

# Public Document Pack



County Hall  
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NP15 1GA

Tuesday, 9 July 2024

**Notice of meeting :**

## **People Scrutiny Committee**

**Wednesday, 17th July, 2024 at 2.00 pm,**

*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>Election of Chair</b>	
2.	<b>Appointment of Vice Chair</b>	
3.	<b>Apologies for absence</b>	
4.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
5.	<b>Public Open Forum</b>  <b>Scrutiny 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 share your thoughts on any proposals being discussed by Scrutiny Committees, you can submit your representation in advance <a href="#">via this form</a>  Please share your views by uploading a video or audio file (maximum of 4 minutes) or; Please submit a written representation (via Microsoft Word, maximum of 500 words)	

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

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

If representations received exceed 30 minutes, a selection of these based on theme will be shared at the Scrutiny Committee meeting. All representations 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](mailto: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.

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](mailto:Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

<b>6.</b>	<b>Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2022-2027</b>	1 - 80
	To scrutinise ongoing progress on rapid rehousing programme.	
<b>7.</b>	<b>People with Care Experience</b>	81 - 98
	To scrutinise a proposal that care experience is treated as if it were a protected characteristic.	
<b>8.</b>	<b>People Scrutiny Forward Work Programme and Action List</b>	99 - 106
<b>9.</b>	<b>Cabinet and Council Planner</b>	107 - 130
<b>10.</b>	<b>To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th April 2024.</b>	131 - 136
<b>11.</b>	<b>Next Meeting: 23rd July 2024</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

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### 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

<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...









**SUBJECT: Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2022-2027**  
**MEETING: People Scrutiny Committee**  
**DATE:**  
**DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All**

## 1 PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To present an update on Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2022-2027 and accompanying Action Plan and the Housing Support Programme Strategy 2022-2026.

## 2 RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To scrutinise the progress on the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and the Housing Support Programme Strategy. **See Appendix 1.**

## 3 KEY ISSUES:

### Background

- 3.1 Monmouthshire County Council is required to produce a Housing Support Programme (HSP) Strategy and a Homelessness Strategy every four years, with a mid-point review. Monmouthshire Council combined the two strategies into one Housing Support Programme Strategy which comprehensively set out the future direction of homelessness and housing related support in the county for 2022-2026. This Strategy has now been reviewed to ensure it remains relevant to current challenges (Appendix 4).
- 3.2 During the development of the HSP, and in the wake of Covid-19, the Welsh Government published its intention for Local Authorities to move to a Rapid Rehousing model of homelessness delivery. The HSP was produced with consideration to the Rapid Rehousing guidance for homelessness to become 'rare, brief and unrepeated' and thus the two strategies mirror each other. For the purposes of this report updates relating to the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan also apply to the HSP.
- 3.3 After a comprehensive support needs assessment, service user surveys and stakeholder feedback the following five priorities were agreed for the HSP:
  - Priority One: To identify those at risk of homelessness earlier and provide timely interventions to prevent homelessness occurring.
  - Priority 2: To provide timely and effective support for vulnerable residents particularly for those with high and complex needs.
  - Priority 3: To Increase access to a range of affordable and suitable housing solutions for homeless households, both temporary and permanent.
  - Priority 4: To move to a Rapid Re-Housing Approach
  - Priority 5: To maximise and increase the availability and effectiveness of financial, staffing/workforce and collaborative resources available for tackling homelessness.
- 3.4 The core aim of Rapid Rehousing is to prevent homelessness; 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.

3.5 Monmouthshire's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) identifies four priority areas to prevent homelessness at the earliest opportunity, to minimise any time households may have to spend in temporary accommodation and to provide the right level of support at the right time to sustain future tenancies:

- 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

3.6 Monmouthshire's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan was agreed by Cabinet on [5th April 2023](#).

### **Executive summary**

3.7 The Council has assessed the progress that is being made in respect of the transition of homelessness to a Rapid Rehousing approach. The Council has determined that, despite a continuing challenging environment of high presentations and increasingly complex support needs, steady but positive progress has been made since April 2023. The basis for this determination is:

- The Council is now more routinely, through an increased range of services, identifying households at risk of future homelessness and is intervening earlier, the aim being to negate the need to make a homeless presentation.
- The percentage of homeless successfully prevented has increased from 50%<sup>1</sup> during 2022-2023 to 71% for 2023-2024.
- Homeless applications have reduced from 631 in 2022-2023 to 460 in 2023-2024.
- Households owed a S73 accommodation duty has reduced from 378 in 2022-2023 to 294 in 2023-2024.
- Households placed in B & B has reduced from 334 to 222.
- Homeless households in Band 1 of the Housing Register have fallen from 340 to 303 (April 2024).
- The flow of homeless people through social housing has improved. The % of social housing vacancies allocated to homeless households has remained steady at around 60%.
- Increased take up of Social Housing Grant with a spend of approximately £9.7 for 2023-2024. Additional accommodation has been provided through Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme funding.
- Numbers in B & B have fallen from 94 in April 23 to 46 as of 31/03/2024.

3.8 Whilst the above are deemed to be indicators of positive progress, the following challenges and risks still need to be overcome to transform homelessness to a Rapid Rehousing approach:

- The average time (months) homeless households spend in Homesearch Band 1 with a homeless duty before moving on to settled/permanent accommodation has increased to 11.5 months (2023-2024) from 10.2 months in 2022-2023.
- As yet, not all aspects of the Homeless service are operating on a financially sustainable position due to funding challenges. For example, Housing Support Grant isn't sufficient to meet needs in the County.

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<sup>1</sup> As reported by WHO 12



- The County either lacks specific housing support provision (e.g. complex needs supported housing) or existing capacity is not sufficient (e.g. Housing First or young person supported housing), meaning it can be difficult to meet certain types of need. For example, some needs can't be addressed and waiting lists are necessary for some services.
  - The need to decrease staffing levels of housing support services by some providers in order to facilitate pay rises to the real living wage. For some services, staff recruitment has been an issue.
- 3.9 Although B & B use has reduced, the Council continues to rely on B & B use and shared housing to provide temporary accommodation as no other alternatives are available.
- There is a lack of one bedroomed temporary and permanent accommodation and a general lack of homeless accommodation in the north of the County. The lack of permanent housing can result in delays in move-on.

### Current Homelessness Position

3.10 The 2023-2024 financial year was the first full year where homelessness legislation suspended by Public Health measures have been reinstated by the Council. Housing Options officers are now applying the tests of Priority Need<sup>2</sup> and Intentionality<sup>3</sup> to all homelessness applications at Section 73<sup>4</sup> level. It is considered that the reintroduction of these tests will result in an overall reduction on numbers accommodated in temporary accommodation. However, this can result in dissatisfaction from clients and support networks.

3.11 For the 2023 to 2024 financial year the Options team had conducted 460 homeless assessments (Section 62<sup>5</sup> applied) this financial year and had issued 294 Section 73 duties. From these figures indications are that the peak numbers seen during the Pandemic has passed and numbers are slowly plateauing, though the proportion of those presenting proceeding to at least a Section 73 duty remains high at 64%.

Table 1: Number of households receiving the initial housing duty S62.

Year	Total Assessments (S62)
2017-2018	533
2018-2019	440
2019-2020	783
2020-2021	379
2021-2022	773
2022-2023	598
2023-2024	460

<sup>2</sup> Please see Appendix 6 Glossary for definition.

<sup>3</sup> Please see Appendix 6 Glossary for definition.

<sup>4</sup> Section 73 is the Duty to Help Secure Accommodation. See Appendix 2 for more information.

<sup>5</sup> Section 62 is the Duty to Assess. The council has a statutory duty to complete an assessment with households facing homelessness. See Appendix 2 for more information.

Table 2: Number of households receiving a S73

Year	S73s awarded
2017-2018	228
2018-2019	201
2019-2020	239
2020-2021	252
2021-2022	405
2022-2023	378
2023-2024	294

3.12 During the Pandemic the suspension of homelessness legislation saw the Council with a duty to accommodate all households under a Section 73 duty as well as those homeless but without a housing duty under Public Health measures. This meant that for the first time MCC had a duty to accommodate beyond its normal statutory duties and this is reflected in the figures for 2020-2021. This saw demand for accommodation grow tenfold in 4 years and Monmouthshire had to source alternative provision on a large scale at pace. The result of this was a substantial increase in placements into B&B.

3.13 Even with the reintroduction of Priority Need and Intentionality the proportion of those being awarded a Section 73 being placed into B&B remains high at 76%, down from its peak in 2020-2021 but still an increase from the 16% in 2017-2018.

Table 3: Number of B&B placements per year

	Number of B&B placements
2017-2018	38
2018-2019	55
2019-2020	149
2020-2021	390
2021-2022	389
2022-2023	334
2023-2024	222

3.14 Knowing that the Council, in line with other Local Authorities across Wales, is someway off eradicating the use of temporary accommodation altogether, the focus has been on reducing the numbers in B&B.

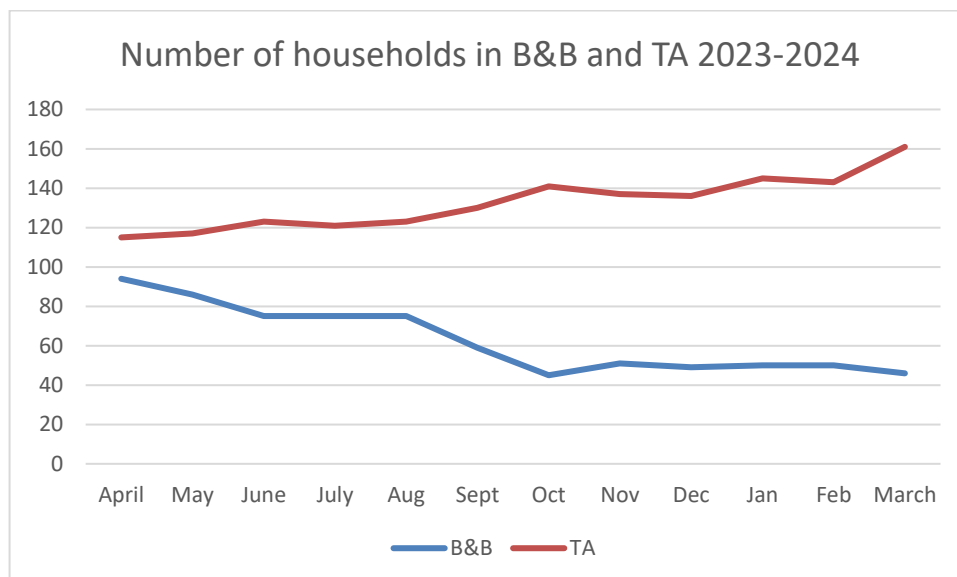


Figure 1: The number of households in B&B and Temporary Accommodation 2023-2024

- 3.15 As can be seen above, numbers in B&B have been slowly reducing and have largely been on an overall downward trend since the peak of 95 in B&B in July 2022. What this graph illustrates well is the link between B&B and the use of wider temporary accommodation. The Council's Monmouthshire Lettings Scheme (MLS) works with landlord to privately lease accommodation to use as temporary accommodation for homeless households. This graph indicates a strong positive correlation, whereby the number of temporary accommodation units procured has an almost symmetrical impact in the number of households in B&B.
- 3.16 MCC is committed to providing safe and quality accommodation for homeless households. The use of B&B for interim accommodation is never suitable and can compound the trauma felt by homeless residents. As well as reducing overall costs, Private Sector Leasing provides good quality accommodation and offers households a greater sense of stability. At present properties procured by MLS are matched to homeless households based on their needs.
- 3.17 Part of the reason the proportion of presentations progressing to a Section 73 remains high is due to the lack of alternative housing options in Monmouthshire for households to resolve their own homelessness. Prevention Officers will work with households facing homelessness to prevent homelessness. During the 2023-2024 financial year 126 Section 66<sup>6</sup>s were issued. Most of the work by a Prevention Officer is in supporting households to find settled accommodation and liaising with landlords to prevent households from requiring stays in temporary accommodation for as long as possible. Prevention Officers have been utilising the Discretionary Homelessness Prevention fund to pay for rent in advance and deposits, clearing arrears, paying landlords to keep tenants in situ until resettled and on one occasion to make accommodation safe and habitable.

3.18 Prevention Officers had a 71% success rate during 2023-2024. 30% of those successfully prevented were resettled into Private Rented Accommodation following a landlord incentive. Due to the costs of privately renting in Monmouthshire, and the preference of some households, some will have been prevented into private rented accommodation outside of Monmouthshire. Often an incentive is required to secure private rented properties for homeless households and Prevention Officers will sometimes offer additional payment through the Discretionary Homelessness Prevention Fund or by the Council becoming a guarantor. 29% were accommodated in social housing. Of those that were not successful 42% were due to Private Rented Sector accommodation being unaffordable or unavailable.

3.19 Market rents in Monmouthshire are amongst the highest in Wales<sup>7</sup>, and the scarcity of properties to rent only adds to their premium. The only affordable housing option for most homeless households is social rented housing. In 2018-2019 the average wait for a social rented home for those in Band 2b was 3.7 months. The average wait for a household in Band 1<sup>8</sup> was 11.5 months for 2023-2024. So, in 2023/2024 households that become homeless are waiting longer for affordable housing and as a result staying longer in Council temporary accommodation.

3.20 Alongside housing supply, housing support is crucial to ensuring homelessness is rare and unrepeatable. The Council commissions housing related support programmes from its allocation of Housing Support Grant (HSG). Realising a Rapid Rehousing operational model is **dependent** on households receiving the right level of support at the right time.

3.21 Following a dip in 2020-2021 attributed to the impacts of the Pandemic, the number of referrals into HSG services has risen. Numbers remain high for 2023-2024 and although they did take a slight dip from a peak in 2022-2023 they remain significantly higher than those pre-Pandemic.

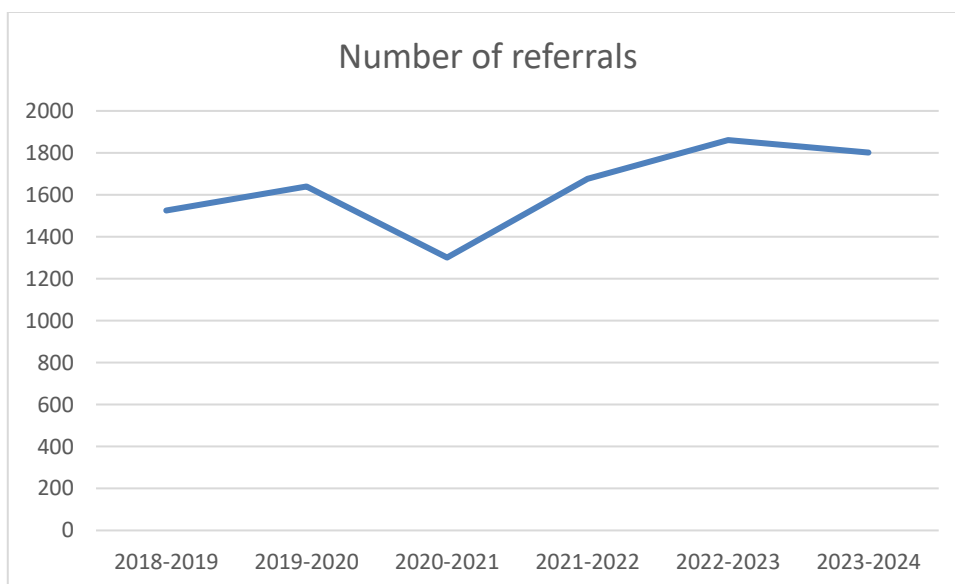


Figure 2: Number of referrals into the Gateway by year

<sup>7</sup> [Data mapping and visualisation on the housing rental market in Wales \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/data-mapping-and-visualisation-on-the-housing-rental-market-in-wales)

<sup>8</sup> Homesearch changed its banding structure in May 2024. Previously Band 2b contained only households with a homeless duty. Now households with a homeless duty are placed in Band 1 alongside others in urgent housing need.

3.22 There continues to be more female than male referrals into services. 2023-2024 saw the largest gender gap in referrals at 57% female, an increase of 4% from the previous year. This recurrent difference has previously been explored and attributed to societal norms preventing more males from seeking support. However, 2023-2024 saw the highest number of VAWDASV (domestic abuse) referrals from an all-time low in 2022-2023, and so this would provide some explanation for the increase in gender gap.

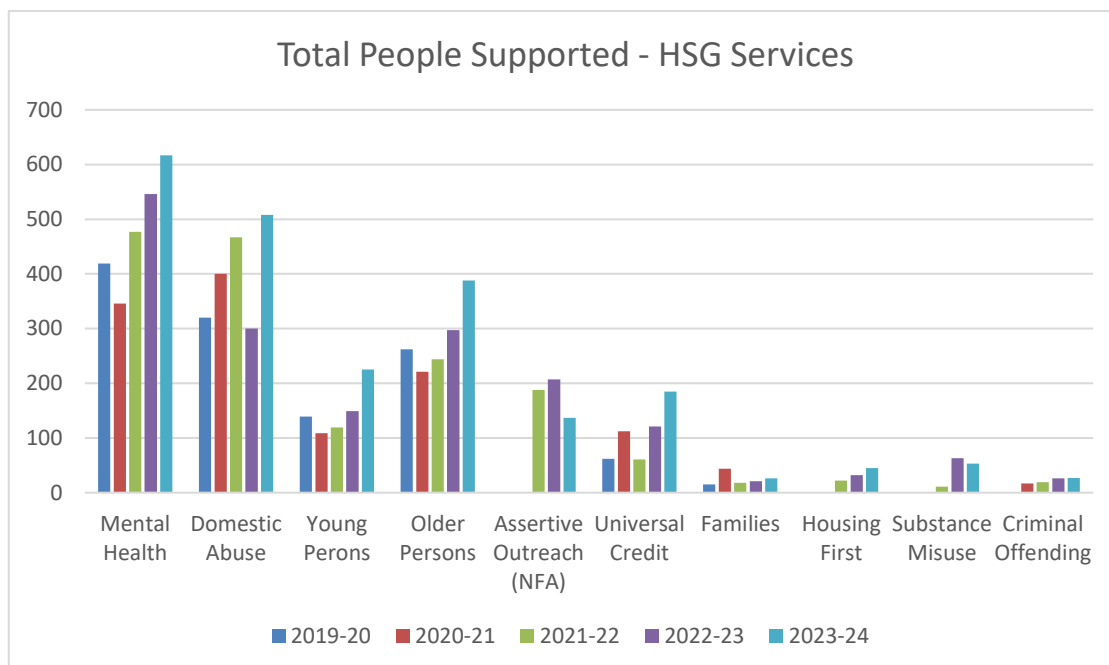


Figure 3: Number of people supported by service type per year

3.23 Aside from Generic Support services, Mental Health and Domestic Abuse services supported the highest number of households in the last year. Mental Health services are consistently the highest in demand specialised service, and the need continues to grow. This correlates to previous needs assessments, where Mental Health has always been the most frequent lead, secondary and tertiary need identified.

3.24 The sudden, significant increase in referrals to Domestic Abuse services can be attributed to the introduction of a new preventative process between the HSG team and the Safeguarding team. The HSG team now receive Public Protection Notice (PPN) reports from the Safeguarding Team relating to domestic abuse incidents. This then triggers contact and referrals into domestic abuse support services. Without the introduction of this preventative process a significant number of households may not be identified at the first opportunity and may have instead remained hidden until in crisis, where outcomes are generally less positive.

Table 4: Number of people supported by service type per year

<b>Total People Supported - HSG Services Compared to Previous Years</b>					
<b>HSG Service</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
Generic	885	1114	836	902	892
Mental Health	419	346	477	546	617
Domestic Abuse	320	400	467	300	508
Young Persons	139	109	119	149	225
Older Persons	262	221	244	297	388
Assertive Outreach (NFA)	0	0	188	207	137

Universal Credit	62	112	61	121	185
Families	15	44	18	21	26
Housing First	0	0	22	32	45
Substance Misuse	0	0	11	63	53
Criminal Offending	0	17	19	26	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>2102</b>	<b>2363</b>	<b>2462</b>	<b>2664</b>	<b>3103</b>

Table 5: Number of referrals received where 'Women experiencing DA' was lead need by year.

Year	Number of households with 'Women experiencing DA' as lead need
2020-2021	164
2021-2022	163
2022-2023	157
2023-2024	318

3.25 Whilst it is positive that more households are reaching out and receiving support for their housing related issues to safeguard their wellbeing and ultimately their tenancies, HSG services are increasingly becoming unsustainable. Historically, Monmouthshire has received some of the lowest allocations of HSG across Wales and this has not been congruent with a combination of inflationary delivery costs and the increase in referrals and households with high and complex needs that the council is seeing post-pandemic.

3.26 The majority of HSG commissioned services have been designed to support households with low to medium support needs<sup>9</sup> which, according to a recent support needs assessment, matches the majority of those requiring support (85% of households receiving support had low or medium support needs). However, there are still a number of households who require more intensive support, 14% of the total or 136 households. At present, the Council does not have the resources to effectively meet the needs of this cohort due to the restrictions in funding. Monmouthshire would benefit from a dedicated complex need provision.

3.27 The costs faced by services are continually rising due to staff salary uplifts, inflation and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. During the last year 2023-24, the HSG Commissioning Team managed to uphold the capacity of housing support services by working in partnership with providers, but even with services maintained there was a waiting list of 95 households for support at the end of the financial year. There is concern that capacity may have to reduce as projects are becoming financially unsustainable as we move forward into 2024-25.

## Progress

<sup>9</sup> The following definitions are used when assigning someone a level of support need: Low - people who have very low support requirements, who can be supported into settled accommodation with either a low level of support or just signposting. Medium - people likely to need floating support but may also require support from other professional services to live independently in settled or temporary accommodation. High - people who have persistent complex needs and/or a history of repeat rough sleeping Intense - people who are unable to live independently, perhaps due to concerns around risk to self or others or perhaps even choice. Engagement from professionals such as Social Care and Health to be/or are involved.

3.28 To aid the transition to a Rapid Rehousing model the Council produced an action plan. A full update of this action plan can be found in Annexe 1.

3.29 Monmouthshire's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan is split into four sections to reflect the four priorities of the plan. A summary of highlights and achievements are listed below.

- **Priority 1 - Prevent homelessness at the earliest opportunity.**

3.30 As stated above, Prevention Officers are averaging a 71% success rate in avoiding homelessness for households issued a Section 66. However, only 126 of those seen at assessment were eligible for the prevention duty, which when compared with Section 73 duties issued would indicate that most households are continuing to approach the council in crisis.

3.31 Key to the success of Rapid Rehousing is preventing homelessness, and the earlier households' approach for support with housing related issues the more options there are to achieve a positive outcome. Efforts to strengthen prevention and intervene earlier have included:

- Promoting the availability of Welsh Government Homeless Prevention Grant to partners agencies who can refer in households who may be at risk of homelessness e.g. arrears, debt etc.
- Housing Options Team restructure to create a First Contact Officer to enable Housing Options Officers to be more prevention focused through a reduced administrative burden and to create a Senior Accommodation Development Officer.
- The HSG Team being brought into the Strategic Housing structure to align fully with homelessness.
- Housing Option procedure reviews.
- A prevention protocol established with Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) saw the DWP send messages to all claimants in Monmouthshire to advise and encourage households to approach the Council if there are housing worries.
- The role of the Senior Housing Options Officer continues to be critical in terms of supporting the team with case work.

3.32 Review of Housing communications has led to:

- Redesigning the Homelessness element of the website to make the pages more accessible and 'user friendly'.
- Scripting informative videos to break down information shared by legal letters - to be filmed in the 2024-2025 financial year.
- Exploring options for Youth Specific communications in conjunction with the Compass, Youth Homeless Support and Prevention programme.
- Including housing questions on the service user survey completed during HSG provider reviews. It is hoped this will provide insight into which services households might approach when experiencing difficulties, so as resources can be distributed most effectively.

- **Priority 2 - Increase the supply of affordable and settled accommodation.**

3.33 The long term aims of the Rapid Rehousing Plan is to remove the use of all forms of temporary accommodation and place households into settled accommodation directly. The needs and wellbeing of the household are at the heart of Rapid Rehousing with consideration given to property location, size, affordability and proximity to social networks, services and facilities that will best serve the household. To achieve this Monmouthshire will need to increase the availability of good quality, affordable accommodation that will meet the long-term needs of its residents. Despite the challenging environment the following progress has been made:

- Promoting Monmouthshire Letting Scheme and Leasing Scheme Wales. A campaign was designed and launched at the Usk Show in September 2023. The 'Change Lives' campaign consisted of an e-book (Appendix 3) and pixel marketing focussed on the community benefits of leasing. The campaign resulted in an immediate increase in enquiries through our lettings team. This campaign was paused shortly after launching due to emerging financial pressures.
- The Council agreed to supplement the availability of temporary accommodation through purchasing homes and repurposing existing Council owned assets subject to Cabinet approval. The Council has completed the purchase of one property and one former agricultural property is due to be repurposed as temporary accommodation. Identifying further opportunities will continue.
- RSLs have increased the proportion of lets to homeless households which has eased some pressure, from 20% in 2019-2020<sup>10</sup> to currently sitting around 60%. At present, rent in advance payments have been waived for those with a homelessness duty and a new process to address historic rent arrears is being trialled.
- In changing the guidance to certain capital grants the Welsh Government are also advocating for homeless households to have some priority in the allocation of social housing. Properties purchased using Transitional Accommodation Capital funding or Social Housing Grant funding are being prioritised for homeless households. Twenty additional affordable homes providing settled accommodation for homeless households were delivered in 2022/23.
- A current initiative to explore the feasibility of using modular construction to provide new homes on Council owned land is in progress.

- **Priority 3 - Provide timely and effective support to sustain accommodation.**

3.34 Homelessness is rarely solely a housing issue. As discussed in Monmouthshire's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan Monmouthshire saw the support needs of those presenting becoming increasingly complex. To ensure that households are able to sustain accommodation, be that temporary or settled, a varied programme of support is required. Following needs assessments carried out in June 2022 and August 2023, the HSG team are making the collection of this data standard to help inform support gaps. The following additions and expansions of services have been introduced over the last financial year:

- The expansion of the Benefit service to help vulnerable people ensure they are receiving the correct benefits and look at their household income and outgoings to support them to sustain their tenancies.
- The Housing First project has been expanded with another support worker.
- A new Regional Offenders Service has been commissioned with Torfaen and Blaenau-Gwent HSG Teams.
- The following training has been rolled out to Housing Support staff along with support workers from commissioned services:
  - Money Guiders Wales

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<sup>10</sup> Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, MCC, 2022



- Renting Ready – Train the Trainer
- Renting Homes Act Sessions
- Neurodiversity Training
- Outcomes for Welsh Government
- Locata Database training.

3.35 A HSG Planning Group has been created to help with future modelling, needs, gaps and plan for the services required to meet the needs of the vulnerable people. The Group will have an important role in the scheduled Recommissioning of the HSG programme during 2024/25

- **Priority 4 - Maximising resources and benefits through well connected partnerships**

3.36 Although resource availability continues to be a challenge, the Council has increased financial resources available to help the implementation of Rapid Rehousing. This has included:

- Additional revenue to facilitate additional Housing Options Team staffing to support accommodation management.
- Additional revenue to fund a rent management system.
- The Council's approval to create additional borrowing headroom of £2m in 2023 is supporting the acquisition and purchase of accommodation and to support refurbishment.

3.37 Through Rapid Rehousing the Welsh Government have explicitly shared that homelessness cannot be considered a housing issue alone. For Rapid Rehousing to deliver on its ambition, its scope goes beyond the statutory homeless functions. It requires partnership working with a number of stakeholders including, but not limited to Planning; Registered Social Landlords (RSLs); Adult's and Children's Social Care; the Local Health Board; Emergency Services etc. Monmouthshire has several key forums that foster partnership working:

- The Council has established a Strategic Housing Forum with RSL partners. A key aim is to increase the delivery of affordable housing through tackling delivery barriers and maximising the availability of resources.
- A Housing Intervention Panel has been established to bring together key agencies to discuss complex housing cases. By taking a broad and holistic approach to case management there are frequent breakthroughs and positive outcomes.
- For frontline staff and partner agencies the Housing Support Grant team organise recurring Support Worker and Support Provider forums. These forums facilitate information sharing and promote an understanding between teams of roles, responsibilities, and limits.

### **Key Next Steps & Priorities for 2024/25**

3.34 The following are key priorities going forwards:

#### **Prevent homelessness at the earliest opportunity.**

- To implement a Hoarding pilot through a regional arrangement i.e. the removal of excess items in homes in order to improve living standards and wellbeing.
- To recruit a Domestic Abuse Prevention Officer to provide a more specialist response to those presenting as homeless.
- Targeting advice and support towards private landlords in respect of what support and resources are available in the event of tenants who are having difficulty sustaining their tenancies.

**Increase the supply of affordable and regulated accommodation.**

- To continue to identify opportunities to develop or acquire new permanent homes to enable homeless households to move on quicker from temporary accommodation.
- To continue to identify and acquire accommodation for use as temporary homeless accommodation.
- Establish an Acquisition & Development Strategy to facilitate the acquisition of homes for use as homeless accommodation.
- To continue to engage with private landlords to increase the supply of good quality temporary accommodation (subject to need).
- Subject to acquiring Change of Use Planning Consent, re-purpose the former Severn View residential home in Chepstow (approved by Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024) for use as temporary homeless accommodation.

**Provide timely and effective support to sustain accommodation.**

- Recommission the HSG programme in order to deliver a more fit for purpose programme and to achieve delivery efficiencies.
- To implement proposed accommodation-based housing support at Severn View, subject to Change of Use Planning consent.

**Maximising resources and benefits through well connected partnerships**

- Deliver financial savings to the Council through the proposed use of Severn View for temporary accommodation and as an alternative to B & B use.
- Complete the procurement of a rent management system to deliver business efficiencies.
- Review of arrangements for the repair and maintenance of temporary accommodation.

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

4.1 There are no negative implications with this proposal. See Appendix 5.

## **5 EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

5.1 Monmouthshire's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan covers the initial five years of what will be an ongoing evolution and transformation of homelessness services and provision. In this context the success of the plan will be incremental as new practices are identified, adapted and embedded over time.

5.2 The Rapid Rehousing approach aims for tangible outcomes to be realised. The Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan's progress and success will be measured against the following Key Performance Indicators:

- Reduction in the number of households approaching as homeless;
- Increase in the number of households being referred for homelessness prevention;
- An increase in successful prevention figures;
- A reduction in B&B use;
- An increase in private leasing through the Monmouthshire Lettings Service;
- An increase in affordable, long-term accommodation for homeless households;
- A reduction in the average time homeless households are waiting to be allocated Social Housing accommodation through the Common Housing Register (Homesearch).

## **6 REASONS:**

- 6.1 The Council has been requested by Welsh Government to transition to a Rapid Rehousing approach to homelessness delivery. Welsh Government seized the opportunities and lessons from emergency measures taken during the Pandemic to implement changes which have resulted in a shift in the approach to homelessness nationally. The Rapid Rehousing Transition plan complements and extends the Council's previous Homeless Strategy published in 2022 and the Homeless Transition Plan approved in 2023.

## **7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

- 7.1 There are no resource implications with this briefing report, but there are resource implications associated with the implementation of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and the delivery of the Council's homeless service. However, the continued implementation of this plan will mitigate against unsustainable expenditure, such as B & B use.
- 7.2 The final homeless outturn for 2023/24 was a total overspend of £338,646.
- 7.3 The following are funding sources that will be accessed by the Council subject to any necessary approvals:

### **Revenue Funding Includes:**

- Housing Options Team and Housing Support Grant Cost Centres;
- Welsh Government Housing Support Grant;
- Welsh Government Homeless Prevention Grant;
- Welsh Government National Leasing Scheme;
- Children's Services revenue funding (contributing to the Pobl Young People Supported Housing);
- Youth Support Grant;
- Discretionary Housing Payments;
- Property rental income.

### **Capital**

- Social Housing Grant;
- S106 Affordable Housing Contributions;
- £2m borrowing headroom to enable specific property acquisition and remodelling to alleviate homelessness;
- Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme.

## **8 CONSULTEES:**

- 8.1 The Housing Options Team Manager, Housing Support Commissioning Operational Manager, Affordable Housing Strategy Officer and Housing and Communities Manager all inputted the respective updates from their departments.
- 8.2 Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Economy, Chief Officer for Communities and Place, Head of Rural Development, Housing and Partnerships.

## **9 BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

9.1 Housing (Wales) Act 2014; Welsh Government, Phase 2 Homeless and Housing Support Planning Guidance, 2021; Welsh Government Local Authority Housing Support Programme Strategy April 2022 - March 2026 Template; Welsh Government, Ending homelessness in Wales: a high level action plan 2021 to 2026; Welsh Government, Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans: Guidance for Local Authorities & Partners, 2021; Monmouthshire Council, Housing Support Programme Strategy 2022; Monmouthshire Council, Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and Action Plan, 2023; Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016; Welsh Government, White Paper on Ending Homelessness 2023.

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## Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan Action Plan 2022-2027 with updates

### Rapid Rehousing Action Plan

#### Priority One: Prevent homelessness at the earliest opportunity

	Action required to deliver the priority	Lead Person	Timescales	Outcomes
1.1	To review and evaluate existing staff structures of teams delivering homeless services to ensure they continue to provide sufficient capacity and continue to be fit for purpose.	Housing & Communities Manager and Flexible Funding Strategic Manager	31/03/2023	To support staff, maximise capacity, particularly in respect of homeless prevention, to improve efficiency and maximise flexibility.
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
1.1	Full restructure of council		Jan 2023, restructure of departments has been put forward to DMT as part of council wide restructure	
1.1	Addition of Duty Accommodation Officer- HOTs		Recruited	
1.1	Addition of Senior Accommodation Development Officer- HOTs		Recruited	
1.1	Addition of First Contact Officer- HOTs		Recruited	

1.1	Additions of Systems Admin and Performance Monitoring Officer- Across Housing and Communities		Recruited	
1.2	<b>To identify how to increase the number of households accessing the service at an earlier stage thereby reducing the number of households presenting in a crisis through working with partner agencies and establishing 'early warning' triggers.</b>	Strategy & Policy Officer - Homelessness	<b>On-going to 31/03/26</b>	To move to a more proactive service rather than a reactive service and reducing the number of people presenting in crisis.  To distinguish between primary prevention, secondary prevention and tertiary prevention.
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
1.2	Survey of service users to try to identify where prevention interventions will be best targeted		Being collected as part of provider reviews. Service User feedback survey has been amended to ask further questions around homelessness to try to identify any services households might approach prior to homelessness.	
1.2	Working with the DWP to send comms to claimants about where to get support with housing issues		Comms sent to all Monmouthshire claimants in May 2023. Needs to be revisited.	
1.2	Liaising with DHP/ Shared benefits service to identify households in need of additional support		Benefits team now advising households of additional support and referring where appropriate.	
1.2	Designing training to be delivered to internal staff (mandatory) and external partners to explain homelessness process and how to refer etc.		Training on homelessness process is being created. Target completion by end of Q4. Roll out in the next financial year.	
1.2	Increase prevention timescale from 56 days to 6 months in line with RHA		Monmouthshire HOTS now treating anyone threatened with homelessness within 6 months to be at imminent risk in line with notice periods set by the Renting Homes Act, above and beyond the statutory 56 days.	
1.2	Promotion of and linking in with HIP		Ongoing	
1.2	Use of Discretionary Homelessness Prevention Fund		Partner agencies are contacting HOTS with cases to apply for funding to prevent homelessness where there is risk. This process is allowing HOTS to provide additional advice at an earlier stage.	

1.3	<b>To review homelessness services information to ensure there is clear and easily accessible information to help prevent homelessness at the earliest possible stage.</b>	Homeless Project Officer	31/03/2023	Increase awareness of housing options and accessibility of information.  Updated web pages  Establish bespoke information eg young people, domestic abuse, Ukrainians
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
1.3	Work with Take Notice (Shelter Cymru) ongoing to produce easy read and plain English information.		Initial meetings went well but have not had any reply from communications for some time. Possible end of project?	
1.3	Website structure and information being redesigned		New website structure and content has been uploaded in English and Welsh. Monitoring via google analytics. More work needed to make the pages more aesthetically pleasing.	
1.3	Look at information Prevention team can give- leaflets/ banners etc,		Awaiting website to be finalised before creating any further comms.	
1.3	Videos to accompany duty letters		Has been scripted and reviewed. Waiting to be recorded.	
1.3	Youth focussed comms- potential work with Youth Friendly		Ideas taken to YPHIP and broadly supported. Looking to see what Youth Friendly ideas can be created in house. To be explored further financial year 2024-2025.	
1.4	<b>To work alongside colleagues to promote services available to those who are at risk of homelessness through the Council's 'Money Matters' Tackling Poverty Campaign.</b>	Strategic Homeless Transformation Co-Ordinator	31/03/2023	To provide a planned approach to homelessness prevention and housing options.
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
1.4	Money Matters has evolved into Cost of Living Support		Housing is linked in with the campaign and materials are being developed.	
1.5	<b>To continue to invest to deliver upstream homelessness prevention in places of education including wider family networks</b>	Head of Economy, Employment & Skills	<b>Ongoing to 31/03/2026</b>	To reduce causes of homelessness for the future by increasing awareness of housing options and accessibility of information. And to have clear housing pathways in place.

	Actions		Progress	
1.5	Youth homelessness literature to be designed		Youth focussed web pages now online. Meeting with Youth Friendly organisation (who have substantial experience of creating youth friendly materials) to generate ideas. Looking at what can be achieved in house.	
1.5	Young Persons Homeless Information Panel		YPHIP meets regularly. Currently mapping YP journey through homelessness. Has a membership inclusive of HOTs, Children's Social Care, Employment and Skills, Support. Action Plan to be created.	
1.5	Llamau UPSTREAM		Has been considered with input from Compass. Not to be pursued at this time.	
1.5	Design and deliver sessions on homelessness to schools		Something to develop with Compass following the creation of youth focussed comms.	
1.5	Compass		Compass is utilising their 'Early Intervention Tool' in schools and linking in with Housing and the Gateway where needed. The EIT used by Compass has been identified as an area of good practice and the Compass team helped to develop the indicators in the newly published Youth Engagement and Progression Framework.	
1.6	<b>To make better use of information technology to capture and analyse data for the purpose of identifying opportunities, sharing data and planning.</b>	Housing & Communities Manager & Flexible Funding Strategic Manager	<b>31/03/2023</b>	To appoint a Systems Administration & Performance Officer  Full utilisation of the functionality of Locata to improve efficiency and generate regular monitoring reports.  Acquire and develop a rents system for Monmouthshire Lettings To evolve services to ensure it is structured to meet the needs of those that are threatened with homelessness eg use of TEAMs; Texting etc
	Actions		Progress	



1.6	System administrator		Now in post
1.6	Locata reform: Changes to ICF and functionality is in progress		Meet with Gateway and Jake from Locata regarding our requirements and movement to join up the two sides.
1.6	Procuring a rent system in progress		All demos now complete. Issues with funding resolved. Finalising Spec and final checks being made.
1.6	Analytics used during covid: look into this, how it worked and if this can be adapted for our use.		To be explored
1.6	Contact with Council Tax to see if data sharing can identify those who may be at risk.		Contacted- told too complicated.
1.6	Locata reform: Inclusion of mandatory fields		Continues to be explored.
1.6	Make BOARDS more responsive and less vulnerable.		Use of Power BI with BOARDS to run reports and obtain live data being explored. Prototype has been developed.
1.7	<b>Implement a system review of homelessness and prevention procedures</b>	Housing Options Team Manager & Housing Support Commissioning & Operations Manager	To reduce/eliminate less efficient practice to identify opportunities to create additional capacity (to particularly re-invest into homeless case management and prevention) and improve outcomes for service users.
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>
1.7	Monthly list of non-bidders circulated to HOT officers to review		In operation
1.7	Case reviews introduced into 1:1 sessions		
1.7	Quarterly move-on meetings between Prevention / HOT & Accommodation Officers to audit cases in Temporary Accommodation to identify any bottlenecking of residents		

1.7	Separating S75 cases from other active cases on Housing Options Officers caseloads to prevent overwhelm		
1.7	Ensure consistency in decision making across the team		Team sessions have been held to refresh on procedure and agree team approaches- this includes team procedure on accepting and scrutinising evidence consistently. Operational procedures have been added to weekly team meeting agenda.
1.7	Returning to Pre-Pandemic procedure		Re-introduction of tests for Priority Need and Intentionality.
1.7	Review of Prevention procedure		Households at risk of homelessness within 6 months are now supported by Prevention Officers (increase from the statutory 56 days) in line with Renting Homes Act and to boost earlier intervention.
1.7	Develop a more responsive team using data collection		Data collection template built with key indicators across HOTS, Accommodation and Support and is now done monthly to monitor progress and any occurring issues.
1.8	<p><b>Develop a Youth Homeless Action Plan to ensure that young people's specific needs are addressed</b></p>	<p>Head of Economy, Employment &amp; Skills</p> <p>Housing &amp; Communities Manager</p> <p>Flexible Funding Strategic Manager</p>	<p><b>31/03/2023</b></p> <p>To evolve services to ensure it is structured to meet the needs of young people threatened with and actual homeless.</p>
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>
1.8	Youth Action Plan has been created pending Young Person's Homelessness Information Panel approval.		Sent to YPHIP members for feedback. To be further discussed at YHIP
1.8	Feedback from YP with lived experience		YP attended YPHIP in June 23

1.8	Broach possibility of youth services coming under one umbrella for ease of branding etc		Youth comms were discussed at YPHIP and will be further explored.	
1.9	<b>To implement a suite of 'early warning' triggers to identify those at potential risk of homelessness,</b>	Housing Options Team Manager	<b>31/03/2027</b>	To prevent homelessness before it arises To identify new partner agencies and locality settings to implement eg in Health or voluntary sector settings
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
1.9	Conduct survey of service users to learn journey to homelessness and identify any potential 'pinch points' that we can target		To ease administrative burden homelessness and prevention questions have been rolled into the HSG reviews for temporary accommodation only. Responses are being captured to build a larger picture of homelessness services in Monmouthshire.	
1.10	<b>Evaluate the effectiveness and cost efficiency of using data analytics for the prevention of homelessness.</b>	Strategic Homeless Transformation Officer	<b>31/03/2024</b>	Consider benefits of further early identification of homelessness opportunities. Determine cost benefits
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
1.10	Look into potential in house systems first		Not something explored in light of financial restrictions.	
1.11	<b>Undertake exercise to acquire service user feedback about homeless service</b>	Strategic Homeless Transformation Officer & Housing Options Team Manager		Understand service delivery from a service user perspective with a view to identifying potential opportunities for improvement
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	

1.11	To reduce administrative burden and survey fatigue, questions on homelessness and the process have been added to the HSG review surveys.	HSG reviews are in progress but not all HSG clients have been through the Homeless route.
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## Priority Two: Increase access to and the supply of affordable and settled accommodation

	Action required to deliver the priority	Lead Person	Timescales	Outcomes
2.1	To explicitly reduce the use of B & B	Housing Options Team Manager	Ongoing to 31/03/26	Target 10% by April 2023 from benchmark of 86 on 1st December 2022.  April 2023 onwards, target to be reviewed
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
2.1	B&B use reducing		Reduction in use of B&B from 95 in July 2022 to 49 in December 2023	
2.2	To maximise the availability of permanent social housing for homeless move on through Monmouthshire Homesearch	Strategy & Policy Officer – Affordable Housing	Ongoing to 31/03/26	
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
2.2	There has been an increase in the percentage of social allocations going to homeless households		60% currently going to homeless households	
2.2	Review of banding through Housing Options on Homesearch			
2.2	Changes to suspensions and demotions on Homesearch - months warning before action taken for breathing space to address arrears		To avoid homeless households being demoted on Homesearch due to historic arrears, there will now be a 4 week grace period for households to address the arrears and prevent demotion so as they do not lose their 'active date'.	

2.2	Registered Social Landlords waiving weeks rent in advance		RSLs have agreed to waiver the first week's rent in advance for homeless households for the time being. This is on the basis that financial resilience continues to be promoted to homeless clients and this is something that Housing and Housing Support are looking to facilitate/ bolster.
2.3	<b>To seek to expand the existing Housing First service to meet unmet demand.</b>	Housing Support Commissioning & Operations Manager	<b>Ongoing to 31/03/26</b> To improve people's journey into permanent suitable accommodation
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>
2.3	Housing First Task Group meeting		In progress and a review is currently being undertaken to establish a more robust and sustainable service with housing allocations
2.4	<b>To establish dedicated Young Persons temporary accommodation supported by young person's floating support.</b>	Housing Options Team Manager & Housing Support Commissioning & Operations Manager	<b>31/12/2022</b> To improve a young person's journey into permanent suitable accommodation
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>
2.4	A YP only temporary accommodation is now operational. The Temporary Accommodation is shared accommodation and support is provided by Monmouthshire Youth Outreach - floating support		Currently operational but have staffing issues

2.5	To review and evaluate the newly re-modelled Young Persons accommodation in relation to outcomes achieved for those with low to high needs and consider whether there is a need for Young Persons Housing First model.	Housing Support Commissioning & Operations Manager	31/05/2024	To improve a young person's journey into permanent suitable housing
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
2.5	Evaluation/ review of YP accommodation		Timescale is for April/May 2024	
2.6	Through a multi-agency approach, increase the supply of accommodation in the County for people with complex needs around substance misuse and mental health.	Strategy & Policy Officer – Affordable Housing & Flexible Funding Strategic Manager	31/03/2023	Collaboration with Social Care and Health.  Identify revenue funding to establish multiple needs supported housing north and south
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
2.6	Talks around a complex needs supported accommodation ongoing.		Issues around funding such a project in light of no uplift to HSG.	
2.6	Identify a site		A number of sites have been looked at but were just not viable or could not meet the spec required. Currently there is an options appraisal being conducted for the site at Severn View which could become a Temporary Accommodation option for higher needs clients. If this did materialise, Severn View could become a 'hub' for multi-agency working.	

2.7	<b>For the Council to develop a procedure to directly acquire and purchase accommodation.</b>	Strategy & Policy Officer – Affordable Housing & Development Manager	31/03/2023	To increase the supply of temporary homeless accommodation  To maximise the development of new affordable housing  To make full use of available capital funding eg Social Housing Grant, Transitional Accommodation Capital Grant, Housing with Care Grant etc
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
2.7	Policy for MCC to purchase accommodation is being compiled.		HB consultant employed to advise on HB implications. These were resolved and acquisitions process proceeded.	
2.7	Two properties have been purchased so far and another is currently in scope			
2.7	Renovations for acquired properties.		First property is currently being renovated. Due to complications there is not a current expected date of completion.	
2.7	An acquisitions policy and strategy is being produced.		As acquisitions increase a long-term strategy and policy is being created.	
2.8	<b>To identify an accommodation management agent to facilitate the Council to purchase and acquire accommodation</b>	Housing & Communities Manager  Strategy & Policy Officer – Affordable Housing	31/03/2023	To facilitate the provision of additional temporary accommodation and overcome DWP Housing Benefit regulations that prevents the Council from managing owned self-contained accommodation directly.
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
2.8	N/A- HB issue resolved following HB consultant intervention			

2.9	<b>For the Council to bring empty properties back into use, including targeting town centre opportunities (eg space above shops) and wherever possible look to align with Rapid Re-Housing purposes</b>	Strategy & Policy Officer - Homelessness	<b>On-going until 31/03/26</b>	To increase the supply of homeless accommodation  To provide additional private sector accommodation  Where possible align with funding opportunities such as Social Housing Grant or Transitional Accommodation Capital funding
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
2.9	Empty homes grant become part of MLS/NLS		Empty Homes is now under Monmouthshire Lettings Service	
2.9	Increase in engagement with empty property and second homeowners.		A system of communications has been developed and is currently in place. MLS Letting Negotiator is in regular communication with such property owners and provides advice and alternative uses for properties, such as Private Sector Leasing.	
2.1 0	<b>For the Council to identify opportunities to re-purpose existing MCC accommodation, non-accommodation assets for homeless purposes and land, including car parks.</b>	Strategy & Policy Officer – Affordable Housing & Development Manager	<b>On-going until 31/03/26</b>	To increase the supply of homeless accommodation
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
2.1 0	Cottage in Llanvair Discoed		Cabinet has agreed to an agricultural property in Monmouthshire estates to be repurposed. Cottage has been agreed and Transitional Accommodation Capital funding secured for renovation. Potentially another 4 properties identified (to be shared with social care).	



2.1 0	MCC is in process of selling off land to MHA for affordable accommodation use (100% affordable).			
2.1 0	Z pods			Scoping work continues on MCC land
2.1 0	Severn View			Discussions/ options appraisal ongoing for homelessness use.
2.1 1	<b>To identify potential opportunities re-designate existing social housing</b>	Monmouthshire Housing Association, Pobl & Melin Homes	<b>On-going until 31/03/26</b>	To increase the supply of social housing for homeless people and/or single people
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
2.1 1				
2.1 2	<b>To consider Modern Methods of Construction as an opportunity to increase the availability of both permanent and temporary accommodation</b>	Monmouthshire Housing Association, Pobl & Melin Homes	<b>On-going until 31/03/26</b>	To increase accommodation supply, particularly for single people
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
2.1 2	Explore possibility of Z pods/ modular housing			The possibility of using Z pods has been explored and there is current scoping work to identify any potential sites across the county.
2.1 3	<b>Undertake an options appraisal for the future use of the former emergency family hostel</b>	Strategy & Policy Officer - Homelessness	<b>30/09/2023</b>	To determine the most appropriate option eg dispose; retain and convert as accommodation for a large family; retain and convert into flats
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
2.1 3	Not appropriate at this time. To be revisited following outcome of Severn View options appraisal			

2.1 4	<b>To review the Homesearch exclusion policy (suspensions and demotions)</b>	Strategy & Policy Officer – Affordable Housing	<b>31/03/2025</b>	To ensure the exclusion policy doesn't act as a barrier to moving on and to minimise delays by ensuring that exclusion procedures do not result in unnecessary time in temporary accommodation
<b>Actions</b>			<b>Progress</b>	
2.1 4	Raised with Homesearch Operations Group		A new policy is being trialled with a 4 week grace period for those in arrears to pay 10% off, set up a repayment agreement and make consistent payments. Will allow support services to work with households to address arrears and make any necessary applications for grants to avoid any exclusions or demotions and for households to keep their banding date.	
2.1 5	<b>To establish a mechanism to fund and provide essential furniture to facilitate move on to settled accommodation.</b>	Homeless Project Officer		To ensure the possible lack of furniture for an applicant does not result in a delay in moving on to settled accommodation.  Engage with DWP in respect of DAF procedures.
<b>Actions</b>			<b>Progress</b>	
2.1 5	Households are supported by support workers to apply for Discretionary Assistance Fund, and there is an agreement with local recycling organisations across the county for households to access second hand goods. Work is ongoing to promote financial resilience amongst homeless households and this continues to be explored.			

2.1 6	<b>To continue to co-ordinate a newly established Strategic Housing Forum with housing association partners to help identify opportunities to develop new affordable housing.</b>	Housing Communities Manager	<b>On-going to 31/03/27</b>	To maximise the number of affordable homes built and Social Housing Grant spend.  To identify more partnership opportunities  Implement collective approaches to tackling barriers
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
2.1 6	There have been Strategic Housing Forum meetings, last one was Jan 2024		Around £9.5 mill provisionally allocated, and indicative funding for the next 2 years of £9.8 mill provisionally allocated.	
2.1 7	<b>To consider innovative opportunities to utilise S106 affordable housing contributions to create additional affordable housing</b>	Strategy & Policy Officer - Homelessness	<b>Ongoing to 31/03/26</b>	To provide additional homeless accommodation facilitated by making use of S106 contributions as an additional resource.
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
2.1 7	Conversations with community groups have been held.		Community Groups have been unable to identify suitable properties and private finance.	
2.1 8	<b>Identify opportunities to extend existing social housing or convert loft space. (Idea)</b>	Pobl, Monmouthshire Housing & Melin	<b>31.03.27</b>	To reduce the need for larger families to transfer to larger properties
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
2.1 8				

2.1 9	<b>To liaise with Homesearch partners in respect of quotas for the allocation of social housing to homeless households to maximise number of social housing vacancies being allocated to homeless households, whilst recognising other housing needs eg medical, transfers etc</b>	Strategy & Policy Officer – Affordable Housing & Pobl, Monmouthshire Housing & Melin	<b>01.10.22</b>	To reduce the use of B & B  To minimise the time people spend in temporary accommodation
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
2.1 9			There has been an increase overall to allocations to homelessness over the last 5 years. 2% decrease between the last 2 financial years (so far).	
2.1 9	Updates to Welsh Grants guidance		Requires any property purchased with grant funding to be prioritised to people in Temporary Accommodation/homelessness duty	
2.2 0	<b>To continue to develop Monmouthshire Lettings, including promoting 'long leases' as per the Welsh Leasing Scheme to identify opportunities to improve the service and encourage further private landlords to make available their properties to the Council.</b>	MLS Negotiator	<b>On-going to 31/03/26</b>	Target – 10% increase in MLS accommodation. 1st December benchmark x units  Participate in the Wales Leasing Scheme  Regularly market and promote MLS ensuring brand recognition and MLS is visible  Develop new landlord incentives  MLS service to include empty properties and loans

	Actions		Progress	
2.2 0	MLS/NLS comms campaign designed and due to go live Sept 2023		MLS/ Leasing Scheme Wales campaign 'Change Lives' was launched in Sept 2023 at the Usk Show. The Campaign included an e-book and pixel marketing. An increase in enquiries was seen immediately after the launch of the campaign.	
2.2 0	MLS/NLS campaign to be launched at Usk Show			
2.2 0	MLS/NLS brochure to be designed and go live			
2.2 1	Investigate supported lodging and seeking to match people under-occupying properties with people in housing need and consider the learning from the previous Supporting Lodging scheme with Llamau.	Strategic Homeless Transformation Co-Ordinator & Housing Support Development & Operations Manager	31/03/2024	Establish an additional housing option
	Actions		Progress	
2.2 1	Spoken with previous scheme organisers- not viable at this time without significant resources			
2.2 2	Engage with hosts and landlords who participated in Homes 4 Ukraine to identify possible opportunities for providing homeless accommodation	Snr Accommodation Officer & Monmouthshire Lettings Negotiator	31/03/2026	Additional homeless accommodation utilising hosting/lodging arrangements
	Actions		Progress	

2.2 2				
2.2 3	<b>Consider participation in the HMPS Community Accommodation Service 3 (CAS3) initiative.</b>	Strategy & Policy Officer – Affordable Housing	<b>31/12/2022</b>	Temporary accommodation for those leaving prison
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
2.2 3	MCC is now participating in CAS 3			
2.2 4	<b>To work with Homesearch partners to implement actions to make the ‘best use’ and maximise occupancy of social housing the stock to facilitate more people to move-on from temporary accommodation</b>	Affordable Housing Strategy Officer – Affordable Housing	<b>On-going to 31/03/26</b>	<p>To provide more options for those who are at risk of homelessness</p> <p>Target households/transfer applicants occupying overcrowded one bedroom accommodation to facilitate one bedroomed vacancies</p> <p>Utilise existing housing stock for shared accommodation</p> <p>Re-designation of existing accommodation</p> <p>Possible loft conversions and extensions</p>
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
2.2 4	Homeshare		Homeshare is now live and is an initiative for two single person households to join their housing applications to be eligible for a 2 bed above ground floor flat. There is more of this stock that is less generally less desirable and so people can access this accommodation more quickly.	

2.2 5	<b>To consider and evaluate the potential for using the housing co-operative model as an additional vehicle for the provision of affordable housing.</b>	Strategy & Policy Officer – Affordable Housing	<b>31/03/2024</b>	Maximise options for affordable housing delivery
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
2.2 5	Conversations with community groups		Conversations with community groups have been ongoing but no viable sites identified as of yet.	
2.2 6	<b>To establish self-contained emergency family accommodation in the North of the County</b>	Strategy & Policy Officer – Affordable Housing	<b>31/03/2024</b>	To improve dedicated provision for families that meet WG accommodation standards  Minimise the need to displace families from their home communities
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
2.2 6				

### Priority Three: Provide timely and effective support to sustain accommodation

	Action required to deliver the priority	Lead Person	Timescales	Outcomes
3.1	<p>To review, evaluate and recommission the Housing Support Grant programme by April 2023. To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place Based Support</li> <li>• Young Persons in Temporary Accommodation</li> <li>• Temporary Accommodation &amp; Re-Settlement</li> <li>• Assertive Outreach</li> <li>• Housing First</li> </ul>	Flexible Funding Strategic Manager & Housing Support Development & Operations Manager	31/03/2023	To ensure the programme and services meets the needs and demands of the most vulnerable members of our community, whilst ensuring homelessness and Rapid Rehousing is prioritised.
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
3.1	Addition of Housing Support Grant Commissioning and Review Officer post		Recruited	
3.1	Addition of a Housing First worker		Recruited	
3.1	Addition of a Benefits Advisor		Recruited	
3.1	Addition of a Low Level Prevention Worker		Recruited	
3.2	<b>Review and remodel the provision of specialist young persons support.</b>	Housing Support Commissioning & Operational Manager	31/03/2025	Increased housing specialist support capacity for young people.
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
3.2	Discussions are taking place at the Young Persons Homelessness Information Panel			



3.2	YP specialist support service has been commissioned: Monmouthshire Youth Outreach		To be reviewed as staffing levels is having an impact on service provision
3.2	Review of all YP services		Reviews are time lined for April/May 2024
3.3	<p><b>To seek to identify funds and invest in resources to engage directly with households considered high support need groups such as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Mental Health.</li> <li>o Young Persons.</li> <li>o Substance misuse</li> </ul>	Housing & Communities Manager & Flexible Funding Strategic Manager	<p><b>Ongoing to 31/03/26</b></p> <p>To mitigate against unsuitable placements and minimise placement break-down</p>
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>
3.3	BOOST project- liaising with psychology service		Met with project leader to discuss needs, hosted visit(s) from Boost Psychology service. Unclear at present how service can assist our homeless clients.
3.3	Utilise the expertise of Health Inclusion Team for clients in Temporary Accommodation/ B&B		Referral process disseminated- Health Inclusion Team attended provider forum and support worker network
3.3	Review of Substance Misuse Project		In progress
3.3	Review of Mental Health Projects		In progress
3.3	Housing Support Grant Planning Group set up to gather needs from other organisations to work together e.g. Health, Social Care		Housing Support Grant Planning Group started in January 2024
3.4	<p><b>Update Housing Support assessment and monitoring procedures to ensure support mapping can be undertaken on an on-going basis.</b></p>	Housing Support Development & Operations Manager	<p><b>31/03/2024</b></p> <p>Maintain an up to date overview of support needs to inform on-going planning and commissioning.</p>
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>
3.4	New ways to assess levels of need have been identified		Roll out of new system to gather needs and level of support will be live on 1st March 24, with training being delivered to all support workers.

3.5	<b>To seek to engage with Welsh Government and other partners to identify additional resources to increase the capacity of the housing support programme and support availability to meet local need.</b>	Flexible Funding Strategic Manager	<b>On-going to 31/03/26</b>	Ability to meet the need identified in the Statement of Need.  Collaborative partnerships facilitating blended funding packages
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
3.5	Support with funding bid for Domestic Abuse organisation		Awaiting outcome	
3.5	Liaise with Gwent BOOST to utilise additional external resources		Meetings with respective BOOST teams have occurred and BOOST representatives are being helped to link in with appropriate services.	
3.5	Explore the role Credit Union can play in promoting financial resilience		Discussions have been had with the local Credit Union on how they may be able to assist. CU have been linked in with HSG and will be attending a Housing Provider Forum.	
3.5	Housing Provider and Support Worker Forums- to disseminate information on external services		Regular forums have been facilitated with guest speakers from external services invited to promote support available.	
3.6	<b>To seek to establish links with local voluntary organisations and local churches/faith groups to develop new services</b>	Housing & Communities Manager	<b>Ongoing to 31/03/26</b>	To provide additional private sector accommodation
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
3.6				
3.7	<b>Seek to engage with Social Care to improve services for those who are neurodiverse</b>	Strategy & Policy Officer – Affordable Housing & Flexible Funding Strategic Manager	<b>31/03/2023</b>	Homeless services that meet people’s needs which helps to improve homeless prevention and reduce placement failure.  To be factored into Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan development
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
3.7				

**Priority Four: Maximising resources and benefits through well connected partnerships**

	<b>Action required to deliver the priority</b>	<b>Lead Person</b>	<b>Timescales</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
4.1	<b>Co-Ordinate quarterly meetings of the Rapid Rehousing Steering Group to monitor and implement this Plan</b>	Strategic Homeless Transformation Co-Ordinator	<b>Ongoing to 31/03/26</b>	To implement and monitor the delivery of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
4.1	Strategic decision to not pursue a steering group and moving more towards task and finish groups and existing forums.			
4.2	<b>Co-Ordinate the Strategic Housing Partnership to increase opportunities that support and contribute to the delivery of additional affordable housing and the priorities of this Plan.</b>	Chief Officer – Communities & Place	<b>Ongoing to 31/03/26</b>	Increasing opportunities to facilitate and develop additional homeless accommodation
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
4.2	Strategic Housing Partnership convenes frequently			
4.3	<b>To develop mechanisms to improve homeless related communication and awareness of resources and services, particularly targeting agencies and services, including voluntary sector agencies, that provide homeless related support.</b>	Strategic Homeless Transformation Co-Ordinator  Housing	<b>Ongoing to 31/03/26</b>	Improved 'whole system' delivery

		Options Team Manager		
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
<b>4.3</b>	Homelessness comms is being created.		Website has been refreshed, videos are planned and training sessions designed.	
<b>4.4</b>	<b>Engage with Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association in respect of future funding arrangements to align with homeless need in Monmouthshire</b>	Housing & Communities Manager	<b>Ongoing to 31/03/26</b>	To address funding pressures and unmet need
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
<b>4.4</b>				
<b>4.5</b>	<b>Participate in the Gwent Health, Social Care &amp; Housing partnership, which has adopted Rapid Re-Housing as a priority.</b>	Housing & Communities Manager	<b>31/03/24</b>	Address the need identified in the Statement of Need.  Identify potential partnership and regional opportunities
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	
<b>4.5</b>	Rapid Rehousing Co-ordinator regularly attending			
<b>4.6</b>	<b>Utilise the Housing Support Grant Provider Forum to raise awareness of issues, share information and identify opportunities and for Rapid Re-Housing to be a standard agenda item.</b>	Housing Support Development & Operations Manager	<b>Ongoing to 31/03/26</b>	To enable partners to work together successfully e.g. information sharing, referral mechanisms
	<b>Actions</b>		<b>Progress</b>	

**4.6**

Rapid Rehousing Co-ordinator now attends Housing Support Grant provider and support worker forums to update and share information. Also connects other organisations and providers with Housing Support Grant officers to include in future forums.

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I have received a notice of eviction



**S62 Duty to Assess**  
On presentation household is issued a S62, which is a responsibility on the LA to conduct an assessment.



I can see that the notice is valid and expires in 56 days



**S66 Duty to Prevent**  
A S66 duty is awarded if household is threatened with homelessness within 56 days. A Prevention Officer will be allocated to try to prevent the household from becoming homeless

A S75 is the final duty. You will be issued a band 1 on Homesearch and supported to find settled accommodation.



You have been issued with a S73 with **no** apparent Priority Need. We will offer you support over the next 56 days but cannot offer Temporary Accommodation.

I am a Prevention Officer; I can help you with:

- Mediation with landlord,
- Affordability and income maximisation
- Looking for alternative accommodation



**S75 Duty to accommodate**  
You are in Priority Need, unintentionally homeless and you have not been able to secure accommodation in the last 56 days, we are now responsible for ensuring you have somewhere to live



You have been issued with a S73 with apparent Priority Need. We will offer you Temporary Accommodation (S68)

**S73 Duty to help secure accommodation**  
A S73 duty is awarded if a household becomes or is homeless. The duty means the council has a responsibility to assist the household to find accommodation. S73 is split into two- A S73 with apparent Priority Need **OR** S73 without apparent Priority Need



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## **Welcome to the comprehensive guide for landlords in Monmouthshire considering Monmouthshire Letting Service (MLS) to manage their properties.**

In this ebook, we'll explore the practical reasons for choosing MLS and delve into the profound impact your decision can have on both your property's success and the local community. By partnering with MLS, you're not only maximising your

investment but also contributing to the betterment of families in the area and fostering a stronger, more cohesive community.



monmouthshire  
sir fynwy



Welsh Government

# Practical advantages of choosing Monmouthshire Letting Service

## 1 Zero letting fees

At the heart of the Monmouthshire Letting Service (MLS) lies an enticing proposition that sets it apart from traditional letting agents: MLS does not constrain landlords with any letting fees.

This distinctive advantage translates into substantial financial savings for property owners, making MLS an astute and cost-effective choice for landlords throughout Monmouthshire.

## 2 Guaranteed rent

- Guaranteed Rent: Enjoy consistent income without the uncertainty.
- Regular Property Inspections: Peace of mind knowing your property is well-maintained.
- Short and Long-Term Lease Arrangements: Tailored options for your property's unique needs.

## 3 Property returned in original condition

Our unique end-of-lease agreement ensures your property's value is preserved. We return your property in original condition (less fair wear and tear), every time.

## 4 Property management service: Streamlining responsibilities

- Contract holders-to-Property Matching: Ensuring a harmonious contract holders (tenants) - landlord relationship.
- Meeting Management Responsibilities: MLS assists in fulfilling your property management duties.

## 5 Leasing scheme Wales: Long-term stability

- 5 to 20-Year Lease Arrangements: Secure income and a stable future for your property.
- EPC Standards and Habitable Living Space Grants: Funding to enhance your property's value and quality.

## 6 Housing support services: Seamless contract holders transition

- Assisting Contract holders (tenants): Ensuring a smooth transition into their new tenancy, saving you time.

# You may be eligible for a grant to improve the condition of your property

## Empty Homes Grant: Bringing properties to life

- Revitalising Empty Homes: Grants up to £25,000 for properties vacant for 12+ months.
- The property has to be lived in for 5 years by the registered owner of the property.
- Speak to the team to find out if you qualify.
- For more information visit: [www.nationalemptyhomesgrant.wales](http://www.nationalemptyhomesgrant.wales)

## Home improvement loans: Elevating your property

- Interest-Free Loans: Up to £20,000 for essential housing improvements.
- Loan is through Robert Owen banking: [https://www.rocbf.co.uk/home\\_loans/](https://www.rocbf.co.uk/home_loans/)
- Tailored Repayment Terms: Flexible options aligned with your property's use.
- Speak to the team for more details.





# The impact on Monmouthshire of long-term letting

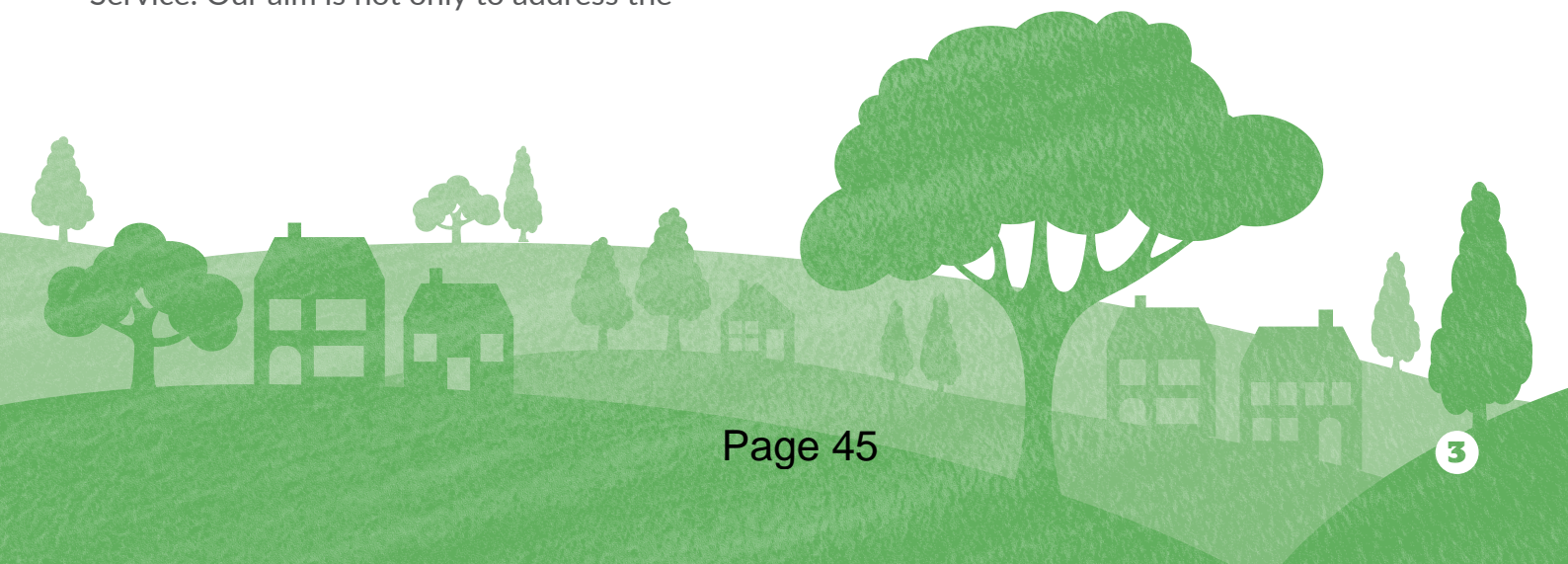
## Change Lives: Building a stronger community through long-term rentals

As Monmouthshire County Council faces a shortage of private landlords, primarily due to the surge in popularity of short-term holiday rentals like Airbnb, the need for sustainable, long-term housing solutions has become crucial. In response, we have developed a comprehensive plan to entice second-home owners to consider letting their properties on a long-term basis through Monmouthshire Letting Service. Our aim is not only to address the

shortage of housing but also to cultivate a sense of community and foster social cohesion within our towns and villages.

### Goals

- Combating Homelessness: Providing stable homes for families facing hardship.
- Local Impact: Strengthening the community's fabric by supporting vulnerable families.



# The community connection: The power of long-term rentals: Benefits beyond profit

Long-term rental contract holders (tenants) have a unique opportunity to integrate and contribute to the local community in ways that short-term renters may not. By joining local clubs, participating in events, and engaging in volunteer work, long-term contract holders create bonds and establish roots within the community. This active involvement cultivates a stronger sense of belonging, social interaction, and shared responsibility, ultimately enhancing the fabric of the community.

## Goals

- Community Cohesion: Long-term contract holders (tenants) contribute to a sense of belonging and stability.
- Neighbourly Connections: Building relationships that enrich the local environment.
- Economic Boost: Consistent rentals promote local spending and business growth.

# Shaping the future for Monmouthshire: choosing families over short-term lets

## Supporting Local Economies:

Long-term rental contract holders (tenants) have a significant economic impact on the community. They tend to shop locally with small businesses, leading to increased revenue for local merchants. This sustained support stimulates economic growth, creating a thriving marketplace and generating job opportunities for residents. In contrast, short-term visitors may merely pass through, leaving limited financial benefits in their wake.

## Investment in the Future:

Long-term rental contract holders (tenants) have a vested interest in the community's future. With children attending local schools and active participation in local politics, they become integral members of the community. This heightened engagement often leads to positive changes, improvements, and advancements within the community over time. Their commitment contributes to a more vibrant and dynamic environment, fostering lasting benefits for all.



## Contrasting the impact: Long-term vs. Short-term rentals

Long-term rentals offer a stark contrast to the transient nature of short-term holiday rentals. While short-term visitors may contribute to the economy momentarily, their fleeting presence often results in minimal community engagement. This transient population lacks the time and commitment required to participate in local activities or support local businesses fully.

Moreover, the surge in short-term holiday rentals can exacerbate the scarcity of affordable housing for local residents. The demand for properties catering to tourists can drive up prices, making it harder for local residents to find suitable

homes. This affordability crisis ripples through the community, impacting the quality of life for both newcomers and long-time residents.

### Goals

- **Fostering Stability:** Long-term contract holders (tenants) create a nurturing environment for children's growth.
- **Supporting Local Schools:** Stable housing improves children's educational experiences.
- **Contributing to Progress:** Positive, lasting impact on the Monmouthshire community.

## Conclusion:

By choosing the Monmouthshire Letting Service, you're not just investing in your property's success; you're making a lasting contribution to the lives of local families and enhancing the well-being of your community.

Embrace the practical and financial advantages and embrace the emotive rewards of long-term letting with MLS. Together, let's build a stronger, more vibrant Monmouthshire for generations to come.

**To find out more, or find out if you qualify for grants, or interest free loans contact us today for an informal and zero commitment conversation.**

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# Housing Support Programme Strategy 2022-2026 Review

## 1 Introduction:

- 1.1 Monmouthshire County Council is required to develop a Housing Support Programme (HSP) Strategy ('the Strategy') every four years, with a mid-point review every two years, outlining the strategic direction of the Council's housing related support services.
- 1.2 MCC published its Housing Support Programme Strategy in 2022 and thus it is now time to review this strategy, to assess any progress and make any adjustments required in the wake of a changing landscape.
- 1.3 To ensure the HSP remains an appropriate strategy in 2024 and beyond, the needs assessment of homeless households was refreshed with input from partner agencies. The data collected from this exercise, along with charting progress against the Action Plan and acknowledging the emerging and planned changes to homelessness policy and legislation, will measure the relevance of the four priorities previously identified to tackle the current homeless challenges and transform homeless services in Monmouthshire.
- 1.4 At the point of its creation, the Strategy set out a single strategic direction for both homelessness and housing support services in Monmouthshire until 2026. Since its adoption Monmouthshire has created, approved, and begun to implement a Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan concurrently.

### **Purpose of the Strategy**

- 1.5 The Strategy continues to guide the work of MCC in respect of homelessness in the medium term and is aligned to MCC's Rapid Rehousing Transition and Action Plan as both are underpinned by the vision to prevent homelessness wherever possible and where we homelessness cannot be prevented it is rare, brief and unrepeatable.
- 1.6 The Strategy seeks to contribute to the Council's commitment to the vision for Monmouthshire to be:
  - A Fair place to live where the effects of inequality and poverty have been reduced.
  - A Green place to live and work, with reduced carbon emissions, and making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency.
  - A Thriving and ambitious place, where there are vibrant town centres, where businesses can grow and develop.
  - A Safe place to live where people have a home and community where they feel secure.
  - A Connected place where people feel part of a community and are valued.
  - A Learning place where everybody has the opportunity to reach their potential.
- 1.7 The Strategy fully aligns homelessness and the Council's Housing Support Grant Programme. The on-going review, development and commissioning of the programme is informed by homeless need in the County.

### **Legislative and Policy Context**

- 1.8 This section details any policy or legislation changes that have occurred in the two years following the adoption of the HSP that could impact its relevance and/or delivery.

### **National Context**

#### **1.9 Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016<sup>1</sup>**

- 1.10 In the two years since the adoption of the HSP the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 (RHA) has come into effect. The RHA has dramatically altered the landscape of renting in Wales which has and will continue to have an impact on homelessness in Monmouthshire.

- 1.11 The RHA has extended the rights of renters, the responsibilities of landlords and has simplified renting in Wales. Some of the most notable elements of the new law are:

- Tenants and Licensees have become 'Contract Holders', and tenancies are 'Occupation Contracts'.
- Contract Holders receive a written contract setting out their rights and responsibilities.
- The 'no fault notice period' has increased from two to six months.
- Greater protection from eviction.
- Improved succession rights.
- The flexibility to add or remove people to an occupation contract.
- The system is simplified into two types of occupation contract depending on whether the property is socially rented or from the private rented sector.
- Expansion of health and safety measures.
- Abandoned properties can be repossessed without needing a court order. (Welsh Government, 2024)

#### **1.12 White Paper on Ending Homelessness in Wales<sup>2</sup>**

- 1.13 In October 2023 the Welsh Government published their intention to change homelessness legislation in Wales this Senedd term.

- 1.14 The proposals contained within the White Paper have been put forward by an Independent Review Panel to redress any perceived limitations in The Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

- 1.15 Though the proposals contained in the White Paper have not yet passed into legislation, they set out an intent and direction that will fundamentally change the homelessness process and have significant implications to any future strategies Monmouthshire creates in relation to ending homelessness in the county.

### **Local/Regional Context**

- #### **1.16 Monmouthshire County Council's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan<sup>3</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> [Housing law is changing: Renting Homes Wales | GOV.WALES](#)

<sup>2</sup> [White Paper on ending homelessness in Wales | GOV.WALES](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Rapid-Rehousing-Transition-Plan-1.pdf \(monmouthshire.gov.uk\)](#)



- 1.17 Following the completion and publication of the HSP Monmouthshire Council set to develop a strategy for the council to transition to a Rapid Rehousing approach to homelessness.
- 1.18 Rapid Rehousing is an innovative approach to homelessness that has been adopted by Welsh Government. The ethos of Rapid Rehousing is to prevent homelessness, but where this is not possible to ensure homelessness is rare and unrepeated. The aim is to ensure that homeless households do not spend lengthy periods of time in unsuitable accommodation, and instead are placed into settled accommodation that meet their needs in a timely manner avoiding any additional trauma or detriment to wellbeing.
- 1.19 The key themes to a successful Rapid Rehousing transition are early intervention; support of the right kind at the right time, and the increase of affordable settled accommodation to meet the needs of homeless households. There is recognition in the Rapid Rehousing agenda that homelessness is not solely 'rooflessness' and that to truly tackle homelessness requires partnership between a number of agencies.
- 1.20 As part of the development of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan MCC collated and analysed homelessness data and conducted a support needs assessment. With the support of stakeholders MCC used the data to develop a vision for its Rapid Rehousing journey: '**Connected partnerships prevent homelessness and if not possible, time in temporary accommodation is brief facilitating well-being**' as well as 4 key priorities:
1. Prevent homelessness at the earliest opportunity;
  2. Increase the supply of affordable and settled accommodation;
  3. Provide timely and effective support to sustain accommodation;
  4. Maximising resources and benefits through well connected partnerships.
- 1.21 Monmouthshire's Rapid Rehousing Transition and Action plans were adopted in 2023 and the subsequent journey towards to this approach complements and mirrors the goals of the HSP.
- 1.22 **Monmouthshire County Council Community and Corporate Plan 2022-2028<sup>4</sup>**
- 1.23 Monmouthshire County Council published its new strategic vision in the Community and Corporate Plan for the next 6 years.
- 1.24 Despite the change in priorities the Housing Support Programme Strategy will continue to support the overall aims of the council which are for Monmouthshire to be:
- A fair place to live
  - A green place
  - A thriving and ambitious place
  - A safe place
  - A connected place
  - A learning place.

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<sup>4</sup> [Community and Corporate Plan - Version 3.0 Council.pdf \(monmouthshire.gov.uk\)](#)

- 1.25 The actions from the HSP support the overall goal for Monmouthshire ‘to become a zero-carbon county, supporting wellbeing, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life’ and embodies the values of teamwork, openness, fairness, flexibility and kindness’.
- 1.26 **Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (VAWDASV): Gwent Regional Strategy 2023 – 2026 (Draft)**<sup>5</sup>
- 1.27 Victims of VAWDASV are vulnerable to experiencing homelessness, and therefore is a crucial need when devising any homelessness or support strategy. A regional, integrated approach is taken by Gwent to stop VAWDASV, support victims and ensure perpetrators are held accountable.
- 1.28 The Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (VAWDASV): Gwent Regional Strategy 2023 – 2026 (Draft) builds upon the previous Gwent Regional VAWDASV Strategy 2018-2023 and has identified six objectives across the themes: Prevention, Protection and Provision of Support:
1. Challenge the public attitude to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence across the Welsh population through awareness raising and space for public discussion with the aim to decrease its occurrence.
  2. Increase awareness in children, young people and adults of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and empowering them to positive personal choices.
  3. Increase the focus on holding those who commit abuse to account and supporting those who may carry out abusive or violent behaviour to change their behaviour and avoid offending.
  4. Make early intervention and prevention a priority.
  5. Relevant professionals are trained to provide effective, timely and appropriate responses to victims and survivors.
  6. Provide all victims with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs-led, strength-based, inter-sectional, and responsive services across Wales.
- 1.29 The Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (VAWDASV): Gwent Regional Strategy 2023 – 2026 (Draft)’s focus on prevention and support compliments the aims of the HSP to increase the prevention of homelessness and to provide good quality, timely support.

## 2 Review of Needs Assessment

### Homelessness

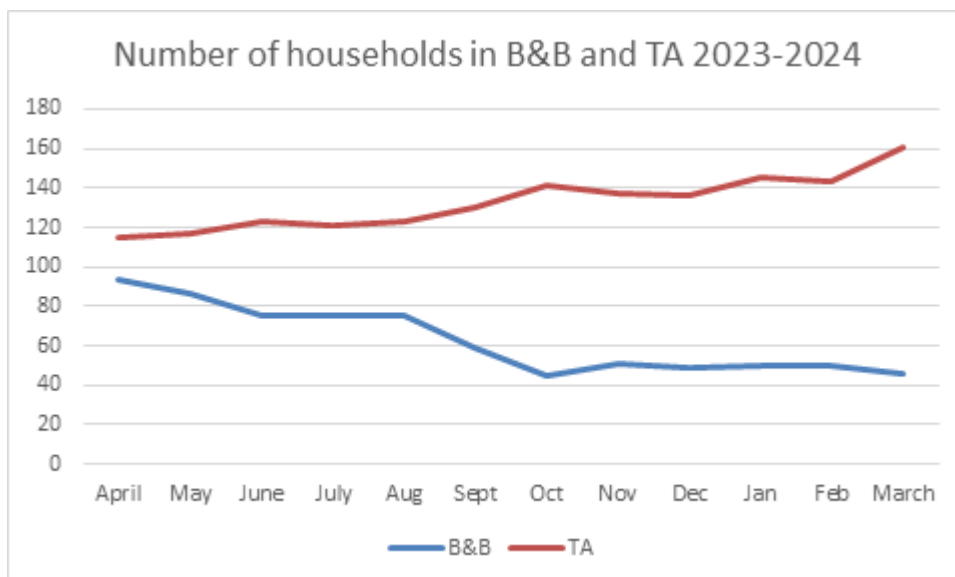
- 2.1 For the 2023 to 2024 financial year the Options team had conducted 460 homeless assessments (Section 62<sup>3</sup> applied) and had issued 294 Section 73 duties. From these figures indications are that the peak numbers seen during the Pandemic has passed and numbers are slowly plateauing, though the proportion of those presenting proceeding to at least a Section 73 duty remains high at 64%.

Year	Total Assessments (S62)
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<sup>5</sup> [Gwent Regional VAWDASV Strategy 2023-2026 - DRAFT for Consultation \(gwentsafeguarding.org.uk\)](https://gwentsafeguarding.org.uk)

2017-2018	533
2018-2019	440
2019-2020	783
2020-2021	379
2021-2022	773
2022-2023	598
2023-2024	460

2.2 As can be seen below, numbers in B&B have been slowly reducing and have largely been on an overall downward trend since the peak of 95 in B&B in July 2022. What this graph illustrates well is the link between B&B and the use of wider temporary accommodation. The Council's Monmouthshire Lettings Scheme (MLS) works with landlord to privately lease accommodation to use as temporary accommodation for homeless households. This graph indicates a strong positive correlation, whereby the number of temporary accommodation units procured has an almost symmetrical impact in the number of households in B&B.



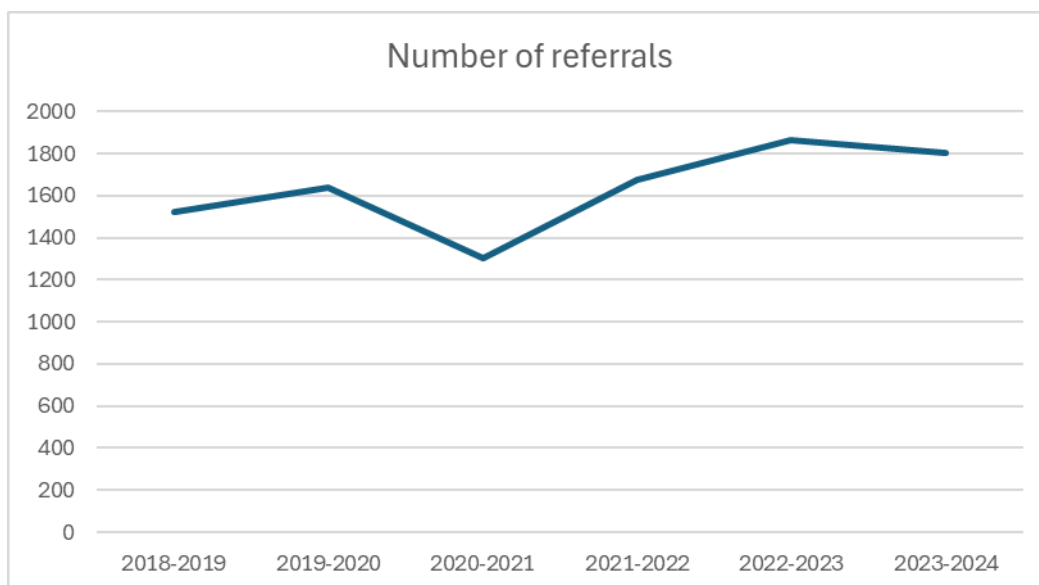
2.3 Part of the reason the numbers in Temporary Accommodation remain high is due to the lack of alternative housing options in Monmouthshire for households to resolve their own homelessness. Prevention Officers will work with households to prevent homelessness and had a 71% success rate as for 2023-2024. 30% of those successfully prevented were resettled into Private Rented Accommodation following a landlord incentive. Often an incentive is required to secure private rented properties for homeless households and Prevention Officers will sometimes offer additional payment through the Discretionary Homelessness Prevention Fund or by the council becoming a guarantor. 29% were accommodated in social housing. Of those that were not successful 42% were due to PRS being unaffordable or unavailable.

2.4 Market rents in Monmouthshire are amongst the highest in Wales<sup>5</sup>, and the scarcity of properties to rent only adds to their premium. The only housing option for most households is social housing. In 2018-2019 the average wait for a social housing property for those in Band 2b was 3.7 months. The average wait for a household in Band 1<sup>6</sup> was 11.5 months for 2023-2024. So, in 2023/2024 households that become homeless are waiting longer for affordable housing and as a result staying longer in council temporary accommodation.

**Lead need breakdown**

2.5 As part of the review of the HSP a desktop needs assessment was conducted across all HSG services to ensure that the priorities remain relevant for the next two years. The lead needs identified have been collected from each financial year to demonstrate where need is greatest, and an exercise to establish the breakdown in the level of need was completed on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Going forwards the HSG team have implemented a process for providers to record level of need across their service users continuously.

2.6 The number of referrals into HSG services remains high, although has dipped slightly from a peak in 2022-2023. The consistently high demand for support has put pressure on service delivery, particularly in the current environment of high inflation and a cost-of-living crisis, widening the gulf between the HSG funding allocated from WG and the cost of providing much needed high quality support services.

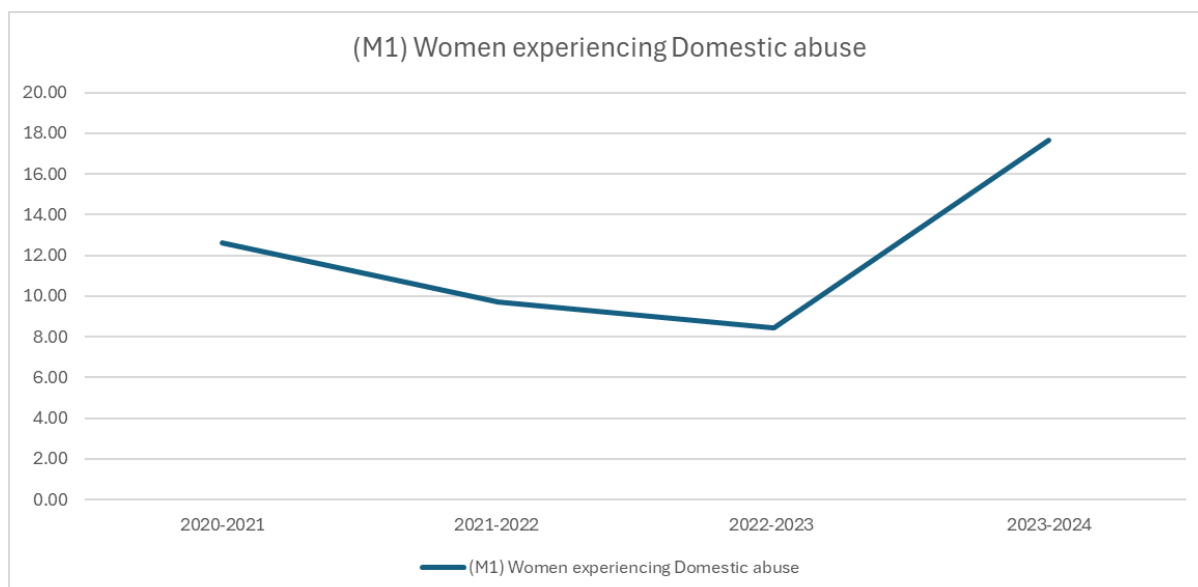


2.7 As was found in the needs assessment conducted on those in TA in October 2021, Mental Health remains the most significant need amongst all households seeking support by quite a considerable margin. To account for the variation in the number of referrals the percentage allocated to each lead need has been used for comparisons.

Lead Need (% of referrals)	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
(M4) People with Mental Health issues	35.74	36.55	34.77	34.35

<b>(M1) Women experiencing Domestic abuse</b>	12.61	9.72	8.44	17.65
<b>(M17) People over 55 years of age with Support Needs (this category must be exclusive of alarm services)</b>	4.77	5.01	6.45	9.05
<b>(M13) Young People with Support Needs (16 to 24)</b>	8.92	6.38	7.25	5.33
<b>(M9) People with physical and/or Sensory disabilities</b>	4.15	5.31	4.73	5.11
<b>(M16) Single People with Support Needs , not listed above (25 to 54)</b>	7.53	7.57	7.85	5.11
<b>(M14) Single parent families with Support Needs</b>	5.30	6.92	6.99	4.72
<b>(M18) Generic/Floating Support/Peripatetic (tenancy support services which cover a range of user needs)</b>	4.61	5.90	2.58	3.66
<b>(M15) Families with Support Needs</b>	5.84	4.95	6.88	2.94
<b>(M6) People with Substance Misuse issues</b>	1.31	2.03	1.77	2.11
<b>(M12) Young People who are Care leavers</b>	0.38	0.36	0.81	2.11
<b>(M5) People with Alcohol Issues</b>	0.92	1.31	2.47	1.50
<b>(M7) People with Criminal Offending History</b>	2.84	2.50	2.10	1.50
<b>(M8) People with refugee status</b>	0.00	0.00	3.12	1.44
<b>(M2) Men experiencing Domestic Abuse</b>	2.15	1.91	1.13	1.28
<b>(M3) People with Learning Disabilities</b>	1.61	2.03	1.24	0.94
<b>(M10) People with Developmental Disorders ( i.e. Autism)</b>	0.77	0.89	0.70	0.72
<b>(M11) People with Chronic Illnesses (including HIV/AIDS)</b>	0.54	0.66	0.75	0.50

2.8 Whilst Mental Health needs remain most prevalent there are indications that the demand is beginning to decline very slowly. In contrast there has been a surprising significant growth in women requiring support with domestic abuse. The proportion of referrals in this category has more than doubled in the space of a year following a steady decline in the previous three.



- 2.9 Although this is not in line with the trends in DA reported by the ONS which is showing a broadly similar prevalence of reported incidents between 2022-2023 and 2023-2024<sup>6</sup>, the significant increase here can be attributed to a change in process which is capturing what would have otherwise been a hidden need.
- 2.10 For the last financial year the HSG team have been receiving PPN reports from the Safeguarding Team relating to domestic abuse incidents. This then triggers contact and referrals into domestic abuse support services. The increase in referrals to these specialised services demonstrates the value in early, upstream interventions to ensure people are offered the right support as they need it. Without the introduction of this preventative process a significant number of households may not be identified at the first opportunity and may have instead been picked up in crisis, where outcomes are generally less positive.

### Level of need breakdown

2.11 HSG providers were asked to submit the level of need for each service user on June 12<sup>th</sup> using the definitions below. Though this was an exercise completed for the HSP review the HSG database has been upgraded to capture this data continuously going forward so any fluctuations in support need level can be interrogated.

Level of Need	Definition
<b>Low</b>	People who have very low support requirements, who can be supported into settled accommodation with either a low level of support or just signposting.
<b>Medium</b>	People likely to need floating support but may also require support from other professional services to live independently in settled or temporary accommodation.
<b>High</b>	People who have persistent complex needs and/or a history of repeat rough sleeping
<b>Intense</b>	People who are unable to live independently, perhaps due to concerns around risk to self or others or perhaps even choice. Engagement from professionals such as Social Care and Health to be/or are involved.

- 2.12 The definitions accompanying each level of need have been altered from those used in the original support need survey for the HSP in 2022. This is because the accompanying equivalent support required guidelines were found to be causing confusion amongst front line workers, where some service users were assessed based on the support they receive in terms of time, rather than the support they need.
- 2.13 Additionally, the level of support needs assessment has been applied to all service users, not limited to those accommodated in TA. For these reasons comparisons between this data, and the data produced in 2022 would yield unreliable commentary.

<sup>6</sup> [Domestic abuse prevalence and trends, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

2.14 As of the 12<sup>th</sup> June there were 970 people in receipt of support. The breakdown of the level of support need amongst this group is broken down below:

Level of support need	Number of households	As a percentage of total
Low	398	41.03%
Medium	431	44.43%
High	115	11.86%
Intense	21	2.16%
Not Complete	5	0.52%

2.15 The majority of HSG commissioned services have been designed to support households with low to medium support needs which matches the majority of those requiring support. However, there are still a number of households who require more intensive support, 14% of the total or 136 households. At present Monmouthshire does not have the resources to effectively meet the needs of this cohort due to the restrictions in funding. Monmouthshire would benefit from a dedicated complex needs provision.

### 3 Achievements to date

3.1 As part of the review of the HSP the accompanying action plan was updated and can be found in Appendix 1.

3.2 The actions that have been taken so thus far have helped Monmouthshire to make progress against the goal for homelessness to become 'rare, brief and unrepeatable' in the county.

- The Council is now more routinely identifying households at risk of future homelessness and is intervening earlier (6 months).
- The percentage of homelessness successfully prevented has increased from 49.6%<sup>7</sup> during 2021-2022 to 71% for 2023-2024.
- Homeless applications have reduced from 631 in 2022-2023 to 460 in 2023-2024.
- Households owed a S73 accommodation duty has reduced from 405 in 2021-2022 to 294 in 2023-2024.
- Households placed in B & B has reduced from 389 (2021-2022) to 222 (2023-2024).
- Homeless households in Band 1 of the Housing Register have fallen from 340 to 303 (April 2024).
- The flow of homeless people through social housing has improved. The percentage of social housing vacancies allocated to homeless households has remained steady at around 60% and is one of the highest in Wales.
- Increased take up of Social Housing Grant and Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme funding.
- There has been a net increase in the number of Monmouthshire Lettings units of 17 over 2023-2024.

<sup>7</sup> As reported by WHO 12

- 3.3 A selection of specific measures taken or introduced have been listed against each priority below:
1. **To identify those at risk of homelessness earlier and provide timely interventions to prevent homelessness occurring.**
    - Promoting the availability of Welsh Government Homeless Prevention Grant to partners agencies who can refer in households who may be at risk of homelessness eg arrears, debt etc
    - Housing Options Team restructure to create a First Contact Officer to enable Housing Options Officers to be more prevention focused through a reduced administrative burden.
    - Reviewing all homelessness communications and information to ensure correct information is shared in an accessible format has led to the website to be updated and informative videos to be filmed to accompany legal letters.
  2. **To provide timely and effective support for vulnerable residents particularly for those with high and complex needs.**
    - The Housing Support Service has increased their Benefits services to help vulnerable people ensure they are receiving the correct benefits and look at their household income and outgoings to support them to sustain their tenancies.
    - The Housing First project has expanded their current service with another support worker.
    - A full review of HSG commissioned services began in 2023 and a HSG Planning Group has been set up to help with future modelling, needs, gaps and plan for the services required to meet the needs of the vulnerable people in Monmouthshire.
    - The HSG team now receive PPN reports from the Safeguarding Team relating to domestic abuse incidents. This then triggers contact and referrals into domestic abuse support services. This has increased the number of women referred into DA services who may otherwise have remained hidden.
  3. **To Increase access to a range of affordable and suitable housing solutions for homeless households, both temporary and permanent.**
    - Promoting Monmouthshire Letting Scheme and Leasing Scheme Wales. A campaign was designed with the help of the Council's communications team and was launched at the Usk Show in September 2023. The campaign resulted in an immediate increase in enquiries through our lettings team.
    - The development of an 'Acquisitions Strategy' to supplement the availability of temporary accommodation through purchasing homes and repurposing existing Council owned assets subject to Cabinet approval. The Council has completed the purchase of one property and a former care home facility and one former agricultural property is due to be repurposed as temporary accommodation.
    - Work with RSLs have been successful and a number of barriers have been overcome through partnership working at the Homesearch Operational Group. At present, rent in advance payments have been waived for those with a homelessness duty and a new procedure has been introduced to reduce the barriers to social housing for those with arrears.
  4. **To move to a Rapid Re-Housing Approach.**
    - Monmouthshire Council's Rapid Rehousing Plan has been adopted and is currently being implemented.



5. **To maximise and increase the availability and effectiveness of financial, staffing/workforce and collaborative resources available for tackling homelessness.**
- The Council has established a Strategic Housing Forum with RSL partners. A key aim is to increase the delivery of affordable housing through tackling delivery barriers and maximising the availability of resources.
  - A Housing Intervention Panel is organised to bring together key agencies to discuss complex housing cases. By taking a broad and holistic approach to case management there are frequent breakthroughs and positive outcomes.
  - For frontline staff and partner agencies the Housing Support Grant team organise recurring Support Worker and Support Provider forums. These forums facilitate information sharing and promote an understanding between teams of roles, responsibilities, and limits.
  - Additional revenue to facilitate additional Housing Options Team staffing to support accommodation management.
  - Additional revenue to fund a rent management system.
  - The council has approved plans to repurpose some council assets for homelessness use.

## 4 Conclusion

- 4.1 Though there are indications that the number of households requiring housing related support and homelessness assistance are plateauing, and in some cases possibly declining, demand is still considerably higher than pre-Pandemic.
- 4.2 The lack of affordable housing alternatives to social rent, and the scarcity of these properties are forcing homeless households to remain in temporary accommodation for longer periods. Whilst Monmouthshire Council has been successful in utilising SHG and TACP allocations in recent years it is recognised that supply remains in deficit to demand and that cessation of temporary accommodation altogether will not be achievable in the immediate future. Work remains ongoing to reduce the use and dependence on B&B accommodation and to build capacity of affordable settled accommodation through all means available.
- 4.3 Preventing homelessness from occurring is a key priority for Monmouthshire as it will deliver the best outcomes all round. At present the focus is on changes that can be made in the Housing department to streamline processes and also promote services that can assist households with housing related issues prior to crisis. For contract holders and landlords identifying when things may be going wrong and knowing where to access support is the first step in Monmouthshire Council's prevention strategy.

- 4.4 Referrals into support remain high. Mental Health remains the most significant support need amongst those presenting, and anecdotally mental ill health has been the biggest challenge to the Housing Options Team when placing and supporting households in temporary accommodation. What has been more surprising is the proportion of those assessed as having 'Low' support needs which would not be in line with the trends seen in previous assessments or fit with anecdotal evidence. The majority of HSG commissioned services have been designed to support households with low to medium support needs which matches the majority of those requiring support according to this assessment. Even so, there still remains over 100 households whose support needs cannot be adequately met by current HSG provision in Monmouthshire at present.
- 4.5 The provision of adequate support that matches the needs of the demographic is crucial to prevent homelessness from happening, or from repeating. However, HSG services are facing mounting pressure that is threatening their viability in the absence of budget uplifts. The costs faced by services are continually rising due to staff salary uplifts, inflation and the cost of living. During the last year 2023-24, the HSG Commissioning Team managed to uphold the capacity of housing support services by working in partnership with providers and utilising the cost-of-living uplift in HSG grant; but even with services maintained there was a waiting list of 95 households for support at the end of the financial year. There is concern that capacity may have to reduce as projects are becoming financially unsustainable as we move forward into 2024-25.
- 4.6 Homelessness is a multi-faceted issue and requires input and innovative thinking from a wide range of agencies. Monmouthshire Council will always strive towards efficiency of resources and opportunities to collaborate with partners.
- 4.7 When all is considered all the priorities as set out in the 2022's HSP strategy remain relevant in the face of the challenges felt in 2024. Monmouthshire has adopted its own Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan which compliments the HSP and is in the process of being implemented.



monmouthshire  
sir fynwy

## Integrated Impact Assessment document

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

<p><b>Name of the Officer</b> Rebecca Cresswell</p> <p><b>Phone no:</b></p> <p><b>E-mail:</b></p>	<p><b>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal:</b></p> <p>Monmouthshire County Council Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) 2022 - 2027.</p> <p>The Rapid Rehousing Plan sets out a new approach to reduce homelessness in Monmouthshire, with a focus of making sure homeless applicants reach settled housing as quickly as possible rather than staying in temporary accommodation for too long.</p>
<p><b>Name of Service area</b></p> <p>Housing &amp; Communities</p>	<p><b>Date:</b> 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024</p>

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?
<p>Age</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 62</p>	<p>The RRTP positively affects people of all ages threatened with homelessness or homeless from 16+. It will also benefit children of families who may be assisted.</p> <p>The priority focus of the RRTP is to help prevent homelessness of people falling within all protected characteristics groups. This includes older persons.</p> <p>It will increase the amount homeless accommodation available, the type of accommodation available and the quality of accommodation available. Similarly, it will increase the type of housing support available.</p>	<p>No negative impacts will arise because of this proposal</p>	<p>No negative impacts will arise because of the RRTP, it will build on homeless actions already delivered over the last year and will include:</p> <p>The addition of new accommodation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-contained units for single households.</li> <li>• Shared emergency family accommodation.</li> <li>• Reduction in use of B&amp;B</li> </ul> <p>Housing Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support services aligned with the needs of service users</li> <li>• Temporary accommodation housing support</li> <li>• Assertive Outreach</li> <li>• Drug &amp; Alcohol Assertive Outreach</li> <li>• Housing First</li> <li>• High need Young Persons Supported Housing</li> </ul> <p>Information: The Action Plan will consider what level of information is available, where it is available and how it is presented.</p>

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	The priority focus of the RRTP is to help prevent homelessness of people falling within all protected characteristics groups. The RRTP positively affects people of disability that may be threatened with homelessness or homelessness.	No negative impacts will arise because of the RRTP.	The RRTP specifically mitigates against a lack of accessible homeless accommodation and will seek to increase the availability of accessible accommodation. It is not restrictive but recognises those households with physical and mental health disabilities as groups who require tailored responses to tackle homelessness more effectively. The Action Plan will consider what level of information is available, where it is available and how it is presented.
Gender reassignment	Neutral	No negative impacts will arise because of the RRTP.	The Action Plan will consider what level of information is available, where it is available and how it is presented.
Marriage or civil partnership	Neutral	No negative impacts will arise because of the RRTP.	The Action Plan will consider what level of information is available, where it is available and how it is presented.



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?
Religion or Belief	The priority focus of the RRTP is to help prevent homelessness of people falling within all protected characteristics groups.	No negative impacts will arise because of the RRTP.	The Action Plan will consider what level of information is available, where it is available and how it is presented.
Sex	The priority focus of the RRTP is to help prevent homelessness of people falling within all protected characteristics groups.	No negative impacts will arise because of the RRTP.	The Action Plan will consider what level of information is available, where it is available and how it is presented.
Sexual Orientation	The priority focus of the RRTP is to help prevent homelessness of people falling within all protected characteristics groups.	No negative impacts will arise because of the RRTP.	The Action Plan will consider what level of information is available, where it is available and how it is presented.

## 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.

	<b>Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage</b>	<b>Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.</b>	<b>What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?</b>
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**Socio-economic  
Duty and Social  
Justice**

Homelessness 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.

The RRTP will positively impact on households suffering socio economic disadvantage by working with our partners to ensure access to such help as:

- Accessing Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP), including those who have been affected by welfare reforms such as the Benefit Cap and Universal Credit.
- Signposting and referring into support services, especially for those household in crisis - (This includes financial inclusion, eg income maximisation, budgeting support, digital inclusion support, minimisation of outgoings, financial assistance).
- Delivery of further affordable homes.
- Accessing the private rented properties in the County through the Council's in-house letting service – Monmouthshire Letting Service (MLS).
- Through MLS the Council employs a Private Sector Negotiator, to engage with private sector landlords who may be willing to offer tenancies to

There are no negative impacts of the proposal.

The proposal will build on existing schemes available through the Council that mitigate against socio economic disadvantage. We will:

- Continue to increase the number of new affordable home delivered.
- Continue to increase the number of households assisted into the private rented sector through Monmouthshire Letting Service (MLS).
- Continue to work with the benefits section to ensure access to Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP).
- Continue to work with our partners such as
  - Pobl Young Persons Supported Housing.
  - Llamau
  - Emphasis
  - Housing First
 to deliver timely support.

	<p>households that approach as homeless.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assistance through the Council's rent in advance and deposit guarantee (MLS).</li></ul>		
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### 3. Policy making and the Welsh language.

<b>How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:</b>	<b>Describe the positive impacts of this proposal</b>	<b>Describe the negative impacts of this proposal</b>	<b>What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts</b>
<b>Policy Making</b> 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	The Action Plan will consider what level of information is available, where it is available and how it is presented
<b>Operational</b> Recruitment & Training of workforce	There is no requirement for Welsh speakers in respect of operational delivery and, therefore, recruitment and training. 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	At present there are two members of the Housing team who has taken up this opportunity.
<b>Service delivery</b> 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,	None	

	email, Twitter, Facebook, letters, forms etc		
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**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?
<b>A prosperous Wales</b> Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs Page 10	<b>Positive:</b> The Housing Service is focused on delivering sustainable solutions that make efficient and best use of available resources.  <b>Negative:</b> There are no negative impacts	The proposal will build on existing schemes available through the Council that contribute positively to the well-being goals.
<b>A resilient Wales</b> Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	<b>Positive:</b>  Neutral  <b>Negative:</b> N/A	N/A
<b>A healthier Wales</b> People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	<b>Positive:</b> The RRTP positively contribute to positive health outcomes for the people of Monmouthshire. 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.	The proposal will build on existing schemes available through the Council that mitigate against socio economic disadvantage. We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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</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?
		<p>access to Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work with our partners such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pobl Young Persons Supported Housing.</li> <li>- Llamau</li> <li>- Emphasis</li> <li>- Housing First</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>to deliver timely support</p>
<p><b>A Wales of cohesive communities</b> Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p><b>Positive:</b> Neutral <b>Negative:</b> None</p>	N/A
<p><b>A Globally responsible Wales</b> Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing</p>	<p><b>Positive:</b> Neutral <b>Negative:</b> N/A</p>	N/A.
<p><b>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</b> Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation</p>	<p><b>Positive:</b> N/A <b>Negative:</b> N/A</p>	N/A
<p><b>A more equal Wales</b> People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances</p>	<p><b>Positive:</b> The RRTP positively contribute to positive health outcomes and poor housing conditions for the people of Monmouthshire. This proposal supports people's physical and mental wellbeing because it is well understood the effects of homelessness and poor housing has</p>	<p>The proposal will build on existing schemes available through the Council that mitigate against socio economic disadvantage. We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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</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?
	<p>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.</p> <p><b>Negative:</b> None.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pobl Young Persons Supported Housing.</li> <li>- Llamau</li> <li>- Emphasis</li> <li>- Housing First</li> </ul>               to deliver timely support             </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?
 <p data-bbox="286 480 490 722">Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p> <p data-bbox="107 694 241 722">Long Term</p> <p data-bbox="96 730 141 895">Page 73</p>	<p data-bbox="510 248 1314 496">The RRTP seeks to provide both a short to long-term intervention. It will address those household that are currently experiencing a 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.</p>	<p data-bbox="1332 248 2105 368">The Council will continue to operate a pro-active and positive approach to tackling homelessness in the County.</p> <p data-bbox="1332 403 1451 432">We will:</p> <ul data-bbox="1332 440 2101 922" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1332 440 1951 507">• Continue to increase the number of new affordable home delivered.</li> <li data-bbox="1332 515 2056 619">• Continue to increase the number of households assisted into the private rented sector through Monmouthshire Letting Service (MLS).</li> <li data-bbox="1332 627 2101 730">• Continue to work with the benefits section to ensure access to Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP).</li> <li data-bbox="1332 738 2018 922">• Continue to work with our partners such as <ul data-bbox="1391 775 2018 922" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1391 775 2011 810">- Pobl Young Persons Supported Housing.</li> <li data-bbox="1391 818 1541 847">- Llamau</li> <li data-bbox="1391 855 1576 884">- Emphasis</li> <li data-bbox="1391 892 1626 922">- Housing First</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p data-bbox="1332 930 1675 959">to deliver timely support</p>

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?
 <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p> <p><b>Collaboration</b></p>	<p>This proposal is based on a partnership approach through the following parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing &amp; Communities and Housing Support Grant Commissioning</li> <li>• Welsh Government</li> <li>• Housing Associations</li> <li>• Housing Support Providers</li> <li>• Private property owners and letting agencies</li> <li>• Environmental Health</li> <li>• Planning</li> <li>• Aneurin Bevan Health Board</li> <li>• Social Care</li> </ul>	
<p>Page 74</p>  <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p> <p><b>Involvement</b></p>	<p>A working group has been established with those involved in bringing the scheme to fruition and this platform has been used to develop a plan to maximise take up of the scheme.</p>	N/A



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?
 <p><b>Prevention</b></p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>The underlying ethos of the RRTP is to move away from crisis management to a more focused approach of preventing homelessness occurring in the first instance and where homelessness is not prevented to make it 'rare, brief and unrepeated'.</p>	
 <p><b>Integration</b></p> <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>The proposal positively impacts on well-being e.g., potential for additional good quality accommodation supports well-being.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

**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?**

	<b>Describe any positive impacts your proposal has</b>	<b>Describe any negative impacts your proposal has</b>	<b>What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?</b>
Page 76	<p>The proposal can support households where there could be safeguarding issues by providing safe and secure temporary accommodation.</p> <p>Stringent risk assessment processes are utilized for applicants presenting as homeless. This informs placements and referrals to agencies.</p>	None.	<p>Ensure that all staff have access to guidance, information, and resources.</p> <p>Ensure that those in temporary accommodation are allocated a support worker and offered support to prevent or resolve safeguarding issues.</p> <p>Employ security measures to ensure that temporary accommodation provisions are safe and secure and foster cohesion in the wider community.</p> <p>Recommission support services based on the needs of those accessing the service to prevent safeguarding issues from arising.</p>
Corporate Parenting	The proposal supports Corporate Parenting.	None.	As above

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

Evidence has been gathered in the following ways:

- Statistical data – particularly homeless and Housing Support Grant related data

**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:** The RRTP is radical shift in its approach to tackling homelessness. Its ethos is to move away from crisis management to a more focused approach of preventing homelessness occurring in the first instance and where homelessness is not prevented to make it 'rare, brief and unrepeated'. A particular focus of the Plan is to ensure homeless applicants reach settled housing as quickly as possible rather than staying in temporary accommodation for too long.

**Negative:** None.

**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
Continue to implement the RRHTP in respect of prevention, affordable housing, housing related support and partnerships.	Ongoing	Rebecca Cresswell

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**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.

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

## Glossary

### The three 'tests'

As soon as a homeless application is made a Housing Options Officer will begin to look into the facts of the case. Housing options officers have to compare these facts against legally set criteria. These criteria are usually referred to as 'tests'. Whether or not a case passes these tests determines what duties can be issued.

- **Local Connection**

Unless the case involves domestic abuse or the threat of violence the housing options officer will look at the connection the applicant has to the county. This could be through a number of means, including living in the area for a certain period of time, working here or having close family in the area. If the housing options officer decides that there is not a local connection to Monmouthshire they will provide advice and sometimes refer a case to a home authority.

- **Priority Need**

A household is deemed to be in 'Priority Need' for homelessness assistance if one of its members meet any of the 11 definitive criteria ([Priority need - Shelter Cymru](#)). Most commonly a household is considered to be in priority need if they have significant medical issues, pregnancy, dependents, are care leavers or at risk of rough sleeping.

A household that is issued a priority need decision if it is felt that any member of the household would be more vulnerable on the street than an average person. If a housing options officer makes a non-priority need decision that household can request a review within 21 days.

- **Intentionality**

A household will be found intentionally homeless if a housing options officer deems that actions were taken, or purposefully not taken which resulted in homelessness for example ASB or not paying rent despite it being affordable.

If a housing options officer makes an intentional decision that household can request a review within 21 days.

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**SUBJECT: People with Care Experience**

**DIRECTORATE: Social Care & Health**

**MEETING: People Scrutiny**

**DATE: 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All**

## 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider proposed measures that the Council may implement to help care experienced people (people who have spent time in care when they were under 18 years old) overcome the disadvantages and discrimination they experience.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 For People Scrutiny Committee to consider the proposed measures and to provide feedback and comment prior to the report being presented at Full Council on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024.
- 2.2 The proposals are:
  - a. That 'care experienced people' is added to the Council's Integrated Impact Assessment, so that any impact of policy decisions on people with care experience is identified and taken into account when those decisions are made;
  - b. In relation to recruitment, currently the Council guarantees an interview to individuals who have been in the care of the Monmouthshire County Council provided they meet the selection criteria set out in the job

description. It is proposed that this be expanded to individuals who have been in the care of other Local Authorities;

- c. When setting and reviewing the Council's Strategic Equality Objectives, it is proposed that the Council include consideration of how it might overcome the disadvantages and discrimination experienced by care experienced people.

### **3. KEY ISSUES**

3.1 Care experienced people are one of the most vulnerable groups of people across our society, often facing lifetime stigma and discrimination. Whilst the experience of coming into care and being looked after as a child will be unique to every individual, the fact that it leaves a lasting legacy and influences life-trajectory, is indisputable. For many people, particularly when they have had a restorative experience of being in care, childhood adversity is easier to overcome. However, for many others, outcomes remain much poorer than the general population. For example:

- a. 25% of the homeless population are estimated to be care experienced;
- b. Care experienced people are three times less likely to access higher education;
- c. care experienced people have one of the highest pay gaps at over 25%; and
- d. care experienced people are 70% more likely to die prematurely.

3.2 Care experienced people report being stigmatised and discriminated against. When giving evidence in the Independent Review of Children's Social Care in England, Care experienced people spoke of being refused employment and



- accommodation, and of assumptions being made about their potential educational ability or even about their parenting ability when they had children of their own.
- 3.3 The Independent Review of Children’s Social Care in England headed by Josh McCallister published in May 2022 contained a number of recommendations including the recommendation that Government should extend the protected characteristics of the Equality Act to include care experience. Although this review was of Children’s Social Care in England, the Radical Reform Summit Declaration saw similar expressions of support with regard to recognising the particular needs of care experienced young people within a Welsh Government context.
- 3.4 Increasingly local authorities across the UK are recognising the unique discrimination and disadvantage that people with care experience face and the actions that can be taken by councils to help overcome these. Some councils have expressed this as treating care experience ‘*as if it were a protected characteristic*’.
- 3.5 In line with this, it is proposed that Monmouthshire County Council takes some specific actions to ensure that the Council is recognising and helping to address the challenges faced by care experienced people. These proposals are set out in paragraph 2.2 of this report and are designed to help care experienced people to overcome the discrimination and disadvantages they face.
- 3.6 There are already a number of measures in place within the Council and wider across Wales that support care experienced people. These include:
- a. Through its Corporate Parenting responsibilities, the Council considers the impact of its decisions on Monmouthshire’s Children Looked After which equally extends to the care leaver population (up to the age of 25);

- b. Under the Social Services and Well-being Act, Monmouthshire care leavers are entitled to statutory support up until the age of 25 including advice, assistance, support and access to personal advisers;
  - c. Monmouthshire care leavers have priority access to housing;
  - d. Care leavers across Wales have a 100% council tax exemption (up to the age of 25);
  - e. Through its Corporate Parenting Strategy and Corporate Parenting Panel, the Council seeks out the views and perspectives of care experienced people; encourages other bodies and partner organisations to recognise and address disadvantages arising from having care experience; and celebrates and promotes the contributions and achievements of care-experienced individuals.
- 3.7 Whilst all these measures would remain, the current proposals would take a step further in formally recognising and addressing the real and life-long disadvantages and discrimination faced by people with care experience.
- 3.8 The Council currently produces an Integrated Impact Assessment for all policy decisions taken by Council, Cabinet or individual Cabinet members. This ensures decision makers consider the impact of decisions on people with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, the National Well-being Goals and ways of working established by the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the Welsh Language Standards applying to the authority. It also requires an assessment against some key areas of work such as safeguarding and corporate parenting. Completing the Integrated Impact Assessment ensures that report authors take these factors into account when developing proposals and making recommendations. In addition to the impact on decision making, adding care experience to the Integrated Impact Assessment sends an important signal to those who have been in care as well as officers, councillors and wider communities.

- 3.9 The authority offers guaranteed job interviews to several groups of people providing they meet the criteria for a job. This is about taking positive action and giving people the opportunity to demonstrate their talents and knowledge at the interview stage. This presently applies to disabled people, veterans and those who care been in the care of Monmouthshire County Council. The proposal to expand this to all people with care experience is a small but significant change which is aligned with the aspirations of our recently approved People Strategy to be inclusive and attract the widest possible range of talent to work for the organisation.
- 3.10 The proposed changes we have identified are intended to go some way in tackling the disadvantages that many care experienced people can face by:
- a. Improving the life changes and opportunities of people who have care experience;
  - b. Raising awareness about the inequality and prejudice faced by care experienced people;
  - c. Promoting the wellbeing of care experienced people within Monmouthshire (and wider) through listening and responding to their views and opinions.

#### **4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION**

- 4.1 By taking steps to overcome prejudice, discrimination and disadvantage faced by people with care experience, this proposal is intended to make Monmouthshire a fairer and more equitable county. Implementing the proposals will provide a framework for Monmouthshire County Council to promote the social, psychological and economic wellbeing of care experienced people.
- 4.2 Local councils play a crucial role in ensuring that all members of their community are treated fairly and equitably. By putting in place additional measures to support the life chances of people with care experience, Monmouthshire County Council will be taking an important step towards creating a more inclusive and supportive

environment for everyone. In addition, these measures will help to break down the barriers that care experienced people often face when it comes to accessing education, employment and housing. Raising the profile will also help to ensure Council officers and elected members are aware of the unique challenges and strengths of care experienced people and encourage them to incorporate this awareness into their policies and practices.

## 5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Description	Costs	Benefits	Disbenefits/risks	Recommended
Do nothing	Cost neutral	No additional work needed to implement policy	Missing significant opportunities for MCC to improve how it fulfils its role as a Corporate Parent and improving outcomes for care experienced people.	No
Take steps as proposed to help address discrimination and disadvantage faced by care experienced people.	Cost neutral	<p>Improved recognition of the challenges faced by care experienced people.</p> <p>Improved identification of ways to challenge these and therefore improve outcomes for care experienced people.</p> <p>Demonstrate that we are responding to the wishes and feelings of care experienced young people within Monmouthshire.</p>	<p>Consideration would need to be given to adjusting the current impact assessment.</p> <p>This would have an operational impact and require a minor change in practice. This could be achieved through a practice note and awareness raising so that report writers understand the potential discrimination faced by people with care experience.</p> <p>Consideration would need to be given to included care experience within the next Strategic</p>	Yes

			Equality Plan and Annual Monitoring Report.	
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## 6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 6.1 There are a number of performance measures in place for Monmouthshire Care Leavers who have recently left care:
- a. Number of care experienced young people re-connecting with support (up to age 25;)
  - b. Numbers of care experienced young people who are outside of education or employment;
  - c. Numbers of care experienced young people experiencing episodes of homelessness.

## 7. REASONS

- 7.1 Monmouthshire County Council's Corporate Parenting Strategy sets out a range of priorities and commitments to children Looked After to promote their overall health and wellbeing. A core intention of the Corporate Parenting Strategy is to enable Children Looked After to achieve their potential as independent and fulfilled members of society according to their own personal outcomes and ambitions. The strategy recognises that children in care have already been disadvantaged by the experiences that brought them into the care system and states that care experience should not add to this but provide children with the stability and security they need to flourish. The aspirations of the Corporate Parenting Strategy extends to those young people who have recently left our care and are on their pathway to independence as young adults.
- 7.2 Any good parent would continue to have a continued interest in their child throughout their adulthood and seek to promote and safeguard their lifelong

wellbeing. Recognising this extended duty in a proportionate way will help to validate the experiences of those with care experience including their childhood 'relationship' with local government, and publicly demonstrates a Council that takes seriously its responsibility as a Corporate Parent.

- 7.3 In taking forward this proposal Monmouthshire County Council will be joining an increasing number of councils across the UK who recognise the value that such steps will bring. Whilst it is a relative cost neutral, it has the potential to bring significant value in terms of promoting inclusion, addressing stigma and discrimination faced by care experienced people and helping build a more connected, compassionate and cohesive community for all with improved long-term outcomes for care experienced people.

## **8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no direct resource implications of adopting this however, there may be implications at an operational level which would require a review of Local Authority policies/procedures across directorates and the inclusion of care experience in strategic planning as part of the fairness and equality impact assessments.

## **9. Consultees**

- 9.1 To a large extent, this proposal has been generated by the expressed wishes, feelings and opinions of people in Monmouthshire with care experience through the Council's Corporate Parenting Panel.
- 9.2 The panel hosts regular engagement events to listen directly to young people with care experience with the purpose of developing a collaborative approach to improving services.
- 9.3 At recent events care experienced young people have voiced strong support for the proposal as put forward within recent national reports, that care experience should be recognised as a protected characteristic. Discussions within the

Corporate Parenting panel have reflected this and have sought to identify ways which the council could take supportive action whilst recognising the legal constraints under the Equalities Act. Young people are consequently very much in support of the proposals and see it as a step forward in supporting and promoting positive outcomes for care experienced people.

9.4 Other consultees include:

- Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel
- Cllr Chandler, Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding & Health
- Children's Services Leadership Team
- SLT

**10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**11. AUTHOR: Charlotte Drury**

**CONTACT DETAILS**

**E-mail:** [charlottedrury@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:charlottedrury@monmouthshire.gov.uk)



<b>Name of the Officer</b> Charlotte Drury <b>Phone no:</b> 07811 234244 <b>E-mail:</b> chalottedrury@monmouthsire.gov.uk	<b>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</b> To consider how the Council can help to overcome disadvantage and discrimination experienced by people who have spent time in care.
<b>Name of Service area</b> All directorates	<b>Date</b> 11/03/2024

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	<p><i>Consider the impact on our community in relation to this e.g. how do we engage with older and younger people about our services, access issues etc. Also consider what issues there are for employment and training.</i></p> <p>Whilst care experience can impact on any age, this is particularly important for young people who may be leaving care as well as for older, care experienced people who have experienced long term consequences from being care experienced. Adopting this seeks to actively address the needs of this vulnerable population.</p>	None identified at this point	None identified at this point



<b>Protected Characteristics</b>	<b>Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic</b>	<b>Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic</b>	<b>What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?</b>
Disability	N/A None identified at this point	None identified at this point	None identified at this point
Gender reassignment	<i>N/A None identified at this point</i>	N/A None identified at this point	N/A None identified at this point
Marriage or civil partnership	N/A None identified at this point	N/A None identified at this point	N/A None identified at this point
Pregnancy or maternity	<i>N/A None identified at this point</i>	N/A None identified at this point	N/A None identified at this point
Race	<i>N/A None identified at this point</i>	N/A None identified at this point	N/A None identified at this point
Religion or Belief	<i>N/A None identified at this point</i>	N/A None identified at this point	N/A None identified at this point
Sex	<i>N/A None identified at this point</i>	N/A None identified at this point	N/A None identified at this point
Sexual Orientation	N/A None identified at this point	N/A None identified at this point	N/A None identified at this point

## 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.

	<b>Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage</b>	<b>Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.</b>	<b>What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?</b>

<p><b>Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice</b></p>	<p>Socio-economic outcomes for many care experienced people are often poorer than for the general population. 25% of the homeless population are estimated to be care experienced, care experienced people are three times less likely to access higher education and this gap is widening, care experienced people have one of the highest pay gaps at over a 25% and care experienced people are 70% more likely to die prematurely. Adopting this policy seeks to address this in promoting their outcomes and reducing the likelihood of them experiencing socio-economic</p>	<p>None identified at this point</p>	<p>None identified at this point</p>
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### 3. Policy making and the Welsh language.

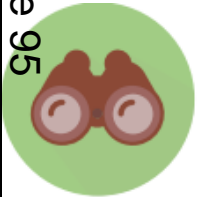

<b>How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:</b>	<b>Describe the positive impacts of this proposal</b>	<b>Describe the negative impacts of this proposal</b>	<b>What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts</b>
<b>Policy Making</b> Effects on the use of the Welsh language, Promoting Welsh language Treating the Welsh language no less favourably	<i>Under the Welsh Language measure of 2011, we need to be considering Welsh Language in signage, documentation, posters, language skills etc. and also the requirement to promote the language</i>	None identified at this point	None identified at this point
<b>Operational</b> Recruitment & Training of Workforce	<u>None identified at this point</u>	None identified at this point	None identified at this point
<b>Service delivery</b> Use of Welsh language in service delivery Promoting use of the language	<u>None identified at this point</u>	None identified at this point	None identified at this point




**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?
<b>A prosperous Wales</b> Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	Adopting this policy will promote the economic interests of a marginalised group potentially reducing their negative experiences and promoting their long term outcomes.	None identified at this point
<b>A resilient Wales</b> Maintain and enhance biodiversity and land, river and coastal ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	None identified at this point	None identified at this point
<b>A healthier Wales</b> People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	Care experience people have poorer health outcomes than the general population, this proposal goes some way to recognising that and in taking steps to promote the interests of this marginalised group potentially reducing their negative experiences and promoting their long term outcomes.	None identified at this point
<b>A Wales of cohesive communities</b> Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	Adopting this proposal will assist in reducing the prejudice and stigma that care experienced people can face and promote a more cohesive Wales for all.	None identified at this point
<b>A globally responsible Wales</b> Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	None identified at this point	None identified at this point
<b>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</b> Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and	None identified at this point	None identified at this point

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?
protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation		
<b>A more equal Wales</b> People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	By taking steps to overcome the disadvantages and discrimination faced by people with care experience, the proposal attempts to make Monmouthshire a fairer and more equitable place to live.	None identified at this point

**5. 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?
 <p>Long Term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p>Adopting this policy recognises the long term impact of care experiences on this population seeking to support their wellbeing and promote their outcomes in the long term as well as the short term.</p>	<p>None identified at this point</p>
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>Adopting this as a council policy promotes a collegiate approach across the council and opportunities to raise the profile of this issue with partners.</p>	<p>None identified at this point</p>

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?
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>The voices of Care Experienced people were sought as part of the review that this policy is based on. Adopting this policy will promote the interests of this marginalised group including enabling their voices to be heard and needs considered in all decisions, service development and policy implementation across the council as part of impact assessments.</p>	<p>None identified at this point</p>
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>This policy is designed to mitigate the negative impact including stigma, prejudice and discrimination of being care experienced and in this way it seeks to be preventive.</p>	<p>None identified at this point</p>
 <p>Integration</p> <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>Adopting this as a council policy promotes a collegiate approach across the council and opportunities to raise the profile of this issue with partners.</p>	<p>None identified at this point</p>

**6. 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?**

	<b>Describe any positive impacts your proposal has</b>	<b>Describe any negative impacts your proposal has</b>	<b>What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?</b>
Safeguarding	This policy is designed to mitigate the negative impact including stigma, prejudice and discrimination of being care experienced and in this way it seeks to safeguard care experienced children and young people as well as vulnerable adults.	<i>None identified at this point</i>	None identified at this point
Corporate Parenting	This policy speaks directly to the councils corporate parenting responsibility.	None identified at this point	None identified at this point

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**What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?**

<p>1. The <a href="#">Independent Review of Children's Social Care' in England</a></p> <p> Care Experience</p> <p>2. Protected Characteris</p>
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**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?**

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

- Implementing this proposal has the potential to challenge discrimination, inequality and prejudice faced by care experienced people.
- Implementing this proposal will provide a framework for Monmouthshire County Council to promote the wellbeing of care experienced people and therefore improve their outcomes

**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
Monitor the implementation of the policy.	Annually as part of the review of MCC Corporate Parenting Strategy	C Drury

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**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	People Scrutiny		



## Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2024-25

People Scrutiny Committee <span style="float: right;">(Meetings at 10am unless stated otherwise)</span>				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
17 <sup>th</sup> July 2pm 2024	<b>Elect the Chair and Vice Chair</b>			
	<b>Rapid Rehousing Update Report</b>	To scrutinise ongoing progress on rapid rehousing programme.	Rebecca Cresswell Ian Bakewell	Policy Review
	<b>Care Leaver - protected characteristics</b>	To scrutinise a proposal that care experience is treated as if it were a protected characteristic.	Jane Rodgers Councillor Chandler	Policy Development
Invite Performance & Overview Scrutiny Members 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2024	<b>Care Inspectorate Wales Inspection</b>	To review the recent inspection report.	Jane Rodgers Councillor Chandler Ben Anderson	Review – external inspection
	<b>Home to School Transport Policy</b>	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny on the proposals under consultation.	Deb Hill-Howells	Pre-decision Scrutiny
24 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	<b>*Additional item if required*</b>			
	<b>Planning and Provision of School Places</b>	To scrutinise data and projections for pupil places and the impact of future housing development.	Will Mclean Matthew Jones	Policy Development
Special meeting P&O	<b>Development of children's placements policy</b>			

## Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2024-25

People Scrutiny Committee <span style="float: right;">(Meetings at 10am unless stated otherwise)</span>				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
8 <sup>th</sup> October ~ invite to P&O Scrutiny	Chief Officer for Social Care Annual Monitoring Report			
	Safeguarding Annual Report			
12 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	<b>Blue Badge Scheme(Possibility to combine Disability Confident Pledge?)</b>	To discuss the criteria differences between Monmouthshire and other areas and invite the Cabinet Member for Equalities, Age Cymru and Macmillan to a meeting for a discussion.	Councillor Sandles	Policy Review
21 <sup>st</sup> January 2025				
18 <sup>th</sup> February 2025				
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025				
<b>To be confirmed</b>	<b>Young Carers Strategy and the Carers Strategy</b>	Pre-decision Scrutiny of the strategies.	Kim Dolphin Councillor Chandler	Pre-decision Scrutiny

## 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
<b>Corporate and Community Plan Items for the Committee's consideration for inclusion into the People Scrutiny Forward Plan:</b>				
Disability Confident Pledge				
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				

## 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
	Review and update shared housing allocations policy			
	Rapid Rehousing approach/rapid rehousing action plan delivery			
	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			

## Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2024-25

People Scrutiny Committee <span style="float: right;">(Meetings at 10am unless stated otherwise)</span>				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
Young Carers Strategy and Carers Strategy				
Chief Officer for Social Care and Health Annual Report				
Safeguarding Performance Report				
Inclusion Strategy				
Develop a broader 14-19 education offer through collaboration with partners				

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## Action List for People Scrutiny Committee

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> April 2024</b>	
<b>People Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Minute:</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Officer / Member</b>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Empty Homes Update – Scrutiny of the Council's progress on bringing empty properties back into use.</b></p> <p><b>ACTIONS:</b></p> <p><u>Empty homes loans and grants:</u> Officers to contact town and community councils and make them aware of the availability of the loans and grants. Officers to provide Members with the relevant information on empty homes loans and grants.</p> <p><u>Enforcement powers:</u> Discuss with building control, environmental health, planning and legal services the scope and feasibility of using enforcement powers for problematic empty properties.</p> <p><u>Trusts and estates:</u> Officers explore how to identify and engage with trusts and estates that have empty properties that are not registered individually for Council tax.</p>	Ian Bakewell
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) – Scrutiny of the local housing market position.</b></p> <p>Officers challenge Welsh Government on the applicability of the statistical travel to work areas census data for determining the housing market areas in Monmouthshire.</p>	Sally Meyrick

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Committee / Decision Maker	Meeting date / Decision due	Report Title	de	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
ICMD	09-Apr-25	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 4	Ben Callard - Resources			
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
ICMD	29-Jan-25	2025/26 Community Council and Police Precepts final	Ben Callard - Resources			
Council	23-Jan-25	Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2025/26	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	13-Jun-24
ICMD	15-Jan-25	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 3	Ben Callard - Resources		Dave Jarrett	13-Jun-24

Cabinet	Jan-25	2025/26 Draft Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-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	
Cabinet	04-Dec-24	2024/25 Revenue and Capital Monitoring Month 6	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Jun-24
Cabinet	06-Nov-24	Local Flood Risk Management Strateg			Mark Hand	19-Feb-24
Cabinet	06-Nov-24				Hannah Jones	4-Sep-23
Cabinet	06-Nov-24	Monmouthshire NEET Prevention Strategy			Louise Wilce	10-Jun-24
Cabinet	06-Nov-24	Shire Hall Museum, Monmouth		To update Cabinet on progress of the National Lottery Heritage Fund development phase and consider options for the stage 2 delivery bid	Tracey Thomas	23-May-24
Council	24-Oct-24	Safeguarding report – Social Care & Health			Jane Rodgers	4-Jun-24
Council	24-Oct-24	Chief Officer report – Social Care & Health			Jane Rodgers	4-Jun-24

ICMD	23-Oct-24	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 2	Ben Callard - Resources		Dave Jarrett	13-Jun-24
Cabinet	02-Oct-24	Adoption of Abergavenny Placemaking Plan	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the Abergavenny Placemaking Plan, co-produced with Abergavenny Town Council, to inform future regeneration priorities and grant bids	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22
Cabinet	02-Oct-24	Adoption of Magor Placemaking Plan	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22
Cabinet	02-Oct-24	Adoption of Monmouth Placemaking Plan	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the Monmouth Placemaking Plan, co-produced with Monmouth Town Council, to inform future regeneration priorities and grant bids	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22
Cabinet	02-Oct-24	Road Safety Strategy	Catrin Maby	To adopt the Road Safety Strategy	Mark Hand / Paul Keeble	4-Oct-22
Cabinet	25-Sep-24	2025/26 Revenue and Capital MTFP update and process			Jon Davies	4-Jun-24
Cabinet	25-Sep-24	2024/25 Revenue Monitoring Month 4	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Daviea	4-Jun-24
Council	19-Sep-24	Home to School Transport – response to consultation			Deb Hill Howells	4-Jun-24
Council	19-Sep-24	Self-assessment report – People, Performance and Partnerships			Matt Gatehouse	4-Jun-24
Council	19-Sep-24	RLDP submission for examination	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To endorse the submission of the Deposit RLDP to the Welsh Government for examination by an independent Inspector. By agreeing, Council will be saying it wants this document to be the adopted RLDP for Monmouthshire.	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	23-Aug-22

Cabinet	11-Sep-24	Home to School Transport – response to consultation	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy			4-Jun-24
Cabinet	11-Sep-24	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	11-Sep-24	Measurement Framework	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	GRT sites	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding			4-Jun-24
ICMD	21-Aug-24	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 1	Ben Callard - Resources		Dave Jarrett	6-Jun-24
						27-Jun-24
Council	18-Jul-24	Chief Officer report – Children and Young People			Will McLean	4-Jun-24
Council	18-Jul-24	Gov & Audit Annual Report			Andrew Blackmore	21-Jun-24
Council	18-Jul-24	Medium Term Financial Strategy	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Jun-24
Cabinet	17-Jul-24	Budden Crescent business case	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Jane Rodgers	4-Jun-24

Cabinet	17-Jul-24	Feedback from P&O Scrutiny				26-Jun-24
Cabinet	17-Jul-24	Connected Care report – Social Care and Health (possible Sept)	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Jane Rodgers	4-Jul-24
Cabinet	17-Jul-24	Digital and Data Strategy	Ben Callard - Resources			10-Jun-24
Cabinet	17-Jul-24	Revenue and Capital monitoring outturn report (including early update on 2024/25)	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	10-May-24
ICMD	10-Jul-24	SPEED LIMIT PROPOSALS – AMENDMENT ORDER NO. 14	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	Whole Authority Strategic Risk Assessment		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	People Strategy	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	Consultation on the relocation of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni	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	Feedback from P&O Scrutiny		Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee – Feedback to Cabinet of Meeting held on 14th May 2024	Hazel Ilett	14-May-24
Cabinet	22-May-24	Strategy for Commissioned Domiciliary Care in Monmouthshire	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Ceri York	24-Apr-24

ICMD	22-May-24	Council Tax Assistance for MCC Foster Carers	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	Florence Jones Report & FGE	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	Political Balance Report	Angela Sandles - Engagement		James Williams	
Council	16-May-24	Appointments to Committees	Angela Sandles - Engagement		James Williams	
Council	16-May-24	Outside Bodies	Angela Sandles - Engagement		James Williams	
Cabinet	15-May-24	Uploading S106 Capital Sums into 2024/25 Capital Budget	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Mike Moran	9-Apr-24
Cabinet	15-May-24	Development of a Supported Accommodation Project for care experienced young people	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Jane Rodgers	24-Apr-24
Cabinet	15-May-24	Repurposing of Severn View Residential Home, Chepstow	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 Rapid Rehousing Strategy.	Nick Keyse/Cath Fallon	
Cabinet	15-May-24	Local Housing Market Assessment	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 Flood Strategy	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Carl Touhig	9-Oct-23

Cabinet	15-May-24	Local Transport Plan	Catrin Maby	To adopt the Local Transport Plan	Debra Hill-Howells / Christian Schmidt	4-Oct-22
Cabinet	15-May-24	Climate and Nature Emergency		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	Greenfingers Report	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Jane Rodgers	26-Mar-24
Cabinet	15-May-24	Local Housing Market Assessment Refresh 2022-2037		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	Local Food Strategy			Marianne Elliot	18-Apr-24
Council	18-Apr-24	Placement Development Strategy	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding	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 existing properties in order to support the strategy	Jane Rodgers / Diane Corrister	8-Jan-24
ICMD	17-Apr-24	ICMD Report - 20 moh Speed Limit Revocation Order	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Graham Kinsella	22-Mar-24
ICMD	17-Apr-24	ICM report - Florence Jones DEFERRED	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Amy Longford	11-Mar-24
Cabinet	10-Apr-24	Public Spaces Protection Order Dog Controls	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Huw Owen	19-Feb-24
Cabinet	10-Apr-24	Primary School catchment areas consultation feedback	Martyn Groucutt - Education	For Members to receive feedback on the consultation relating to a review of Primary School catchment areas and determine whether to implement proposals	Matthew Jones	20-Nov-23

Cabinet	10-Apr-24	Sustainable Communities for Learning Strategic Outline Programme update	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	Welsh Church Fund Working Group	Ben Callard - Resources		Dave Jarrett	
ICMD	27-Mar-24	Experimental TRO Prohibition of driving except for access Goldwire Lane Monmouth	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Graham Kinsella	
ICMD	13-Mar-24	Increase in building control charges	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Craig O'Connor	
Cabinet	06-Mar-24	To consider a Business Case for the acquisition of a property for use as a registered children's home	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		jane Rodgers	13-Feb-24
Council	29-Feb-24	Agree the name of the new Welsh-medium Primary School in Monmouth	Martyn Groucutt - Education	Agree the name of the new Welsh-medium Primary School in Monmouth	Debbie Graves	15-Nov-23
Council	29-Feb-24	Standards Committee Appointment			James Williams	6-Feb-24
Council	29-Feb-24	Strategic Equality Plan 2024		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	Appointment of Monmouthshire Local Access Forum		To secure the appointment of members to the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum for its next 3 year period.	Matthew Lewis	18-Jan-23
Council	29-Feb-24	Final Budget Proposals	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	



Council	29-Feb-24	Capital and Treasury Strategy	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	
Council	29-Feb-24	Council Diary	Angela Sandles - Engagement		John Pearson	
ICMD	28-Feb-24	WCF/Trust Treasury Fund Investment	Ben Callard - Resources			
Cabinet	28-Feb-24	2023/24 Revenue and Capital Monitoring - Month 9	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	27-Apr-23
Cabinet	28-Feb-24	2023/24 Final Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	
Cabinet	07-Feb-24	Economic Development Strategy		REFRESHING THE MONMOUTHSHIRE BUSINESS GROWTH & ENTERPRISE STRATEGY and action plan in setting the economic ambition for the county and providing a strategic framework that guides future economic	Hannah Jones	9-Jan-23
ICMD	24-Jan-24	Amendment to Street Naming and Numbering Policy regarding Replacement or additional Street nameplate signs for Existing Streets	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Mark Hand	2-Jan-24
ICMD	24-Jan-24	Community Council & Police Precepts - Determination	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	
Council	18-Jan-24	Introduction of Council Tax Premiums for Second homes from 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2024	Ben Callard - Resources	Council to re affirm their decision on the Second Home Premium	Ruth Donovan	5-Dec-23
Council	18-Jan-24	Council Tax Reduction Scheme	Ben Callard - Resources		Ruth Donovan	

Council	18-Jan-24	Asset Management Strategy			Nick Keyse	28-Sep-23
Cabinet	17-Jan-24	Community & Corporate Plan performance update	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	REPURPOSING OF ACCOMMODATION IN THE COUNTY FARMS PORTFOLIO TO SUPPORT HOMELESSNESS AND OTHER POLICY OBJECTIVES		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	consultation on the relocation of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni	Martyn Groucutt - Education		Matthew Jones	23-Aug-23
Cabinet	17-Jan-24	Approval of the revised MCC Counter Fraud, Corruption & Bribery Policy	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Jan Furtek	2-Nov-23
Cabinet	17-Jan-24	Draft Budget Proposals	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	29-Sep-23
ICMD	03-Jan-24	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 3 held on 7th December 2023 <b>Meeting didn't happen</b>	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Dave Jarrett	30-Mar-23
ICMD	20-Dec-23	Community Council & Police Precepts - Proposed payment schedule	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	
ICMD	20-Dec-23	Additional resources for the Revenues and Benefits Shared Service'	Ben Callard - Resources		Ruth Donovan	
ICMD	20-Dec-23	Council Tax Base Report	Ben Callard - Resources		Ruth Donovan	

ICMD	20-Dec-23	LDP Annual Monitoring Report	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To endorse the LDP Annual Monitoring Report for submission to WG	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	16-Jan-23
Cabinet	13-Dec-23	King Henry VIII 3 – 19 School Funding Formula	Martyn Groucutt - Education	To update Cabinet with the consultation feedback regarding the proposed fair funding formula for King Henry 3 – 19 School in Abergavenny.	Nikki Wellington	23-Nov-23
Cabinet	13-Dec-23	Children's Services: Foster Carer Recruitment and Retention – Foster Friendly Policy	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding	The purpose of the report is to outline a proposal to create a policy that supports MCC employees who are existing foster carers or wish to become foster carers through offering an appropriate leave entitlement.	Dr Charlotte Drury	9-Nov-23
Cabinet	13-Dec-23	Primary catchment review			Matthew Jones	23-Jun-23
Cabinet	13-Dec-23	Whole Authority Strategic Risk Assessment	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy	To provide Cabinet with an overview of the current strategic risks facing the authority and to seek approval of the strategic risk assessment	Richard Jones	5-Sep-23
Cabinet	13-Dec-23	2023/24 Revenue and Capital Monitoring - Month 6	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Jon Davies	27-Apr-23
Council	07-Dec-23	Relocation of PRS in South Monmouthshire	Martyn Groucutt - Education	Relocation of South Monmouthshire PRS	Morwenna Wagstaff	13-Nov-23
Council	07-Dec-23	DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT		to provide Council with an overview of SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH directorate with a focus on year 2022 – 2023.	Jane Rodgers	31-Jul-23
Council	07-Dec-23	SAFEGUARDING ANNUAL EVALUTION REPORT		To provide Council with the annual self-evaluation of safeguarding from a whole authority perspective.	Jane Rodgers / Diane Corriester	31-Jul-23
ICMD	29-Nov-23	Whole Authority Safeguarding Policy	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Naomi Lovesay	3-Nov-23

ICMD	29-Nov-23	Museums - Accredited			Rachael Rogers	12-Oct-23
ICMD	29-Nov-23	A013 Highway Traffic Regulation Amendment Order	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Speed limit changes at Caerwent Brook/Dewstow Road	Mark Hand	18-Sep-23
ICMD	29-Nov-23	A012 Highway Traffic Regulation Amendment Order	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Mark Hand	18-Sep-23
ICMD	15-Nov-23	'Planning Annual Performance Report	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To endorse the Planning Department Annual Performance Report for submission to WG	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	16-Jan-23
ICMD	15-Nov-23	A012 Highway Traffic Regulation Amendment Order <b>MOVED TO 29TH NOV</b>		Double yellows at Main Road, Portskewett, leading to S	Mark Hand	18-Sep-23
ICMD	15-Nov-23	A013 Highway Traffic Regulation Amendment Order <b>MOVED TO 29TH NOV</b>			Mark Hand	18-Sep-23
Cabinet	15-Nov-23	DEVELOPING THE FUTURE MY DAY MY LIFE BASES	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding	This report presents the findings of the final options appraisal for the proposed future My Day, My Life bases in Abergavenny, and to seek approval of the recommended base.	Jane Rodgers	7-Nov-23
Cabinet	15-Nov-23	Budget Process and timetable	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Jon Davies	
Cabinet	08-Nov-23	Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual letter 2022-23 to Monmouthshire County Council		The purpose is to fulfil the expectation of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales that their report is brought to the attention of Cabinet.	Annette Evans/Matthew Gatehouse	17-Oct-23
Cabinet	08-Nov-23	RIPA Review		To review RIPA strategy and arrangements	Geraint Edwards	25-Sep-23

Cabinet	08-Nov-23	2023/24 Revenue and Capital Monitoring - Month 5	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Jon Davies	
Council	26-Oct-23	Monmouthshire County Council Self- assessment 2022/23		to seek Council approval of the Self-Assessment report 2022/23 in line with requirements outlined in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and to ensure that members have a clear and transparent assessment of the Council's	Richard Jones	4-Jul-23
Council	26-Oct-23	RPB Area Plan			Jane Rodgers	4-Jul-23
Council	26-Oct-23	RLDP Preferred Strategy consultation report	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To endorse the RLDP Preferred Strategy including any proposed changes arising from the public consultation.	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	3-Oct-22
ICMD	25-Oct-23	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 2 held on 21st September 2023	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Dave Jarrett	30-Mar-23
Cabinet	11-Oct-23	Disposal of Land at Natgavenny Lane	Rachel Garrick - Resources	To seek Cabinet approval for the disposal of a parcel of land adjacent to the Nantgavenny Lane Business Park, Mardy, Abergavenny	Nick Keyse	
Cabinet	11-Oct-23	Developing a base for My Day My Life in Monmouth and Abergavenny	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding	Further to the recommendations from the Practice Solutions review, the report sets out the criteria and decision making in respect of which bases to develop for the My Day My Life in both Monmouth and Abergavenny, and makes a recommendation on the	Ceri York	25-Sep-23
ICMD	11-Oct-23	<b>MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – TCBC AND MCC HERITAGE SERVICES IN RELATION TO MAMHILAD NYLON SPINNERS LISTED BUILDING.</b>	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	The purpose of this report is to propose that MCC join into an MoU in relation to the provision of Heritage Advice to consider the ongoing management of the Nylon Spinners listed building at Mamhilad.	Amy Longford	22-Sep-23
Cabinet	04-Oct-23	Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Consultation			Cath Fallon	4-Sep-23
ICMD	27-Sep-23	Extending Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPOs) to tackle Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)		To seek approval to extend three Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) in respect of Bailey Park, Abergavenny; Lower Abergavenny (including Castle Meadows) and Monmouth Town (including Chippenham	Andrew Mason	31-Aug-23

Council	21-Sep-23	REPORT ON JOINT SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS FOR CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEES			Hazel Ilett	4-Sep-23
Council	21-Sep-23	Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report 2022/23	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To inform Council of the work and conclusions of the Governance and Audit Committee from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023	Chair of Governance and Audit Committee, Andrew Blackmore	27th July 2023
Council	21-Sep-23	Standards Committee Annual Report		This report is the first annual report from the Standards Committee to Council as required by the change in law set out in the Local Government and Elections Act 2021. It has to report on the discharge of the Committee's functions for the	Matt Phillips	10-Oct-22
ICMD	13-Sep-23	Highway Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 12 MOVED TO 25TH OCTOBER 2023	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	'Agreement to make the traffic order - parking/waiting restrictions at Justins Hill and Wyesham Avenue, Wyesham; Main Road and Castle Way, Portskewett; lane leading to Sugarloaf Llanwenarth car park; and Wonastow	Mark Hand	
ICMD	13-Sep-23	Proposed Changes to the Membership of the School Budget Funding Forum	Martyn Groucutt - Education		Nikki Wellington	
ICMD	13-Sep-23	'Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 12 <b>deferred to September 13th</b>		Agreement to make the traffic order - parking/waiting restrictions at Justins Hill and Wyesham Avenue, Wyesham; Main Road and Castle Way, Portskewett; lane leading to Sugarloaf Llanwenarth car park; and Wonastow	Mark Hand	24-May-23
Cabinet	06-Sep-23	Respite review for people with learning disabilities			Jane Rodgers	31-Jul-23
Cabinet	06-Sep-23	Home to School Transport Policy 2024/25		To consider the adoption of the proposed Home to School Transport Policy for the academic year 2024/25	Deh Hill Howells	
Cabinet	06-Sep-23	Proposal to establish a Welsh medium seedling school in Monmouth		Cabinet to consider objection report and make final determination on how to proceed.	Debbie Graves	27-Mar-23
ICMD	16-Aug-23	Castle Wood Usk Low Cost Home Ownership Future Use	Sara Burch - Inclusive and Active Communities			

ICMD	16-Aug-23	electric vehicle charging rate for public and staff at EV	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Deb Hill Howells	20-Jul-23
ICMD	16-Aug-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 11	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - Exception Orders to identify those restricted roads that will remain 30mph in September 2023 instead of defaulting to 20mph	Mark Hand	
ICMD	16-Aug-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 10	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - prohibition of driving Pwll Du, Llanelly Hill and Belmont Close/Belmont Road Abergavenny	Mark Hand	
ICMD	02-Aug-23	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 1 held on 22nd June 2023	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Dave Jarrett	
ICMD	02-Aug-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 10 <b>deferred to August 16th</b>	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - Exception Orders to identify those restricted roads that will remain 30mph in September 2023 instead of defaulting to 20mph	Mark Hand	3-Oct-22
Cabinet	26-Jul-23	Implementation of the My Day My Life review recommendations			Ceri York	
Cabinet	26-Jul-23	Gypsy and Traveller Site Identification			Ian Bakewell	12-Jul-23
Cabinet	26-Jul-23	•Review of the Respite Opportunities Service			Ceri York	14-Mar-23
Cabinet	26-Jul-23	2023/24 Revenue budget progress – early update			Jon Davies	8-Jun-23
Cabinet	26-Jul-23	S016 Funding Castle Park and Arch Bishop Rowan Williams Schools.			Cath Saunders	13-Jun-23

Council	20-Jul-23	Gifts & Hospitality Report			Matt Phillips	12-Jun-23
Council	20-Jul-23	Freedom of the Borough Presentation			Joe Skidmore	5-May-23
Council	20-Jul-23	Recruitment of Local Access Forum		To agree arrangements for the recruitment of the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum for the next 3 year period of appointment	Matthew Lewis	21-Jun-23
ICMD	12-Jul-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 10 DEFERRED TO 16TH AUG	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - prohibition of driving Pwll Du, Llanelly Hill	Mark Hand	19-May-23
ICMD	12-Jul-23	transfer the school balances for both Deri View and King Henry VIII School to the new King Henry VIII 3 – 19 School.	Rachel Garrick - Resources	Both King Henry VIII school and Deri View Primary school are closing on 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023 and the new King Henry VIII 3 – 19 School will open on 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2023, under a statutory closure of schools the financial balances transfer to the Local Authority,	Nikki Wellington	4-Apr-23
	05-Jul-23	Reopen Monmouth Cemetery for new burials			Rhian Jackson	
Cabinet	05-Jul-23	RESERVATION OF GRAVE PLOTS		To seek cabinet approval to cease the provision of reserving grave spaces (not incl cremated remains plots) in Llanfoist Cemetery	Rhian Jackson	7-Nov-22
Cabinet	05-Jul-23	2022/23 Revenue and Capital Monitoring - Outturn Report	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Jon Davies	27-Apr-23
ICMD	28-Jun-23	Highway Traffic Regulation Order	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - making permanent the part-time prohibition of driving on Cross Street and Market Street Abergavenny	Mark Hand	6-Jun-23
Council	22-Jun-23	Gwent Public Services Board Well-being plan		To approve the Public Services Board's Well-being Plan that sets out the steps being taken collaboratively by public services to improve wellbeing in Gwent ahead of approval by the Gwent Public Services Board.	Richard Jones	20-Jan-23



Council	22-Jun-23	Chief Officer Children and Young People's Report 2023			Will McLean	14-Feb-23
Cabinet	07-Jun-23	Adoption of Transforming Chepstow Masterplan	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the Transforming Chepstow Masterplan, co-produced with Chepstow Town Council, to inform future regeneration priorities and grant bids	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22
Cabinet	07-Jun-23	Transforming Towns Strategic Grant regeneration priorities and LUF3 bid	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To agree the priority projects for bids for WG Strategic grant funding to 24/25 and the submission for round 3 of Levelling Up Funding	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22
Cabinet	07-Jun-23	Proposal to establish a Welsh medium seedling school in Monmouth		Cabinet to consider the results of the consultation, recommendations and decide whether to publish statutory notices.	Debbie Graves	27-Mar-23
Cabinet	07-Jun-23	Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy	Rachel Garrick - Resources	To endorse the Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy	Scott James	22-Aug-22
ICMD	24-May-23	Highway Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 9	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - including Llantrisant 20mph village lane, 40mph through road, possibly Llantrisant (Usk to Wentwood) 50mph; 20mph Gilwern and surrounding villages	Mark Hand	14-Apr-23
Council	18-May-23	Political Balance Report		The Council is required to review at, or as soon as practicable after, the Council's annual meeting, the representation of different political groups on the bodies to which the Council makes appointments.	Matt Phillips	2-Feb-23
Council	18-May-23	Outside Bodies Report		To appoint representatives to serve on outside	Matt Phillips	2-Feb-23
Council	18-May-23	Appointments to Committees		To appoint committees together with their membership and terms of reference in accordance with the Council's Constitution.	Nicola Perry	2-Feb-23
Council	18-May-23	Constitution update		For the Monitoring Officer to bring proposed amendments and highlight changes made over the previous 12 months	Matt Phillips	2-Feb-23

Council	18-May-23	Corporate Parenting Strategy			Diane Corrister	24-Aug-22
Cabinet	17-May-23	Review of Home to School Transport Policy 24/25.	Martyn Groucutt - Education	The purpose: Is to seek approval to commence consultation on proposed amendments to the Home to School Transport Policy for the academic year 2024/25.	Deb Hill Howells	12-Apr-23
Cabinet	17-May-23	Monnow Street public realm improvements	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To agree how we proceed with proposals for Monnow Street public realm following consultation	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	6-Mar-23
ICMD	10-May-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 9 MOVED TO 24TH MAY	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - including Llantrisant 20mph village lane, 40mph through road, possibly Llantrisant (Usk to Wentwood) 50mph; 20mph Gilwern and surrounding villages	Mark Hand	3-Oct-22
Council	20-Apr-23	Motion for the Rivers and Oceans update		Deferred - new date to be advised	Hazel Clatworthy	10-Jan-23
Council	20-Apr-23	Community and Corporate Plan		To seek approval of a new Community and Corporate Plan that sets the direction for the council and county of Monmouthshire, articulating the authority's purpose and priorities alongside the steps we will take to deliver these, the	Matt Gatehouse	6-Feb-23
ICMD	12-Apr-23	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 4 held on 9th March 2023	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Dave Jarrett	
Cabinet	05-Apr-23	Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan	Sara Burch - Inclusive and Active Communities	To agree a plan to transition the delivery of homelessness that minimises the use of and the time homeless applicants spend in temporary accommodation	Rebecca Cresswell / Ian Bakewell	24-Jan-23
ICMD	22-Mar-23	Non Domestic Rates application for Hardship Relief - RESTRICTED	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Ruth Donovan	
ICMD	22-Mar-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 8	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - including Monmouth Road, Raglan no right turn onto A40; resi permit parking at Exmouth Place, Chepstow and Ross Road, Abergavenny; 3T weight restriction on Old Wye Bridge Chepstow; waiting	Mark Hand	

Council	09-Mar-23	Pay Policy		To approve the publication of Monmouthshire County Council's Pay Policy, in compliance with the Localism Act."	Sally Thomas	1-Feb-23
Council	09-Mar-23	Council Tax Premiums			Peter Davies	18-Jan-23
Council	09-Mar-23	Capital Strategy & Treasury Strategy			Jon Davies	17-May-22
Council	09-Mar-23	Youth Council			Jade Atkins	7-Dec-22
ICMD	08-Mar-23	Proposed amendment to primary school catchment area – Llandenny Village	Martyn Groucutt - Education		Debbie Graves	10-Jan-23
ICMD	08-Mar-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 8 DEFERRED TO 22 MARCH	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - including Monmouth Road, Raglan no right turn onto A40; resi permit parking at Exmouth Place, Chepstow and Ross Road, Abergavenny; 3T weight restriction on Old Wye Bridge Chepstow; waiting	Mark Hand	
Council	02-Mar-23	Final Budget Sign Off including Council Tax Resolution			Jon Davies	
Cabinet	01-Mar-23	2023/4 Final Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals			Jon Davies	17-May-22
Cabinet	01-Mar-23	2023/4 WCF/Trust Treasury Fund Investments			Dave Jarrett	17-May-22
Cabinet	01-Mar-23	Month 9 budget monitoring report			Jon Davies	6-Feb-23

Cabinet	01-Mar-23	Monmouthshire ECO Flex 'Joint Statement of Intent' and Memorandum of Understanding"			Steve Griffiths	16-Nov-22
Cabinet	01-Feb-23	Tudor Street				9-Jan-23
ICMD	25-Jan-23	Highway Traffic Regulation Amendment Order No 7	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order	Mark Hand	15-Dec-22
ICMD	25-Jan-23	Community Council and Police Precepts - final	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Jon Davies	17-May-22
Council	19-Jan-23	'To determine the name for the new 3-19 School in Abergavenny		'To determine the name for the new 3-19 School in Abergavenny	Cath Saunders	28-Nov-22
Council	19-Jan-23	Council Diary		To confirm the Council Diary 23/24	John Pearson	14-Dec-22
Council	19-Jan-23	Appointments		A report for Council to appoint or ratify a number of appointments to bodies and positions	Matt Phillips	
Council	19-Jan-23	Community and Corporate Plan				
Council	19-Jan-23	Tudor Road Call-In			Nicola Perry	3-Jan-23
Council	19-Jan-23	Council Tax Reduction Scheme			Ruth Donovan	31-May-22

Cabinet	18-Jan-23	Garden Waste			Carl Touhig	21-Dec-22
Cabinet	18-Jan-23	Draft Revenue & Capital Proposals			Jon Davies	
Cabinet	18-Jan-23	Council Tax Premiums Consultation - Long Term Empty Properties and Second Homes			Ruth Donovan	
Cabinet	18-Jan-23	Proposal to establish a Welsh Medium Seedling school in Monmouth		To seek cabinet approval to commence statutory consultation processes to establish a Welsh Medium seedling provision in Monmouth.	Debbie Graves	23-Sep-22
ICMD	11-Jan-23	Clydach Ironworks Enhancement	Sara Burch - Inclusive and Active Communities	To seek approval for the transfer of land associated with the Clydach Ironworks Enhancement Scheme	Matthew Lewis	8-Dec-23
ICMD	11-Jan-23	Welsh Church Fund Working Group			Dave Jarrett	17-May-22
ICMD	14-Dec-22	Council Tax Base report			Ruth Donovan	31-May-22
ICMD	14-Dec-22	2023/4 Community Council & Police Precepts - draft			Jon Davies	17-May-22
Cabinet	07-Dec-22	Regional Integration Fund		To consider the financial liabilities and implications of the Regional Integration Fund and its tapered funding model.	Jane Rodgers	21-Nov-22
Cabinet	07-Dec-22	National Adoption Services and Foster Wales Joint Committee			Jane Rodgers	9-Nov-22
Cabinet	07-Dec-22	2022/23 Revenue and Capital Monitoring report - Month 6			Jon Davies	17-May-22
Council	01-Dec-22	Corporate Safeguarding Policy.		For Council to endorse the revised Corporate Safeguarding Policy.	Jane Rodgers	10-Nov-22
Council	01-Dec-22	Governance & Audit Committee Annual Report 2021/22			Andrew Wathan	18-Oct-22

Council	01-Dec-22	RLDP Preferred Strategy	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To seek Council endorsement of the new Preferred Strategy for eight week consultation	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	25-Jul-22
ICMD	30-Nov-22	<b>TUDOR STREET</b>		To seek a decision regarding the Council's forward use of the property located in Tudor Street ahead of the outcomes of the wider review of My Day My Life	Jane Rodgers	14-Nov-22
ICMD	30-Nov-22	Govilon Section 106 Funding for Recreation & Play	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Mike Moran	8-Nov-22
ICMD	30-Nov-22	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 5	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Mark Hand	3-Oct-22
ICMD	30-Nov-22	Planning Annual Performance Report (APR) Deferred to 30-Nov-22	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Mark Hand Phil Thomas	3-Oct-22
ICMD	30-Nov-22	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 6	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order	Mark Hand	23-Aug-22
Cabinet	09-Nov-22	Implementing Sharepoint online		To secure funding to implement the project	Sian Hayward	13-Oct-22
Cabinet	09-Nov-22	A County of Sanctuary		To set out the reasons why an earlier decision is required due to time restrictions associated with TAN 15	Matt Gatehouse	20-Sep-22
Cabinet	09-Nov-22	SPF Update Report			Hannah Jones	12-Sep-22
Cabinet	09-Nov-22	Revenue & Capital MTFP update and process			Jon Davies	17-May-22
Cabinet	09-Nov-22	MonLife Heritage Strategy (or ICMD)		DEFERRED	Matthew Lewis	10-Feb-22
Council	27-Oct-22	RESPONSE TO URGENT NEED FOR HOUSING ACCOMMODATION		To present a proposal to enable Council to respond flexibly and promptly to the urgent need for housing accommodation to address the	Cath Fallon	10-Oct-22
Council	27-Oct-22	Community and Corporate Plan		To seek endorsement of the new Community and Corporate Plan setting out the purpose, values	Matt Gatehouse / Paul Matthews	3-Oct-22
Council	27-Oct-22	Outside Bodies Appointment			John Pearson	3-Oct-22
Council	27-Oct-22	Annual Safeguarding Report			Kelly Turner	24-Aug-22
Council	27-Oct-22	Social Care & Health: Directors Report 2021/22			Jane Rodgers	6-Jul-22
ICMD	26-Oct-22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group			Dave Jarrett	14/7/22
Cabinet	19-Oct-22	PSOW annual letter		Present the Public Services Ombudsman For Wales' annual report as required by the letter	Matt Phillips	28-Sep-22
Cabinet	19-Oct-22	Regional Partnership Board - Gwent Market Position Statement		To provide a Market Stability Report produced by the Regional Partnership Board setting out a high	Phil Diamond Head of Regional Partnership Team	22-Sep-22
Cabinet	19-Oct-22	Community and Corporate Plan		To seek endorsement of the new Community and Corporate Plan setting out the purpose, values	Gatehouse / Paul Matt	20-Sep-22
Cabinet	19-Oct-22	22/23 Revenue and Capital Monitoring report - Month 4			Jon Davies	17-May-22
Cabinet	19-Oct-22	Land adjacent to Caldicot Comprehensive School - Housing Development Opportunity		To seek approval of the disposal of land at Caldicot Comprehensive School for the	Nick Keyse	

ICMD	12-Oct-22	Local Development Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)		DEFERRED TO 26 OCT	Rachel Lewis/Cllr Paul Griffiths	23/08/22
ICMD	12-Oct-22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group		DEFERRED TO 26 OCT	Dave Jarrett	14/07/22
ICMD	12-Oct-22	Ending Library Fines		enabling more people to enjoy reading without the worry of incurring a fine if they are unable to return	Cheryl Haskell/Fookes?	20-Sep-22
ICMD	28-Sep-22	Transport Policy			Deb Hill Howells - MG	22-Aug-22
ICMD	28-Sep-22	B4245 speed limit		DEFERRED TO 26 OCT	Mark Hand	18-Jul-22
Council	27-Sep-22				Nick John	24-Aug-22
Council	27-Sep-22	RLDP Options Report			Rachel Lewis	25-Jul-22
Council	27-Sep-22	Rivers and Ocean			Hazel Clatworthy	9-Jun-22
Council	27-Sep-22	Monmouthshire County Council self - assessment report 2021/2			Richard Jones	23-May-22
ICMD	14-Sep-22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 2 held on 21st July 2022 (no meeting/no report -			Dave Jarrett	17-May-22
Cabinet	07-Sep-22	Transport Policy Consultation Update.			Deb Hill Howells	22-Aug-22
Cabinet	07-Sep-22	Cost Of Living			Matt Phillips	25-Jul-22
ICMD	31-Aug-22	MY DAY, MY LIFE SERVICE EVALUTATION			Ceri York	15-Aug-22
ICMD	31-Aug-22	Homesearch Policy & Procedure - Amendments & Welsh Translation Requirement			Ian Bakewell	
ICMD	03-Aug-22	Additional Resources in Educations Strategy		Resources required to develop and maintain schools education systems and the implementatin	Sian Hayward	14-Jun-22
ICMD	03-Aug-22	Designation of Secondary Catchment Areas			Matthew Jones	6-Jun-22
ICMD	03-Aug-22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 1 held on 23rd June 2022 - <b>Moved to ICMD 3rd Aug 2022</b>			Dave Jarrett	
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Wye Valley Villages Future Improvement Plan			Mark Hand	1-Jul-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Regen Three Year Programme			Mark Hand	1-Jul-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Review of Chepstow High Street closure			Mark Hand	1-Jul-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Home to School Transport Policy 2023-24.			Deb Hill Howells	27-Jun-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	MUCH (Magor & Undy Community Hall) report			Nick Keys	9-Jun-22

Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Shared Prosperity Fund Local Investment Plan and Regional Lead Authority Arrangements			Hannah Jones	23-May-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 1 held on 23rd June 2022 - <b>Moved to ICMD 3rd Aug 2022</b>			Dave Jarrett	17-May-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	2021/22 Revenue and Capital Monitoring outturn			Peter Davies/Jon Davies	17-Feb-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan 22/23			Matthew Lewis	10-Feb-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Housing Support Programme Strategy (Homeless Strategy)			Ian Bakewell	
Cabinet						



## Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

Meeting of People Scrutiny Committee held at The Council Chamber, County Hall, Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA with remote attendance on Tuesday, 16th April, 2024 at 10.00 am

### Councillors Present

County Councillor John Crook (Chairman)

County Councillors: Penny Jones, Maureen Powell, Sue Riley, Maria Stevens, Jackie Strong and Ann Webb (substituting for Christopher Edwards).

### Officers in Attendance

Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager  
Robert McGowan, Policy and Scrutiny Officer  
Sally Meyrick, Strategy & Policy Affordable Housing Officer  
Clare Hamer, Strategy & Sustainable Living Manager  
Ian Bakewell, Housing & Regeneration Manager  
Helen Horton, Senior Accommodation Development Officer

**APOLOGIES:** County Councillors Fay Bromfield, Christopher Edwards and Simon Howarth

#### 1. Declarations of Interest.

None.

#### 2. Public Open Forum.

None.

#### 3. Empty Homes Update - Scrutiny of the Council's progress on bringing empty properties back into use.

Ian Bakewell introduced the report about the background, progress, challenges and achievements of the project and the future plans, answering members' questions with Clare Hamer and Helen Norton.

##### **Key points from members:**

- Members asked what the empty homes project was and were advised it's an initiative by the Council to reduce the number of recorded empty homes in Monmouthshire, through more contact and engagement with the owners, and offering them grants and loans to bring their properties back into use.
- Members queried how many empty homes there were at the start and end of the year, officers advising that there were 541 empty homes at the start of the year and 366 at the end of the year.
- The challenges and opportunities of the project were questioned and Members heard that these are the variety of reasons and circumstances behind the empty homes, the availability of grants and loans to support the owners, and the potential for the homes to be used for social housing or private sector.

- Members asked about the next steps and future plans of the project and the officers advised that these involve continuing the supportive and helpful approach, but also considering more formal enforcement actions for some problematic properties, in collaboration with other departments.
- The criteria and conditions for the empty homes grant were discussed, the committee hearing that the empty homes grant is a grant of up to £25,000 for owners of properties that have been empty for more than 12 months and unfurnished. Owners must live in the property for five years after the completion of the works.
- The promotion of empty homes loans and grants was discussed, officers explaining that loans and grants are promoted mainly through social media, website, and literature that can be sent to town and community councils. Members requested this information to distribute within their own communities. **ACTION: Officers to provide us with the relevant information on empty homes loans and grants.**
- The Committee discussed the challenges of identifying and engaging with trusts and estates that have empty properties, particularly if they aren't registered individually for Council tax and therefore may not be on the list that Council tax provides.
- The teams' enforcement powers for problematic empty properties were questioned, Members hearing that they can include compulsory purchase orders, enforced sales, empty dwelling management orders, and improvement notices, accepting that the scope and feasibility of using these powers need to be discussed with other departments and legal services.
- A Member asked about the possibility of addressing under occupation in rented accommodation, officers explaining that this wasn't part of the empty homes work, but that housing associations would periodically review their stock and encourage tenants to downsize if appropriate.
- Another Member asked about the outcomes and effectiveness of the empty homes project and how many properties have been brought back into use. Officers responded, explaining that they didn't track the properties that have been privately rented, but that they had seen an increase in the uptake of loans and grants and a reduction in the number of empty homes.
- A Member queried a potential situation where a property may be empty, but furnished, however, officers advised that this wouldn't be classed as empty, but that they could still investigate if there was evidence of long-term vacancy and potential for grant application.

**Action Items:**

- Empty homes loans and grants: Officers to contact town and community councils and make them aware of the availability of the loans and grants.
- Enforcement powers: Discuss with building control, environmental health, planning and legal services the scope and feasibility of using enforcement powers for problematic empty properties.

- Trusts and estates: Officers explore how to identify and engage with trusts and estates that have empty properties that are not registered individually for Council tax.

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

The report has been scrutinised by the People Scrutiny Committee who have asked questions around the nature of the empty homes project, how it works, how many empty homes we had at the start of the year and year end, the challenges and opportunities of the project, the future plans and next stages. Members also asked about the criteria and conditions for empty homes grants and requested as an action that the officer contacts town and community councils and make them aware of the availability of the loans and grants. The Committee discussed how empty homes loans and grants are promoted and talked about enforcement powers, asking officers to progress discussions with building control, environmental health, planning and legal services the scope and feasibility of using enforcement powers for problematic empty properties. Finally, Members discussed trusts and estates and how the Council can explore how to identify and engage with trusts and estates that have empty properties that are not registered individually for Council tax. The Committee was supportive of option 1 being continued and would like to be kept updated on progress in due course.

#### **4. Local Housing Market Assessment - Scrutiny of the local housing market position.**

Sally Meyrick introduced the report on LHMA refresh 2022-2037, delivering a presentation, before answering Members' questions. She explained that the LHMA provides an estimation of affordable housing need by area and tenure, using Welsh Government guidance and tool. The report is estimating a need for 499 additional affordable homes per year for the first five years, and 90 per year for the remaining 10 years, mainly as social rented accommodation. It estimated a need for 126 market homes per year, 86 as private rent and 41 as owner occupier. The LHMA also identified a range of specialist and supported housing needs for various groups, such as homeless people, older people, people with mental health needs, and children and young people. She advised that the LHMA provided an overview of the housing market in Monmouthshire, which has high property prices and low affordability levels compared to the Welsh average. Members heard that the LHMA is an important evidence base for informing housing strategies, local development plans, social housing grant allocation, and negotiations with developers.

#### **Key points from members:**

- Members asked why Usk and Raglan are included in the Chepstow housing market area? Officers explained that the housing market areas are based on statistical travel to work areas from the census data, and that is the guidance from Welsh Government.
- Members asked how the cost-of-living crisis has affected the number of homeowners in Monmouthshire and whether it has affected the affordability and availability of housing for different income groups. The Committee heard

that there are more people needing rented accommodation than home ownership and that the team used to provide more support to people to access home ownership, but that has decreased significantly.

- Members queried the definition and tenure of affordable housing and were advised that affordable housing is housing where there are secure mechanisms to ensure that it is accessible to those who can't afford market housing, and that there are different tenures of affordable housing, such as social rent, intermediate rent, and low-cost home ownership.
- The Committee highlighted the inclusion of Usk and Raglan in the Chepstow housing market area, may potentially disadvantage those wards, due to the different needs and affiliations of those areas.
- Members questioned the methodology and data sources of the LHMA, officers explaining that they needed to follow Welsh Government guidance and that it involved using various sets of data such as the housing waiting list, homelessness presentations, household projections, and private rent figures.
- Members discussed the need for specific and supported housing for various groups, such as homeless people, older people, people with mental health needs, and children and young people, and they were advised that the LHMA had taken this into consideration, as it is based on existing plans and strategies as well as the housing register data.

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

The report has been scrutinised by the People Scrutiny Committee, members discussing the LHMA methodology, the definition and tenures of affordable housing, the income thresholds and affordability levels, the housing market areas, the census data, and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on the number of homeowners in Monmouthshire. Members queried the data sources, highlighting that the inclusion of Usk and Raglan in the Chepstow housing market area, may be disadvantaging those wards due to the different needs and affiliations of those areas. Members supported the need for specific and supported housing for various groups, such as homeless people, older people, people with mental health needs, and children and young people. The Committee felt that as the county has an ageing population, officers should consider exploring other methods such as the housing register to give a more accurate picture. The Committee asked that officers challenge Welsh Government on the applicability of the statistical travel to work areas census data for determining the housing market areas in Monmouthshire. The recommendations were agreed.

#### **5. People Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme.**

The forward work programme was agreed, with the addition of a request from officers to consider care leavers report.

#### **6. Council and Cabinet Work Planner.**

The planner was noted.

**7. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th March 2024.**

The minutes were confirmed.

**8. Next Meeting: Tuesday 11th June 2024 at 10.00am.**

The meeting ended at **11.30 am**

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