

# Public Document Pack



County Hall  
Rhadyr  
Usk  
NP15 1GA

Friday, 28 March 2025

## Notice of meeting

### Public Services Scrutiny Committee

**Monday, 7th April, 2025 at 10.00 am,  
The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA with  
remote attendance**

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

## AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for Absence.	
2.	Declarations of Interest.	
3.	Public Open Forum.  <b>Select Committee Public Open Forum ~ Guidance</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	

	<p>on theme will be shared at the meeting. All representations received will be made available to councillors prior to the meeting.</p> <p>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></p>	
4.	<b>Highways Responsibilities and Funding - To provide an overview on the funding for highways, the responsibilities of the Council, the South Wales Trunk Road Agency and others. Discussion on issues raised by Members in relation to the M48, A466 and the two Severn Bridge Crossings.</b>	
5.	<b>Potholes and Road Repairs - To provide the Committee with oversight of how the recent monies allocated to Councils from UK Government will be spent in Monmouthshire.</b>	
6.	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th February 2025 (to follow).</b>	
7.	<b>Public Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme.</b>	1 - 4
8.	<b>Council and Cabinet Work Planner.</b>	5 - 8
9.	<b>Next Meeting: 12th May 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 Jill Bond	West End;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Steven Garratt	Overmonnow;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Meirion Howells	Llanbadoc & Usk;	Independent
County Councillor Penny Jones	Raglan;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Tony Kear	Llanbadoc & Usk;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Malcolm Lane	Mardy;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Dale Rooke	Chepstow Castle & Larkfield;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Frances Taylor	Magor West;	Independent Group
County Councillor Armand Watts	Bulwark and Thornwell;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru

## **Public Information**

### **Access to paper copies of agendas and reports**

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

### **Welsh Language**

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

# Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

## Our purpose

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.

### Role of the Pre-meeting

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

### Questions for the Meeting

#### Scrutinising Performance

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

#### Scrutinising Policy

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

	<p>8. Have all relevant sustainable development, equalities and safeguarding implications</p> <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...

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## Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2025-26

Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
7 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	<b>Highways Responsibilities and Funding</b>	To provide an overview on the funding for highways, the responsibilities of the Council, the South Wales Trunk Road Agency and others. Discussion on issues raised by Members in relation to the M48, A466 and the two Severn Bridge Crossings.	Carl Touhig	Policy Development
	<b>Potholes and Road Repairs</b>	To provide the Committee with oversight of how the recent monies allocated to Councils from UK Government will be spent in Monmouthshire.	Carl Touhig	Policy Development
12 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 <b>To be confirmed</b>	<b>Youth Offending Service</b>	To consider the latest progress report on the Youth Offending Service, particularly how partners contribute and what it delivers for Monmouthshire.	Chesney Chick	Performance Monitoring
7 <sup>th</sup> July 2025	<b>Adult Mental Health Services with a specific focus on adult suicide</b>	To scrutinise mental health services for adults, particularly for those at risk of suicide.	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board  Invite MIND	External Scrutiny
	<b>Care for people in the community with dementia, including support</b>	To invite the health board to outline how they deliver services in Monmouthshire.	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	External Scrutiny

## Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2025-26

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Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
	available to families.			
13 <sup>th</sup> October 2025				
8 <sup>th</sup> December 2025				
9 <sup>th</sup> February 2026				
15 <sup>th</sup> April 2026				
<b><i>To be confirmed</i></b>	<b><i>Drug Related Deaths in Monmouthshire</i></b>	<i>To discuss drug related deaths and the impact of synthetic drugs with the Heroin &amp; Crack Cocaine Action Area Co-ordinator for Gwent Police.</i>		<i>External Scrutiny</i>
<b><i>To be confirmed</i></b>	<b><i>VAWDASV Regional Strategy</i></b>	<i>To assess what the regional strategy delivers for Monmouthshire.</i>		<i>External Scrutiny</i>
<b><i>To be confirmed</i></b>	<b><i>Pre-decision Scrutiny of the Public Service Board Annual Report</i></b>	<i>To undertake pre-decision scrutiny of the report and to draw agree any items for future scrutiny.</i>		<i>Pre-decision Scrutiny/Performance Monitoring</i>
<b><i>To be confirmed</i></b>	<b><i>Integrated Services Partnership Board</i></b>	<i>To discuss the role and remit of the Integrated Services Partnership Board and how it delivers services in Monmouthshire.</i>		<i>Performance Review</i>
<b><i>To be confirmed</i></b>	<b><i>Local Flood Strategy (joint with Place)</i></b>	<i>Pre-decision scrutiny of adoption of the Local Flood Strategy.</i>		<i>Pre-decision Scrutiny</i>
<b>Items to consider for Inclusion: (Arising from Corporate and Community Plan)</b>				

## Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2025-26

Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
Progress the development of the new Magor and Undy Community Hub				
Invest in better bus infrastructure				
Work with the police, partners and communities to tackle anti-social behaviour				
To explore streams: Housing Social Grant, Substance Misuse Grants, to assess what they are delivering for Monmouthshire				

- Violence and Women ~ Scrutinize the delivery of the Gwent perpetrator assessment and the impact of inappropriate sexual behaviour among 10-17 year-olds. Address the increase in misogyny in schools, including the influence of figures like Andrew Tate.
- Flood Risk Management ~ Jointly with Place Scrutiny Committee, inviting National Resources Wales

## Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2025-26

- Public Transport and Accessibility: Assess the impact of dental service relocations on public transport accessibility for residents.
- Update on the flying start ~ Update on the collaboration between health visitors and Sure Start, including changes in reporting structures and service provision.
- Request a comprehensive health update from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) (**in progress**), covering:
  - Holistic approach to supporting older people.
  - Primary and secondary care integration.
  - Resource, nurses, doctors, sustainability and retention.
  - Communication with the public on service provision.
  - Preventative services, colon tests, jabs.
  - Updates on specific projects like the Neville Hall Velindre satellite.
  - The uptake of preventative measures like vaccinations, especially among children.
  - Adult Mental Health Services ~ adult suicide
  - Care for people in the community with dementia, family support services.
- Community Policing ~ invite Police and Crime Commissioner ~ **in progress**
- Invite the Integrated Strategic Partnership Board to discuss dentistry and the flow of funds.

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	26-Jun-25	Licensing Act Policy 2025	Angela Sandles - Engagement	Policy has to be approved by Full Council and it needs to be in place by 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2025	Linda O Gorman	10-Jan-25
Cabinet	25-Jun-25	Shire Hall Delivery Stage - Financial Approval	Ben Callard - Resources		Tracey Thomas	25-Mar-25
Cabinet	21-May-25	Review of Monmouth Cluster and proposed statutory consultation	Martyn Groucutt - Education		Matt Jones	3-Mar-25
Cabinet	21-May-25	Y Prentis Update	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Hannah Jones	26-Feb-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
Cabinet	05-May-25	Digital, Data and Technology Collaboration	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy	To develop proposals to build on existing collaborative arrangements in place for the provision of technology services through the Shared Resource Service. Expanding on these to include digital and data services will generate	Peter Davies & Matt Gatehouse & Sian Hayward	14-Mar-25
Council	10-Apr-25	Constitution Review	Angela Sandles - Engagement		James Williams	25-Mar-25
Council	10-Apr-25	Senior Pay Review	Ben Callard - Resources		Julie Anthony	3-Mar-25
ICMD	09-Apr-25	PSPO Lane Closure to prevent fly tipping & off roading	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Mark Cleaver	13-Mar-25

ICMD	09-Apr-25	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 4	Ben Callard - Resources			
Cabinet	02-Apr-25	Marches Forward Partnership	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy		Peter Davies - Lead (Cath Fallon)	3-Mar-25
Cabinet	02-Apr-25	Reponse to Boundary Commission Electoral Review Consultation	Angela Sandles - Engagement		John Pearson	12-Feb-25
ICMD	26-Mar-25	Proposal to increase the fee payments to Monmouthshire Foster Carers	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Charlotte Drury	4-Feb-25
ICMD	12-Mar-25	Highway Traffic Regulation Amendment Order No 16	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment			
Council	06-Mar-25	Appointment of Chief Officer - Head of Transport - Exempt info	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Deb Hill Howells	21-Jan-25
Council	06-Mar-25	Publication of the Councils Pay Policy	Ben Callard - Resources	To approve the publication of Monmouthshire County Council's Pay Policy, in compliance with the Localism Act.	Matt Gatehouse / Pip Green	17-Jan-25
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	Approval of a Discretionary Policy for Council Tax Premiums	Ben Callard - Resources		Ruth Donovan	27-Jan-25
Cabinet	05-Mar-25	2025/26 Final Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals	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
ICMD	26-Feb-25	County of Sanctuary: Homes for Ukraine	Angela Sandles - Engagement	To confirm future support arrangements for Ukrainian's living in Monmouthshire as part of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme following changes to the national arrangement for both funding & visas	Richard Drinkwater/Matt Gatehouse	7-Feb-25
ICMD	26-Feb-25	Housing Allocations Policy				
Cabinet	19-Feb-25	2024/25 Revenue and Capital Monitoring Month 9	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Jun-24
Cabinet	19-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 Dixon 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