

Monday, 10 February 2025

**Notice of meeting :****People Scrutiny Committee****Tuesday, 18th February, 2025 at 10.00 am,  
Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr USK and 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.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
2.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
3.	<b>Public Open Forum</b>  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 <a href="#">website</a>  If you would like to speak under the Public Open Forum at an upcoming meeting you will need to give three working days' notice in advance of the meeting by contacting <a href="mailto:Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk">Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk</a>  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.  Alternatively, if you would like to submit a written, audio or video representation, please contact the team via the same email address to arrange this. The deadline for submitting representations to the Council is 5pm three clear working days in advance of the meeting. If combined representations received exceed 30 minutes, a selection of these based on theme will be shared at the meeting. All representations received will be made available to councillors prior to the meeting.  If you would like to suggest future topics for scrutiny by one of our Scrutiny Committees, please do so by emailing <a href="mailto:Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk">Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk</a>	

<b>4.</b>	<b>Inclusion Strategy and Additional Learning Needs Policy</b> To conduct pre-decision scrutiny of the policy.	1 - 156
<b>5.</b>	<b>Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals</b> To scrutinise the 2025/26 Draft Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals.	157 - 178
<b>6.</b>	<b>People Scrutiny Committee Forward work Programme and Action List</b>	179 - 184
<b>7.</b>	<b>Cabinet and Council Planner</b>	185 - 188
<b>8.</b>	<b>To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st January 2025</b>	189 - 194
<b>9.</b>	<b>Next Meeting: 2nd April 2025 at 10.00am</b>	

**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.

**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.

## Monmouthshire Scrutiny Question Guide

<b>Role of the Pre-meeting</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why is the Committee scrutinising this? (background, key issues)</li> <li>2. What is the Committee's role and what outcome do Members want to achieve?</li> <li>3. Is there sufficient information to achieve this? If not, who could provide this?</li> </ol> <p>- Agree the order of questioning and which Members will lead            - Agree questions for officers and questions for the Cabinet Member</p>	
<b>Questions for the Meeting</b>	
<p><u>Scrutinising Performance</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How does performance compare with previous years? Is it better/worse? Why?</li> <li>2. How does performance compare with other councils/other service providers? Is it better/worse? Why?</li> <li>3. How does performance compare with set targets? Is it better/worse? Why?</li> <li>4. How were performance targets set? Are they challenging enough/realistic?</li> <li>5. How do service users/the public/partners view the performance of the service?</li> <li>6. Have there been any recent audit and inspections? What were the findings?</li> <li>7. How does the service contribute to the achievement of corporate objectives?</li> <li>8. Is improvement/decline in performance linked to an increase/reduction in resource? What capacity is there to improve?</li> </ol>	<p><u>Scrutinising Policy</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Who does the policy affect ~ directly and indirectly? Who will benefit most/least?</li> <li>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?</li> <li>3. What is the view of the community as a whole - the 'taxpayer' perspective?</li> <li>4. What methods were used to consult with stakeholders? Did the process enable all those with a stake to have their say?</li> <li>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?</li> <li>6. Does the policy relate to an area where there are known inequalities?</li> <li>7. Does this policy align to our corporate objectives, as defined in our corporate plan? Does it adhere to our Welsh Language Standards?</li> <li>8. Have all relevant sustainable development, equalities and safeguarding implications</li> </ol>

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

## General Questions:

### Empowering Communities

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

### Service Demands

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

### Financial Planning

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

### Making savings and generating income

- Do we have the right structures in place to ensure that our efficiency, improvement and transformational approaches are working together to maximise savings?
- How are we maximising income?
- Have we compared other council's policies to maximise income and fully considered the implications on service users?
- Do we have a workforce plan that takes into account capacity, costs, and skills of the

actual versus desired workforce?

Questions to ask within a year of the decision:

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

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

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

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

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







