
Council	12-Dec-24	Charter for the Bereaved			Will McLean	27-Nov-24
Council	12-Dec-24	CYP Inclusion Strategy			Morwenna Wagstaff	19-Nov-24
Council	12-Dec-24	Deforestation Free Champion Council			Hazel Clatworthy	4-Oct-24
Cabinet	04-Dec-24	Future of the Former Mouton House School, Chepstow'	Martyn Groucutt - Education		Nick Keyse	13-Nov-24
Cabinet	04-Dec-24	Strategic Risk Assessment	Ben Callard - Resources	To provide Cabinet with an overview of the current strategic risks facing the authority.	Richard Jones	7-Oct-24
Cabinet	04-Dec-24	Community and Corporate Plan Performance Update	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy	To provide Cabinet with an update on the progress that has been made to deliver the commitments set out in the Community and Corporate Plan 2022-28.	Richard Jones	7-Oct-24
Cabinet	04-Dec-24	2024/25 Revenue and Capital Monitoring Month 6	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Jun-24
Cabinet	04-Dec-24	PSOW Annual letter 2023-24			Annette Evans	1-Oct-24
Cabinet	04-Dec-24	Monmouthshire NEET Prevention Strategy			Louise Wilce	10-Jun-24
ICMD	27-Nov-24	Planning Service Annual Performance Report	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Phil Thomas	

ICMD	13-Nov-24	TROs Amendment Order No. 15 2024 (Catrin Maby)			Graham Kinsella/Gareth Freeman	15-Oct-24
Cabinet	06-Nov-24	Future of the Former Abergavenny Library'			Nick Keyse	21-Oct-24
Cabinet	06-Nov-24	Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 – Special Procedure Licensing			Linda O Gorman	
Cabinet	06-Nov-24	Monmouth Churches Petition			Ian Bakewell	1-Oct-24
Council	24-Oct-24	RLDP			Craig O'Connor	
Council	24-Oct-24	Safeguarding report – Social Care & Health			Jane Rodgers	4-Jun-24
Council	24-Oct-24	Connecting Care – Social Care Case Management System - deferred		Deferred	Jane Rodgers	7-Oct-24
Council	24-Oct-24	Statement of Gambling Policy and proposals for casinos			Linda O Gorman	9-Jul-24
Council	24-Oct-24	Standards Committee Annual Report			James Williams	4-Oct-24
Council	24-Oct-24	Chief Officer report – Social Care & Health			Jane Rodgers	4-Jun-24
ICMD	23-Oct-24	UWN Land Charge			Amy Longford	25-Sep-24

ICMD	23-Oct-24	Welsh Church FundWorking Group - meeting 2	Ben Callard - Resources		Dave Jarrett	13-Jun-24
Cabinet	16-Oct-24	2025/26 Revenue and Capital MTFP update and process	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Jun-24
Cabinet	16-Oct-24	2024/25 Revenue Monitoring Month 4	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Daviea	4-Jun-24
ICMD	09-Oct-24	Building at Risk Strategy	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Craig O'Connor	28-Aug-24
Cabinet	25-Sep-24	People with Care Experience			John Pearson	
Council	19-Sep-24	Appointment to Outside Body			Charlotte Drury	
Council	19-Sep-24	Self-assessment report – People, Performance and Partnerships		To appoint a Monmouthshire Councillor to be a representative on the Rachel Herbert's School Endowment Charity.	John Pearson	
Council	19-Sep-24	Gov & Audit Annual Report			Matt Gatehouse	4-Jun-24
Council	19-Sep-24	Home to School Transport – response to consultation			Andrew Blackmore	21-Jun-24
Cabinet	11-Sep-24	Measurement Framework	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Deb Hill Howells	4-Jun-24
Cabinet	11-Sep-24	Consultation on the relocation of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy	To approve an update to the measurement framework that enables Cabinet to track progress against the priorities in the community and corporate plan	Matt Gatehouse	7-Jun-24

Cabinet	11-Sep-24	USE OF SECTION 106 FROM N584 LAND AT FORENSIC SCIENCE CHEPSTOW	Martyn Groucutt - Education	To receive feedback on the statutory consultation concerning the proposed relocation and increase in capacity of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni.	Matt Jones	
Cabinet	11-Sep-24	Authorisation of Proper Officers - Public Protection, Environmental Health (Communicable Disease)			Christian Schmidt	7-Aug-24
ICMD	11-Sep-24	Monmouthshire Local Toilets Strategy - revised version 2024	Angela Sandles - Engagement		Louise Driscoll	
ICMD	11-Sep-24	GRT sites	Angela Sandles - Engagement		David H Jones	
Cabinet	21-Aug-24	Future of the former Tudor Street Day Centre, Abergavenny	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding			4-Jun-24
Cabinet	21-Aug-24	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 1			Nick Keyse	
ICMD	21-Aug-24	Increasing Building Regulations Charges	Ben Callard - Resources		Dave Jarrett	6-Jun-24
ICMD	21-Aug-24	Gypsy & Traveller Site Identification	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		nigel george	
Cabinet	21-Aug-24	Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee ~ Feedback to Cabinet of Meeting held on 16th July 2024			Frances O'Brien	
Cabinet	21-Aug-24	Older People's Champion			Alistair Neill	
Council	18-Jul-24	Chief Officer report – Children and Young People	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Matthew Gatehouse / Jane Rodgers	27-Jun-24
					To formally appoint to the role of Age Friendly champion in line with the commitment made by Council in January of this year and to provide a brief update on work done towards making Monmouthshire an age friendly county	

Council	18-Jul-24	Medium Term Financial Strategy			Will McLean	4-Jun-24
Council	18-Jul-24	Budden Crescent business case	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Jun-24
Cabinet	17-Jul-24	Feedback from P&O Scrutiny	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Jane Rodgers	4-Jun-24
Cabinet	17-Jul-24	Connected Care report – Social Care and Health (possible Sept)				26-Jun-24
Cabinet	17-Jul-24	Digital and Data Strategy	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Jane Rodgers	4-Jul-24
Cabinet	17-Jul-24	Revenue and Capital monitoring outturn report (including early update on 2024/25)	Ben Callard - Resources			10-Jun-24
Cabinet	17-Jul-24	SPEED LIMIT PROPOSALS – AMENDMENT ORDER NO. 14	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	10-May-24
ICMD	10-Jul-24	Whole Authority Strategic Risk Assessment	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	This report seeks Cabinet Member approval to proceed with several Traffic Orders throughout the County.	Graham Kinsella	
Cabinet	05-Jun-24	People Strategy		To provide cabinet with an overview of the current strategic risks facing the authority and to agree the revised strategic risk management policy	Richard Jones	26-Apr-24
Cabinet	05-Jun-24	Consultation on the relocation of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni	Ben Callard - Resources	To seek Cabinet approval of a revised people strategy, which is one of a suite of enabling strategies that sit underneath the community and corporate plan to ensure the authorities resources are aligned with the delivery of its purpose.	Matt Gatehouse	1-May-24
Cabinet	05-Jun-24	Feedback from P&O Scrutiny	Martyn Groucutt - Education	To receive feedback on the statutory consultation concerning the proposed relocation and increase in capacity of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni.	Matthew Jones	26-Feb-24

Cabinet	22-May-24	Strategy for Commissioned Domiciliary Care in Monmouthshire		Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee – Feedback to Cabinet of Meeting held on 14th May 2024	Hazel Ilett	14-May-24
Cabinet	22-May-24	Council Tax Assistance for MCC Foster Carers	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Ceri York	24-Apr-24
ICMD	22-May-24	Florence Jones Report & FGE	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding	The purpose of this paper is to present the case for providing Monmouthshire County Council foster carers with a subsidy on their council tax.	Jane Rodgers	8-May-24
ICMD	22-May-24	Political Balance Report	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	to consider the options in relation to the collection of monies secured under a land charge on land at and including Upper House Farm, Wonastow, Monmouth	Amy Longford	30-Apr-24
Council	16-May-24	Appointments to Committees	Angela Sandles - Engagement		James Williams	
Council	16-May-24	Outside Bodies	Angela Sandles - Engagement		James Williams	
Council	16-May-24	Uploading S106 Capital Sums into 2024/25 Capital Budget	Angela Sandles - Engagement		James Williams	
Cabinet	15-May-24	Development of a Supported Accommodation Project for care experienced young people	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Mike Moran	9-Apr-24
Cabinet	15-May-24	Repurposing of Severn View Residential Home, Chepstow	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Jane Rodgers	24-Apr-24
Cabinet	15-May-24	Local Housing Market Assessment	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To seek approval for the repurposing of Severn View Residential Home to support policy objectives around temporary accommodation, in accordance with the Rapiit Rehousing Strategy.	Nick Keyse/Cath Fallon	
Cabinet	15-May-24	Local Flood Strategy	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	The LHMA provides a review of the need for affordable and market housing across Monmouthshire and an overview of the current housing market.	Sally Meyrick	8-Jan-24

Cabinet	15-May-24	Local Transport Plan	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Carl Touhig	9-Oct-23
Cabinet	15-May-24	Climate and Nature Emergency	Catrin Maby	To adopt the Local Transport Plan	Debra Hill-Howells / Christian Schmidt	4-Oct-22
Cabinet	15-May-24	Greenfingers Report		To receive an update on progress made towards the Climate and Nature Emergency Strategy and to agree the new overarching Climate and Nature Emergency Strategy and action plan format	Hazel Clatworthy	19-Oct-23
Cabinet	15-May-24	Local Housing Market Assessment Refresh 2022-2037	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Jane Rodgers	26-Mar-24
Cabinet	15-May-24	Local Food Strategy		To provide an overview of the Local Housing Market Assessment Refresh 2022-2037 which provides an estimation of the additional affordable housing need across Monmouthshire.	Sally Meyrick	15-Apr-24
Cabinet	15-May-24	Placement Development Strategy			Marianne Elliot	18-Apr-24
Council	18-Apr-24	ICMD Report - 20 moh Speed Limit Revocation Order	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding	To set out a strategy for the expansion and development of in-county residential and supported accommodation placements for children who are looked after. To make recommendations about i) changing the use of 3	Jane Rodgers / Diane Corrister	8-Jan-24
ICMD	17-Apr-24	ICM report - Florence Jones DEFERRED	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Graham Kinsella	22-Mar-24
ICMD	17-Apr-24	Public Spaces Protection Order Dog Controls	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Amy Longford	11-Mar-24
Cabinet	10-Apr-24	Primary School catchment areas consultation feedback	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Huw Owen	19-Feb-24
Cabinet	10-Apr-24	Sustainable Communities for Learning Strategic Outline Programme update	Martyn Groucutt - Education	For Members to receive feedback on the consultation relating to a review of Primary School catchments areas and determine whether to implement proposals	Matthew Jones	20-Nov-23

Cabinet	10-Apr-24	Welsh Church Fund Working Group	Martyn Groucutt - Education	To provide members with details of the revisions to the Strategic Outline Programme for the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme which will inform the development of projects within the rolling programme of	Debbie Graves	12-Sep-23
ICMD	27-Mar-24	Experimental TRO Prohibition of driving except for access Goldwire Lane Monmouth	Ben Callard - Resources		Dave Jarrett	
ICMD	27-Mar-24	Increase in building control charges	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Graham Kinsella	
ICMD	13-Mar-24	To consider a Business Case for the acquisition of a property for use as a registered children's home	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Craig O'Connor	
Cabinet	06-Mar-24	Adoption of Abergavenny Placemaking Plan	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		jane Rodgers	13-Feb-24
Cabinet	05-Mar-24	Monmouth Primary Review				
Cabinet	05-Mar-24	Changes to the funding formula for Leadership funding for secondary schools	Ben Callard - Resources		Nikki Wellington	30-Oct-24
Cabinet	05-Mar-24	Adoption of Magor 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
Cabinet	05-Mar-24	Adoption of Monmouth Placemaking Plan	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22
Cabinet	05-Mar-24	Road Safety Strategy	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22
Cabinet	05-Mar-24	Agree the name of the new Welsh-medium Primary School in Monmouth	Catrin Maby	To adopt the Road Safety Strategy	Mark Hand / Paul Keeble	4-Oct-22

Council	29-Feb-24	Standards Committee Appointment	Martyn Groucutt - Education	Agree the name of the new Welsh-medium Primary School in Monmouth	Debbie Graves	15-Nov-23
Council	29-Feb-24	Strategic Equality Plan 2024			James Williams	6-Feb-24
Council	29-Feb-24	Appointment of Monmouthshire Local Access Forum		To seek approval of a new Strategic Equality Plan for the period 2024-28, incorporating MCCs contribution to national action plans on race equality, LGBTQ and other protected characteristics	Matthew Gatehouse	15-Nov-23
Council	29-Feb-24	Final Budget Proposals		To secure the appointment of members to the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum for its next 3 year period.	Matthew Lewis	18-Jan-23
Council	29-Feb-24	Capital and Treasury Strategy	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	
Council	29-Feb-24	Council Diary	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	
Council	29-Feb-24	WCF/Trust Treasury Fund Investment	Angela Sandles - Engagement		John Pearson	
ICMD	28-Feb-24	2023/24 Revenue and Capital Monitoring - Month 9	Ben Callard - Resources			
Cabinet	28-Feb-24	2023/24 Final Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	27-Apr-23
Cabinet	28-Feb-24	Economic Development Strategy	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	
Cabinet	07-Feb-24	Amendment to Street Naming and Numbering Policy regarding Replacement or additional Street nameplate signs for Existing Streets		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

ICMD	24-Jan-24	Community Council & Police Precepts - Determination	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Mark Hand	2-Jan-24
ICMD	24-Jan-24	Introduction of Council Tax Premiums for Second homes from 1 st April 2024	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	
Cabinet	22-Jan-24	Purchase of property for housing			Ian Bakewell	25-Nov-24
Council	18-Jan-24	Council Tax Reduction Scheme	Ben Callard - Resources	Council to re-affirm their decision on the Second Home Premium	Ruth Donovan	5-Dec-23
Council	18-Jan-24	Asset Management Strategy	Ben Callard - Resources		Ruth Donovan	
Council	18-Jan-24	Community & Corporate Plan performance update			Nick Keyse	28-Sep-23
Cabinet	17-Jan-24	REPURPOSING OF ACCOMMODATION IN THE COUNTY FARMS PORTFOLIO TO SUPPORT HOMELESSNESS AND OTHER POLICY OBJECTIVES	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy	To provide cabinet with the latest performance report of commitments in the Community and Corporate Plan	Richard Jones	5-Sep-23
Cabinet	17-Jan-24	consultation on the relocation of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni		To seek approval for the repurposing of vacant cottages held within the County Farms Portfolio to support policy objectives such as alleviating pressures with homelessness and to address the reliance on unsuitable temporary accommodation.	Nick Keyse	4-Dec-23
Cabinet	17-Jan-24	Approval of the revised MCC Counter Fraud, Corruption & Bribery Policy	Martyn Groucutt - Education		Matthew Jones	23-Aug-23
Cabinet	17-Jan-24	Draft Budget Proposals	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Jan Furtek	2-Nov-23
Cabinet	17-Jan-24	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 3 held on 7th December 2023 Meeting didn't happen	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	29-Sep-23

ICMD	03-Jan-24	Community Council & Police Precepts - Proposed payment schedule	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Dave Jarrett	30-Mar-23

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Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

Meeting of People Scrutiny Committee held at The Council Chamber, County Hall, Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA with remote attendance on Monday, 25th November, 2024 at 10.00 am

Councillors Present

County Councillors: Jan Butler, Christopher Edwards, Penny Jones, Maureen Powell, Sue Riley, Jackie Strong, Angela Sandles and Peter Strong

Also in attendance:

Darren Williams (Citizen's Advice Bureau)
Caroline Roberts (St. David's Hospice)
Josie James (Macmillan Welfare Team)
Vanessa Badderley Potter (Chepstow Town Councillor and Deputy Mayor)

Officers in Attendance

Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager
Robert McGowan, Policy and Scrutiny Officer
Ian Saunders, Chief Officer Customer, Culture and Wellbeing.
Cheryl Haskell, Community Hubs North & Libraries Strategic Lead Manager

APOLOGIES: Councillors Simon Howarth and Laura Wright

1. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Powell and Councillor Riley declared that they have Blue Badges. Councillor Riley explained that Caroline Roberts is her nurse. Councillor Butler declared that husband has a blue badge.

2. Public Open Forum

Vanessa Badderley Potter (Chepstow Town Councillor and Deputy Mayor) attended the meeting and spoke briefly during the meeting to explain that vulnerable people struggle to complete the Blue Badge Scheme application form and that fear of not being accepted as well as pride, might prevent people who need the badges from making the application.

3. To discuss the Blue Badge criteria

Cheryl Haskell delivered a presentation on the Blue Badge scheme and answered the members' questions with Ian Saunders:

- Thanks to the Cheryl and the team for their work ~ feedback is very positive from residents. According to the Welsh Government guidance, it should take no longer than 12 weeks for an application to be assessed. Is that still the case? What tends to be the main issues that delay the renewal of a permit for those applying?

Have you been able to adapt the process to improve on this turnaround for approval or a decision in some way?

Cheryl explained that the aim is to process applications as quickly as possible, but some applications, especially discretionary ones, may take longer due to the need for additional evidence. The team is small, with only one Blue Badge administrator, but three additional people have been trained to assist. The process can be delayed if waiting for evidence or an independent assessment.

- I've noticed that local government authority websites have different application processes. Some apply locally, while others apply directly to the national government scheme. Which one is better?

Cheryl mentioned that Monmouthshire uses the online digital service as the default option, which is faster because it avoids manual input. She explained that the form is written by the Department for Transport for England, and additional questions are asked to meet Welsh Government criteria.

- How quickly can a person expect to receive a Blue Badge after an SR1 form is filled in for someone with a terminal diagnosis?

Cheryl stated that if they have an SR1 form, the application can be fast-tracked and processed immediately.

- What are we doing to address the belief that the Blue Badge scheme is abused, and how can people report suspected abuse?

Cheryl explained that they work closely with parking enforcement to combat misuse. Badges suspected of being misused can be reported to her, and they will be treated discreetly and confidentially. They also rely on technologies embedded in badges to help parking enforcers identify fakes.

- St Davids's Hospice Representative, Caroline Roberts asked why Monmouthshire requires the actual SR1 form for fast-tracking Blue Badge Applications, while other councils accept a nurses' statement that an SR1 form has been completed.
- A member asked whether there is consistency in the Blue Badge application process between Monmouthshire and other local authorities in the Gwent area?

Cheryl explained that Monmouthshire follows the Blue Badge Scheme in Wales Guidance, which requires the SR1 form to support the application. She acknowledged the concern and said that she would reflect on this practice, would consult with colleagues and also Welsh Government to ask them to clarify and potentially amend the procedures to ensure a consistent approach.

- If someone is diagnosed as terminally ill but expected to live longer than a year, should they apply for a fast-track Blue Badge initially and then a discretionary application for the following period?

Cheryl advised that if a person's life expectancy is likely to be longer than a year, they should apply under discretionary rules from the start. This way, they would be awarded a badge for three years, removing the anxiety of reapplying after one year.

- A member asked how it is enforced, giving an example of county hall and the fact someone may need temporary access to disabled spaces.

It was confirmed that this should be discussed at the Democratic Services Committee.

- Citizens Advice Bureau Representative Darren Williams explained that sometimes his clients don't understand criteria before they apply, so a lot of claims are submitted which are not successful.
- Do we have any data on possible abuse of scheme? What are the main reasons for abuse of the scheme, is it a case of people being awarded badges who shouldn't have them or a case of badges that have expired?

Action: Cheryl to check whether there is any Monmouthshire data.

- Reference was made to the length of the award of a blue badge, and members heard that a petition had been submitted to the Senedd about lifelong diagnoses and badges awarded for life.

Action: The Committee requests the Cabinet Member make further inquiries as to the outcome of the Senedd petition.

Chair's Summary:

- The Vice-Chair confirmed that the Committee would request the Cabinet Member to make contact with Welsh Government in respect of the attendance allowance form and the need to simplify it.
- She asked Cheryl to make further enquiries with colleagues across Gwent and Welsh Government in relation to the SR1 form.
- The Committee would also ask the Cabinet Member to discuss at a future Democratic Services meeting the parking issues at county hall and the point that had been raised about potential transient disabilities.

4. People Scrutiny Committee Forward Working Programme and Action lists

Noted.

5. Cabinet and Council Planner

Noted.

6. To confirm the following minutes:

- 7a People Scrutiny Committee – 17th July 2024
- 7b People Scrutiny Committee – 23rd July 2024
- 7c Special Meeting of People Scrutiny Committee – 19th September 2024

The minutes were agreed, proposed by Councillor Powell and seconded by Councillor Strong.

7. Next Meeting:

Tuesday 21st January 2025 at 10.00am.

The meeting ended at **11.36 am**.