

Public Document Pack



County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Wednesday, 7 May 2025

Notice of meeting

County Council

**Thursday, 15th May, 2025 at 2.00 pm,
Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA**

AGENDA

Prayers will be said prior to the Council meeting at 1.45pm. All members are welcome to join the Chair for prayers should they wish to do.

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Declaration Of Interest	
3.	To elect a Chair of Council for the Civic Year 2025/26	
4.	To appoint a Vice-Chair of Council for the Civic Year 2025/26	
5.	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th April 2025	1 - 18
6.	To elect a Leader of the County Council and to receive notification of Leader delegations (appointments to Cabinet)	
7.	Representation of Political Groups Review	19 - 26
8.	Appointments to Committees	27 - 52
9.	Outside Bodies Report	53 - 56
10.	Members Motions	
10.1.	Submitted by County Councillor Lisa Dymock This council: Notes with concern the impending ban on HGVs crossing the M48 Severn Bridge and the implications for local haulage firms.	

Calls on the Welsh Government and Monmouthshire County Council to urgently assess the current and projected traffic impacts at Junction 23A M4 to Magor as a result of the M48 Severn Bridge restrictions and bring forward costed proposals to improve the road infrastructure at and around Junction 23A Magor to ensure traffic can be safely and effectively managed.

Calls on the Welsh and UK Governments to work at pace on a medium-term solution to reintroduce controlled HGV movements on the M48 Severn Bridge as soon as possible.

10.2. Submitted by County Councillor Frances Taylor

That this Council recognises that direct payments are intended to improve choice, control and independence, and is committed to ensuring that those who meet the eligibility criteria as set out in the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014, are provided with the necessary support to access direct payments should they wish, in a timely manner.

11. Member Questions

11.1. From County Councillor Simon Howarth to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

Would the cabinet member be able to offer a full explanation to the public of this county as to the 7ft galvanised fence installed on the mountain side at Pwllde National parks and also the buffer to the world heritage site?

Whilst it was installed for road safety it's one off the worst cases of open countryside abuse I've ever encountered, and the residents of Clydach also feel let down as no contact was made with their representatives or the farming community.

11.2. From County Councillor Simon Howarth to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

Does the cabinet member Catrin Maby believe that litter bins in our towns and villages, and also highways, play an integrated part in keeping our communities clean, tidy and most important lead by example?

11.3. From County Councillor Meirion Howells to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development

Could you provide an update on the progress and any findings of the recent county-wide parking review? In particular to Usk, where there is genuine concern in my joint ward of Llanbadoc and Usk from businesses, residents, surrounding villagers and town commuters. Could you please advise on the current status, any proposed changes, and the expected timeline for the conclusions of the review to be published?

11.4. From County Councillor Richard John to the Cabinet Member for Resources

How many households in Monmouthshire have secured a council tax exemption since 2022?

11.5. From County Councillor Tomos Davis to the Cabinet Member for

Resources

To ask the Cabinet Member to respond to the UK Government's decision to withdraw funding for the Western Gateway partnership.

11.6. From County Councillor Tomos Davis to the Leader of the Council

To ask the Leader, what action has the authority taken following the recent public meeting regarding the erection of a fence on Pwll ddu Road?

11.7. From County Councillor Lisa Dymock to the Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement

Please can you provide an update on the armed forces event being hosted by the council, including any details about the schedule, participants, and public engagement and access?

11.8. From County Councillor Lisa Dymock to the Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement

Given the vital role our leisure centre plays in supporting the community's health and wellbeing, what is the council doing to urgently secure funding for Caldicot Leisure Centre and its refurbishment to ensure residents have access to high quality, accessible facilities that encourage active and healthy lifestyles?

11.9. From County Councillor Rachel Buckler to the Cabinet member for Rural Affairs, Housing & Tourism

The lifeblood of rural hamlets and villages are often the community assets such as local public houses. They are a vital part of knitting together our communities and preventing rural isolation. A thriving rural pub is like a beacon of hope and hospitality. They are an essential way for friends and neighbours to keep in touch, have local get together and keep rural communities alive. When they close, as has The Star on the Hill at Llanvihangel Tor-y-Mynydd, it devastates the area. Would the Cabinet member for Rural Affairs please commit to gathering together an MCC led community asset team that local communities can access for advice and help on how to go about a community led bid to be able to buy their local public house for the benefit of all?

11.10. From County Councillor Fay Bromfield to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

What is the cabinet members position on the loss of Prime agricultural land for energy generation?

11.11. From County Councillor Fay Bromfield to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

Thank you to the highways officer for their work on speeding in Llangybi. However, data from recent years shows limited impact, Can the Cabinet Member outline any permanent solutions being considered to effectively reduce speeds and improve safety for residents and all road users?

11.12.	From County Councillor Martin Newell to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment Please could you provide an update regarding Goldwire Lane in Monmouth that is subject to an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) that restricts driving to residents, visitors, deliveries, and emergency services?	
11.13.	From County Councillor Frances Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Accessible Health Services Could the cabinet member clarify how many residents await a social work assessment and give an indication of how long are they waiting, and the longest wait times?	
11.14.	From County Councillor Frances Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment Could the cabinet member please provide an update on the potential impact on the Junction with the M4 at Magor in relation to the proposed introduction of the Severn Bridge 7.5t weight Limit?	
12.	To exclude Press and Public	57 - 58
13.	Appointment of Members of the Monmouthshire Standing Advisory Council (SAC) for Religion, Values and Ethics	59 - 72
14.	Next Meeting - Thursday 26th June 2025	

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Rachel Buckler	Devauden;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Laura Wright	Grofield;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Tony Kear	Llanbadoc & Usk;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Catrin Maby	Drybridge;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jan Butler	Goetre Fawr;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Ian Chandler	Llantilio Crossenny;	Green Party
County Councillor Sara Burch	Cantref;	Labour and Co-Operative Party
County Councillor Alistair Neill	Gobion Fawr;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Su McConnel	Croesonen;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Mary Ann Brocklesby	Llanelly Hill;	Labour and Co-Operative Party
County Councillor Fay Bromfield	Llangybi Fawr;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Jane Lucas	Osbaston;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Emma Bryn	Wyesham;	Independent Group
County Councillor Peter Strong	Rogiet;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Meirion Howells	Llanbadoc & Usk;	Independent
County Councillor Paul Griffiths	Chepstow Castle & Larkfield;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jackie Strong	Caldicot Cross;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Rachel Garrick	Caldicot Castle;	Labour and Co-Operative Party
County Councillor Maria Stevens	Severn;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Steven Garratt	Overmonnow;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Angela Sandles	Magor East with Undy;	Labour and Co-Operative Party
County Councillor Ben Callard	Llanfoist & Govilon;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor John Crook	Magor East with Undy;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Tomos Dafydd Davies	Llanfoist & Govilon;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Dale Rooke	Chepstow Castle & Larkfield;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Sue Riley	Bulwark and Thornwell;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jayne McKenna	Mitchel Troy and Trellech United;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Jill Bond	West End;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Louise Brown	Shirenewton;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Lisa Dymock	Portskewett;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Tony Easson	Dewstow;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Christopher Edwards	St. Kingsmark;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Martyn Groucutt	Lansdown;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Simon Howarth	Llanelly Hill;	Independent Group
County Councillor Richard John	Mitchel Troy and Trellech United;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor David Jones	Crucorney;	Independent Group
County Councillor Penny Jones	Raglan;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Malcolm Lane	Mardy;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Phil Murphy	Caerwent;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Martin Newell	Town;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Paul Pavia	Mount Pleasant;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Maureen Powell	Pen Y Fal;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Frances Taylor	Magor West;	Independent Group

County Councillor Tudor Thomas
County Councillor Armand Watts
County Councillor Ann Webb

Park;
Bulwark and Thornwell;
St Arvans;

Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
Welsh Conservative Party

Public Information

Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

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Watch this meeting online

This meeting can be viewed online either live or following the meeting by visiting www.monmouthshire.gov.uk or by visiting our Youtube page by searching MonmouthshireCC.

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.

Public Speaking at Full Council

Members of the public may register to ask a question of the members of cabinet at full council meetings. There is no facility for the public to register to speak as part of the debate of an item on the agenda at full council meetings. The total time allocated for all questions at a meeting of full council is 15 minutes.

No more than one question is permitted per questioner at a meeting of full council and questions will be asked in the order that they are submitted.

In order to submit a question at a full council meeting, notice must be given in writing or by email to the head of democratic services no later than midnight three working days before the day of the meeting with each question providing the name and address of the questioner.

Questions may be rejected if the question;

- Is not about a matter for which the council has responsibility or which affects the county
- Is defamatory, frivolous or offensive
- Is substantially the same question which has been put at a meeting of full council in the past 6 months
- Requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information

Where a person is not able to ask the question to full council in person, the chair may decide to read the question out on their behalf, instruct a written response be provided or choose to not deal with the question in their absence. Those who do ask a question in person will be entitled to one supplementary question which must arise out of the original question or the reply. The chair may reject a supplementary question on these grounds.

Any questions that cannot be dealt with at the meeting due to exceeding the time limit for public questions will be dealt with by a written response.

Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Our purpose

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

Objectives we are working towards

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

Our Values

Openness. We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately, we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

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

Flexibility. We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

Teamwork. We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

Kindness: We will show kindness to all those we work with putting the importance of relationships and the connections we have with one another at the heart of all interactions.

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 5

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of County Council held
at Council Chamber - Council Chamber on Thursday, 10th April, 2025 at 2.00 pm**

PRESENT: County Councillor Su McConnel (Chairman)
County Councillor Peter Strong (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: Rachel Buckler, Laura Wright, Tony Kear, Catrin Maby, Jan Butler, Ian Chandler, Sara Burch, Alistair Neill, Mary Ann Brocklesby, Fay Bromfield, Jane Lucas, Emma Bryn, Meirion Howells, Paul Griffiths, Jackie Strong, Rachel Garrick, Maria Stevens, Steven Garratt, Angela Sandles, Ben Callard, John Crook, Tomos Davies, Dale Rooke, Sue Riley, Jayne McKenna, Jill Bond, Louise Brown, Lisa Dymock, Tony Easson, Christopher Edwards, Martyn Groucutt, Simon Howarth, Richard John, David Jones, Penny Jones, Malcolm Lane, Phil Murphy, M. Newell, Paul Pavia, Maureen Powell, Frances Taylor, Tudor Thomas, Armand Watts and Ann Webb

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jonathan Davies	Head of Finance
Paul Matthews	Chief Executive
Peter Davies	Acting Chief Executive
Jane Rodgers	Chief Officer for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health
Matthew Gatehouse	Chief Officer People, Performance and Partnerships.
Wendy Barnard	Democratic Services Officer
James Williams	Chief Officer Law & Governance
Deb Hill-Howells	Head of Decarbonisation, Transport and Support Services
Julie Anthony	Human Resources (HR) Advisor
Justine Cass	Deputy Monitoring Officer, Torfaen County Borough Council
Philippa Green	Head of HR
Anne Phillimore	HR Consultant

APOLOGIES:

None.

1. Declarations of Interest

<https://www.youtube.com/live/lxJxdKzZJiQ?si=p9voe7C5VvDsdVok&t=127>

Item 6.2 Senior Leadership Pay Review:

- Members of the Senior Leadership Team withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

Item 7.1 Motion re: Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal:

- County Councillor Richard John declared a personal and prejudicial interest and withdrew from the meeting for this item as he works part time as a public affairs consultant and one of his clients is the Canal and River Trust.
- County Councillor Fay Bromfield declared a personal and prejudicial interest and withdrew from the meeting for this item as her businesses are very close to the canal

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and she relies on trade from tourism at Bromfields Butchers. She will have financial gains or losses.

Item 7.2 Motion re: Procurement Strategy:

- County Councillor Frances Taylor declared a personal interest as one of the domiciliary care providers is based in Magor and she is aware of the business and familiar with many of the staff. The award of domiciliary care contracts in Magor with Undy means core provision is unchanged. She knows many people with whom she has close association and in receipt of care but their care and well-being is not affected. She is not involved in any decisions nor is there any decision being taken except to review process.

2. Chair's Announcement

The Chair's Announcement was noted.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 6 March 2025

<https://www.youtube.com/live/lxJxdKzZJiQ?si=UDbi0C4AIQYqhybW&t=182>

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th March were confirmed as an accurate record.

4. Public Questions

5. Question submitted by Anne Lynch

<https://www.youtube.com/live/lxJxdKzZJiQ?si=ZwUU-XBUV4tjTX5T&t=195>

The Chair welcomed Anne Lynch to the meeting who shared her late husband's care experience. She explained that the last two years of his life, he was supported by Loughor Home Care, who went above and beyond in the quality of the care provided. Staff were very well trained, professional and compassionate, but also alerted her to changes in his condition and supported her in contacting district nurses, doctors and the ambulance service. The carers became like family and speaking with other service users the trust held in this local company made a significant difference during a very difficult time.

Her question was:

Voice and control, which puts the individual and their needs at the centre of their care and gives them a voice in and control overreaching the outcomes that help them achieve their well-being, is one of the principles of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014.

Given the number of people service users, their families and their carers who've signed a petition requesting that care in South Monmouthshire remains with excellent known local providers, would Monmouthshire County Council please acknowledge the voice of these signatories and enable service users to continue receiving care from the known local carers that they trust.

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County Councillor Ian Chandler, Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health acknowledged Mrs. Lynch's loss and expressed condolences.

The Cabinet Member responded that choice, voice and control run through how the Council assesses and supports people to identify what matters to them and their personal well-being outcomes. The care providers that were successful with the bids submitted were chosen after a rigorous selection process where quality was given a greater emphasis than cost. The new providers are keen, as is the Council, to ensure that the wishes and preferences of how people receive their care remain a priority. The way that the contracts are arranged should assist with a flexible person-centred approach to care.

The Cabinet Member acknowledged that change can be unsettling, which is why the Council continues to provide information points of contact and the opportunity to discuss people's preferences with their social worker on an individual basis. There will be a three-month transition period during which existing providers and new providers will work together to hand over each individual care arrangement, discussing them carefully to ensure the voice of the person isn't lost. The terms of the agreement with the providers requires those providers to ensure that the options for staff transferring from one employer to another under the TUPE process are made clear and encouraged. This will enable people to continue to receive care from the people who they know and trust.

In a supplementary question, Anne Lynch said that three months is not that long when you've had care from a particular carer for years and questioned why the transition couldn't be done in a much more gradual way. She provided the example of people who have Loughor care in Caldicot could continue to have that care until they no longer need it then a new contract within Caldicot would be given to whoever the new supplier is going to be in a more gradual approach so people can keep their carers rather than move to somebody new.

The Cabinet Member responded that the Council must review its commissioning arrangements periodically and has to re-tender services periodically. The intention is to develop long-term partnership arrangements with providers to provide stability in the care sector and predictability in terms of employment for those organizations. Having agreed those contracts transition has to be managed in an organised way which would not be possible over an extended period, operationally or financially

The Cabinet Member understood the concerns but explained a gradual approach over an extended period is not going to be possible without reverting to the old system of

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spot purchasing individual packages of care from contractors as and when needed, which was ineffective for the Council, not ideal for the recipient of care or the provider market.

6. Question submitted by Jane Moore

https://www.youtube.com/live/lxJxdKzZJiQ?si=4q5Tlb8wb_6oP91A&t=413

The Chair welcomed Jane Moore to the meeting. The following question was asked:

93% of local work workforce have opted out of the TUPE process in favour of retiring or seeking alternative employment. This will be out of the care sector if they are unable to stay in their current position with Loughor. They want to stay with a company that invests in local staff, local services, local service users and the local community. Has the Council evaluated the consequences of this loss to the care workforce and the Community, and what measures are the Council implementing to lessen the negative impact of this decision on the vulnerable local community?

The Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Accessible Health Services responded that it was not possible to comment at this point on the figures quoted as the TUPE process has not yet commenced. They noted that all care agencies commissioned by the Council are required to pay at least the real living wage.

The Council acknowledges that some staff may choose not to transfer and this will be addressed by the new providers as the implementation progresses by either redeploying staff or recruiting new carers.

The Cabinet Member emphasised that the Council's strategy for commissioning domiciliary care aims to provide more stability in the care provider sector, giving agencies more certainty and the better ability to recruit and retain staff; this is important for those receiving care now and in the future.

7. Question submitted by Joseph Taplin

<https://www.youtube.com/live/lxJxdKzZJiQ?si=ldex9LrTzADQ9PyO&t=892>

The Chair welcomed Joseph Taplin, a private boat owner along the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal and a key volunteer within the Preserve and Protect the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal group.

Mr Taplin explained that the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal is a vital part of our industrial heritage recognised by UNESCO as being of outstanding universal value. It is one of the region's most visited attractions and its recreational value serves everyone from school children to the elderly and supports dozens of community programmes,

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boating centres, hire companies, pubs and shops and these businesses rely on the canals draw to support local well-being and economic activity.

Mr Taplin asked, before any irreversible decisions are made about the canal's future, if the Council has undertaken a comprehensive impact assessment on what the loss of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal would mean. Being that this canal brings in tourism, sustains jobs and promotes physical and mental well-being, if it is allowed to deteriorate or close, is the Council prepared for the cost to livelihoods, to rural connectivity and to Community identity?

County Councillor Sara Burch, Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs and Tourism responded that everyone in the Chamber feels the same about the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal and agreed, if it were to close to navigation, it would be a huge loss to our communities, environmentally and its habitat value, economically, for its tourism value and socially in terms of the pleasure it gives us and as a part of the World Heritage Site.

The Cabinet Member explained that the Council doesn't own the canal and nor does it have significant influence over the decisions which will be taken by the Canal and River Trust, Dwr Cymru and Natural Resources Wales.

If the canal closed to navigation, there would be very little that the Council could do to mitigate the impacts. Impact assessment is undertaken by the Council where there is a decision for the Council to make to ensure that an informed and considered decision is made and in this case, there isn't a decision for the Council to make.

There are decisions for the Canal and River Trust, Dwr Cymru and Natural Resources Wales and the only thing that the Council can do, with our partner local authorities, is to try and influence those decisions on behalf of our residents. The Council is united in trying to do that.

8. Reports to Council

9. Constitution Review

<https://www.youtube.com/live/lxJxdKzZJiQ?si=kKYuTGha1dNhbb2w&t=1345>

County Councillor Angela Sandles, Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement presented a report on Constitution Review for Council to consider the proposed amendments to the Council's constitution.

Upon being put to the vote, Council resolved to accept the recommendation:

That Council approve the proposed amendments to the Council's Constitution as set out in the draft constitution at Appendix A.

10. Senior Leadership Pay Review

<https://www.youtube.com/live/lxJxdKzZJiQ?si=IWUKy8Ide0RvhC2W&t=2283>

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Members of the Senior Leadership Team left the meeting for the duration of this item.

County Councillor Ben Callard, Cabinet Member for Resources presented a report on the Senior Leadership Pay Review to consider the recommendation made, following an independent senior leadership pay review; that senior leaders in Monmouthshire County Council (the Strategic Leadership Team) receive an increase in pay, in accordance with the median salary range, and that this increase is implemented over a 2-year period, from April 2025. The implementation of this recommendation will ensure that the salary structure for senior leaders is comparable with other Councils in the regional area.

Upon being put to the vote Council resolved to approve the recommendations that Council:

- i. Approve the recommendation made, following an independent senior leadership pay review; that senior leaders in Monmouthshire County Council (the Strategic Leadership Team) receive an increase in pay, in accordance with the median salary range, and that this increase is implemented over a 2-year period, from April 2025.**
- ii. Recommend that a job evaluation scheme is put in place for all Chief Officers and, consequently, that the Chief Officer (JNC) pay structure is reviewed.**

14.53 County Councillor Rachel Carrick joined the meeting having experienced technical difficulties

11. Councillor Motions:

11.1. Submitted by County Councillor Jan Butler

<https://www.youtube.com/live/lxJxdKzZJiQ?si=tb6SULaYEdsnDESF&t=4008>

County Councillor Jan Butler presented the motion:

That this council recognises the valuable contribution that the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal brings to the economy of Monmouthshire.

Recognises that the continued health and operation of the canal is essential to the well-being of our residents and securing its future is vital to the communities who thrive along its route.

Requires the Leader of the Council to urgently convene a meeting of all key organisations to discuss a resolution and ensures all councillors including the affected ward members are briefed on developments.

The motion was seconded by County Councillor Simon Howarth.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

11.2. Submitted by County Councillor Lisa Dymock

https://www.youtube.com/live/lxJxdKzZJiQ?si=baZtRQkv5YX_6mPZ&t=6027

County Councillor Lisa Dymock presented the motion:

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This Council: Notes the administration's commitment in the Community and Corporate Plan to a socially responsible procurement strategy to promote locally sourced goods and services. Calls on the administration to undertake a full and transparent review of its procurement processes to ensure a level playing field for small and local businesses.

The motion was seconded by County Councillor Richard John.

An amendment to the motion was proposed by County Councillor Simon Howarth.

And agrees to review the process and decision-making involved in the commissioning of domiciliary care contracts in the South of the County.

The mover of the original motion accepted the amendment. The motion was amended without debate and without the amendment being put to a vote.

Upon putting the amended motion to the vote, the following votes were recorded:

In favour of the motion:	23
Against the motion:	22

The motion was carried.

14.48 County Councillor Christopher Edwards left the meeting due to experiencing technical difficulties

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NAME	For	Against	Abstain
Councillor J BOND		x	
Councillor M A BROCKLESBY		x	
Councillor F BROMFIELD	x		
Councillor L BROWN	x		
Councillor E BRYN	x		
Councillor R BUCKLER	x		
Councillor S BURCH		x	
Councillor J BUTLER	x		
Councillor B CALLARD		x	
Councillor I CHANDLER		x	
Councillor J CROOK		x	
Councillor T DAVIES	x		
Councillor L DYMOCK	x		
Councillor A EASSON		x	
Councillor C EDWARDS			
Councillor S GARRATT		x	
Councillor R GARRICK		x	
Councillor P GRIFFITHS		x	
Councillor M GROUCUTT		x	
Councillor S.G.M. Howarth	x		
Councillor M HOWELLS		x	
Councillor R JOHN	x		
Councillor D. W. H. Jones	x		
Councillor P. Jones	x		
Councillor T KEAR	x		
Councillor M LANE	x		
Councillor J LUCAS	x		
Councillor C MABY		x	
Councillor S MCCONNEL		x	
Councillor J MCKENNA	x		
Councillor P MURPHY	x		
Councillor A NEILL	x		
Councillor M NEWELL	x		
Councillor P PAVIA	x		
Councillor M POWELL	x		
Councillor S RILEY	x		
Councillor D ROOKE		x	
Councillor A SANDLES		x	
Councillor M STEVENS		x	
Councillor J STRONG		x	
Councillor P STRONG		x	
Councillor F TAYLOR	x		
Councillor T THOMAS		x	
Councillor A WATTS		x	
Councillor A WEBB	x		
Councillor L WRIGHT		x	
Total	23	22	

12. Members' Questions:

- 12.1. From County Councillor Tomos Davies to County Councillor Sarah Burch,
Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Housing and Tourism

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For an update on the authority's Active Travel Plan, including the development of the Llanfoist pedestrian bridge

https://www.youtube.com/live/lxJxdKzZJiQ?si=lyEQsFI_D8lxqhXz&t=11858

County Councillor Sara Burch, Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Housing and Tourism responded that the Active Travel Wales Act 2013 requires local authorities to develop their active travel network maps and prioritise creating routes for walking, cycling and wheeling alongside interventions for road safety, reducing traffic speeds and an integrated public transport system to create an environment where people make walking, cycling or wheeling their first choice for local journeys, where young people can travel independently to school or wherever else they want to go.

Annual funding has been available from Welsh Government to develop projects on our active travel network maps, which includes the routes across Severnside, an active travel bridge across the River Wye at Monmouth and a bridge across the River Usk between Llanfoist and Abergavenny.

Additional phases of the Williamsfield Lane Links project in Monmouth and Phase One of the Caldicot Links project to convert the disused railway line for a safe and accessible route joining communities, have been delivered.

Smaller projects such as dropped kerbs and crossings improving walkability for local communities plus road safety and cycle training have been completed.

In the last year, large scale physical improvements have been made in Monmouth and Caldicot, with projects progressing through WeITAG stages in Caldicot, Magor and Undy, Chepstow, Monmouth and Abergavenny. Despite challenges around grant funding, progress is being made across the County.

Llanfoist Bridge has been subject to regulatory delays and technical issues due to the new route crossing a fast-flowing river through a SSSI historic landscape. It is hoped that these issues have been resolved, and it will be possible to proceed with the project subject to receiving final confirmation of the second tranche of funding from Welsh Government. An imminent announcement from the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales, Ken Skates is expected.

In a supplementary question, and citing press reports speculating about potential cuts to the Welsh Government's active travel budgets, Councillor Davies pressed the Cabinet Member to continue to engage with local residents, particularly the Community Council and businesses, especially during the delivery phase. Maintaining a partnership approach between the Council and local stakeholders will be vitally important so that we all maximise the benefit for Abergavenny and the wider community.

The Cabinet Member will ensure that any news is shared, and stakeholder meetings will be arranged providing the news is positive. The Cabinet Member assured that working together with communities to deliver projects is very much the process preferred for all active travel projects. Acknowledging that it will be disappointing if the funding for active travel is reallocated, but noting also that it would likely be allocated to repairing highways and roads which would also be welcomed.

12.2. From County Councillor Tomos Davies to County Councillor Angela Sandles, Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement

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To confirm the number of cases of reported anti-social behaviour recorded across Monmouthshire in the past twelve months, including cases of vehicle off roading.

https://www.youtube.com/live/lxJxdKzZJiQ?si=tKezZJoJn16XP_L6&t=12166

County Councillor Angela Sandles, Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement responded that, in Monmouthshire, during the 2024-2025 financial year, 1233 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents were recorded representing a decrease of 11 compared to the previous year. The Community Safety Team secured extra Home Office funding in 2024/25 which was successfully used for additional youth outreach work and extra security to bolster police patrols. The figures included 20 ASB calls related to off road bikes.

Primarily concentrated in North Monmouthshire, there are a number of green lanes or byways open to all traffic across rural areas of Monmouthshire, which allow road legal vehicles, including off road motorcycles, but some riders do unfortunately stray into prohibited areas.

The Community Safety Team are working alongside residents to identify illegal riding locations and are supporting ongoing efforts with Gwent Police to develop a plan to address these issues.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member agreed to meet with some of the local residents in Llanellen, to explore what further resource can be leveraged both through the authority's offices but also in partnership with Gwent Police to address their growing concerns. The Cabinet Member urged residents to keep reporting all the hot spots where this is happening.

12.3. From County Councillor Tomos Davies to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

To confirm the number of fixed penalty notices issued for littering and fly tipping offences for the financial year 2024/25.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/lxJxdKzZJiQ?si=gflQ1I9GixNrAjef&t=12343>

County Councillor Angela Sandles, Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement responded that there was a successful prosecution on the 11th December 2024 for four fly tipping incidents in Monmouthshire. The prosecution was brought in conjunction with Newport City Council and Torfaen County Borough Council for additional offences in their areas. The sentence included 30 weeks in custody suspended for 18 months, 120 hours unpaid work and to pay a victim surcharge of £187.

There was a successful prosecution on the 12th February 2025 for fly tipping in Monmouthshire. The sentence included 18 weeks in custody, suspended for 12 months with costs of £1713 and a victim surcharge of £154. There have been two fly tipping fixed penalty notices, and one fixed penalty notice for littering.

Fly tipping is illegal, and the Council investigates each incident for evidence but it is rarely present. Any details found are passed to Environmental Health working closely together to secure successful prosecutions.

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The Cabinet Member added that are hundreds of fantastic litter champions in Monmouthshire and it's great to see fellow councillors regularly joining organised litter picks in their wards, building on the work of Litter Champions and helping Monmouthshire be in the top quartile in Wales for cleanliness and litter.

There is a Members' Workshop in June to look at Litter, Dog fouling and fly tipping and where members feel there's a need for better signage and higher levels of education and enforcement.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Davies commented that it is disappointing to hear of so few fixed penalty notices being issued for littering and fly tipping offences across the County, which does very little to deter those who act with impunity and who tarnish the natural beauty of this County. The efforts of the countless litter picking volunteers and the Keep Abergavenny Tidy group were applauded. Councillor Davies was pleased to learn of the Members Seminar, but invited the Cabinet member to bring forward a report to full Council at the earliest convenience, specifically to address the issue of deterrence and to explore how else we might tackle some of the challenges associated with enforcing and deterring would be litter offenders across Monmouthshire.

The Cabinet Member responded that this is a cause that would unite this entire Council and the Members seminar will should preclude that for Council to get ideas from all the Members.

12.4. From County Councillor Jackie Strong to County Councillor Sarah Burch, Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Housing and Tourism

Can the Cabinet member give an update on progress towards the development of a Cultural Strategy for Monmouthshire?

<https://www.youtube.com/live/lxJxdKzZJiQ?si=NIQ5HORoOKxP0eM&t=12557>

The Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Housing and Tourism responded that work over the last year has included engaging with several groups in the heritage and arts fields, canvassing Town and Community Councils and hosting networking groups engaged in cultural industries and community activity. Whilst the work is being led by MonLife Arts, Heritage and Destination Officers, the Cultural Strategy will be a cross-Council strategy aligned to the Community and Corporate Plan, sharing themes and actions with the Destination Management Plan, the Leisure Strategy, Heritage Strategy, Library Strategy, Place-Making plans, Green Infrastructure and nature recovery work.

The 3 themes are people, places and prosperity. There will be engagement with the public and specific groups between the 12th May and 27th June through Let's Talk Monmouthshire and 4 focus groups sessions. The final strategy will be compiled through July and August and will then commence the political process of approval and adoption.

The current work is building on the work from the Creative Industries Cluster Hubs project, which mapped and brought together over 200 visual arts organizations and practitioners working in the County which has led to a continuing network for the visual

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arts. It also builds on the Creative Futures SPF project, which has worked with nearly 600 young people and established the Monmouthshire Youth Theatre. The first celebration arts event was held in April 2024 and the second is tomorrow.

A database of contacts has been created, and the team are now in regular communication with over 300 creative practitioners sharing news, opportunities and information. Spaces to display work have been created in the Hubs, the Tourist Information Centre and the Borough Theatre, and artists and makers are now selling their work. The team continued to promote Monmouthshire as a venue for filming, for events and festivals.

County Councillor Jackie Strong asked the Cabinet Member to ensure that Severnside isn't forgotten as there is no dedicated arts space, theatre or a space for local groups to hire cheaply. They must either use the school or the choir hall which is costly and increases pressure to raise funds. There is an abundance of talented individuals, and the comprehensive school recently presented the musical "Our House". Caldicot Male Voice Choir is also performing a show. There is a magnificent medieval castle and grounds that hosts musical events and the Armed Forces Day.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Strong asked how the Cultural Strategy will support local groups to sustain them and provide them with the necessary support to provide opportunities and access to the arts for current and future residents.

The Cabinet Member responded that the creative industries work has shown that Caldicot has a large number of creative professionals who live there but are working elsewhere so it would be great to create more opportunities for them in Monmouthshire and part of the project has been setting up the quarterly creative conversations with local artists in local cafes.

These events provide mutual support and opportunities for sharing ideas and help the Council to understand where it can support the sector.

It was announced that the Council will be hosting an Arts and Creative Festival in Caldicot in September, as well as the strong programme of summer music and other events at the castle. The Team is working on how to best support the many voluntary and community groups such as choirs and Youth Theatre groups. One example is the refurbishment of the costume collection for the Youth Theatre, which is now available for all community theatre groups in the County. Other practical ways in which the sector can be supported are welcomed.

12.5. From County Councillor Jayne McKenna to County Councillor Angela Sandles, Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement

How is the council working with Gwent Police and Wye Valley National Landscape to prevent damage to tracks and trails?

<https://www.youtube.com/live/lxJxdKzZJiQ?si=ltCJ9thB3Kk63DP6&t=12915>

County Councillor Jayne McKenna explained there has been a significant increase in off road motorbike activity, with some riders travelling long distances to use our tracks and trails and residents are increasingly concerned about environmental damage, erosion,

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noise and antisocial behaviour. They feel that signage is lacking, enforcement is limited and their concerns are not being heard.

The Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement responded that one of the ways the Council has worked with the police is by providing them with mapping information so they can clarify the status of the paths and their permitted users. Tracks and trails of the Wye Valley, guided by recommendations from Tomorrow's Tourism is designing clear signage to aid the police undertaking enforcement and inform the public where they can and cannot legitimately go.

Condition surveys are being conducted on troublesome minor highways considering ecological impacts to address maintenance issues and seek funding. Efforts are also being made to develop a sense of place and protect heritage and natural surroundings. The use of counters is being investigated to evidence usage, potentially leading to traffic regulation orders.

The Wye Valley National Landscape team are developing clearer ways to outline responsibility and reporting channels. The police have been asked for complaint statistics but unfortunately have not been able to participate in meetings now due to resource constraints, and the same applies to Natural Resources Wales. However, they will be involved as work progresses.

Currently, Countryside Access and Highways are working together to produce guidance and briefings on traffic regulation orders for Tracks and Trails and more recently, the Council has been seeking to address specific issues such as bridal way damage by motorcycles, in collaboration with the police.

The Cabinet Member encouraged reporting occurrences of people being where they're not supposed to be to provide the Police with better data.

County Councillor McKenna, in a supplementary question, asked if the Cabinet Member would lobby Gwent Police on behalf of residents of Whitebrook to increase enforcement in these hotspot areas, The Cabinet Member agreed to do this when meetings are arranged with Gwent Police and other bodies.

12.6. From County Councillor Jayne McKenna to County Councillor Sarah Burch, Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Housing and Tourism

How is the council ensuring value for taxpayers in the effective delivery of policies to tackle homelessness?

<https://www.youtube.com/live/lxJxdKzZJiQ?si=aBB8PZZuenhOGQPA&t=13149>

The Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Housing and Tourism responded that the delivery of the Council's homeless service has been extremely challenging over recent years, as it has for other local authorities in Wales. We've experienced higher numbers of people presenting as homeless, many of whom have had high levels of support needs, for which there are many reasons such as the unaffordability of private rents, the mismatch between local incomes and house prices, the lack of affordable housing and the failure to upgrade benefits in line with rents, amongst other factors.

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In 2022, the Council inherited over 100 homeless households being accommodated in hotels, bed and breakfast or other temporary accommodation including expensive holiday lets that are particularly unsuitable for families with children.

The Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, which was approved by Cabinet in April 2023, set out the road map to improving the service and reducing the cost of temporary accommodation. Progress against the plan is reported to People Scrutiny Committee. The priorities of the plan are to prevent homelessness at the earliest opportunity to increase the supply of affordable housing, to provide timely support to sustain accommodation and maximise resources through partnership working.

The Cabinet Member is confident that the Council is delivering on the priorities and currently can prevent homelessness in most cases through a variety of means and the hard work of the Housing Options team.

From the end of April, Severn View will replace the use of bed and breakfasts with better quality, lower cost options where the majority of costs can be recouped from rents and housing benefit.

Increasing the availability of good quality temporary accommodation and permanent accommodation through housing association partners has enabled the reduction of the use of less suitable accommodation and to deliver better homes and better value.

A mix of leasing managed lettings and purchases, a range of housing support is provided which helps tenants to retain their tenancy and move forward in their lives.

Numbers of homelessness inquiries are reducing and consequently the numbers needing temporary accommodation, including B&B have reduced. In April 2023, when the plan was approved, there were 94 people in B&B accommodation and this currently stands at 20 which is a marked improvement and is having financial benefits for the authority.

The cost of B&B in 2024/25 was under £1.5 million reduced from over £2.1 million in 2023/24. These are gross figures as we recover part of the expenditure from housing benefit. This demonstrates the progress that is being made and it is hoped by the end of 2025/26 to have virtually eliminated the use of B&B providing a significant saving.

In a supplementary question, Councillor McKenna had been informed that in recent years the Council has been hiring 10 rooms per week at a venue in Monmouthshire, at a cost of £3500 per week yet occupancy within the past month has been as low as 10% so effectively that's £3500 a week to house one person, which raises serious questions about value for money. Given the low occupancy and several of these establishments, B&B's and Airbnb's across the county, The Cabinet Member was asked to ensure that that this is being looked at as a matter of urgency to review the temporary accommodation across the county for the future.

The Cabinet Member agreed to look into the detail of that stating that the Council is gradually withdrawing from some of those arrangements that have been in place previously.

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**12.7. From County Councillor Tudor Thomas to County Councillor Sarah Burch,
Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Housing and Tourism**

The Canal and River Trust has expressed concern that new limits placed on its ability to extract water from the River Usk will mean that the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal may be closed during the summer months, which are of course the peak months for Welsh tourism. The Canal is a major tourism attraction for visitors as well as its value for residents and for wildlife. What steps will the administration take to support the tourism and leisure businesses which could be affected?

<https://www.youtube.com/live/lxJxdKzZJiQ?si=X9--93TjucKaiBsb&t=13492>

The Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Housing and Tourism responded that much of the question had been covered in the discussion on the earlier motion.

Regarding the impact on tourism businesses, there are 4 canal boat hire companies operating in Monmouthshire and several holiday cottage businesses, which are attractive because they are Canalside. It is one of the most beautiful and affordable places to enjoy a canal holiday.

The Cabinet Member had spoken to one of the boat companies which has seen an effect from the very thorough publicity work by the Canal and River Trust to raise awareness of what is currently a potential serious problem.

The Tourism team provides support to all the tourism businesses and promote the canal to visitors through Visit Monmouthshire and there was also a meeting of the Bannau Brycheiniog Tourism Partnership this week.

All that the Council can do is to continue to push to get a permanent resolution to the water issues. The Cabinet Member wished to reassure that even if it is necessary to stop the lock gates being used temporarily, it is understood that the canal is intended to remain in water. The canal towpath will still be a great way to take a level walk or cycle through the beautiful and historic landscape. The canal would still be there for canoeists and paddle boarders. Canalside pubs will still be open for business.

**12.8. From County Councillor Rachel Buckler to County Councillor Catrin Maby,
Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment**

Monmouthshire Council are getting regular reports of bridges needing repair from residents and community councillors, but bridges are left damaged and decaying, with many bridges in a precarious state. These bridges are vital to the connectivity of communities in rural Monmouthshire in areas like Llangwm and the surrounding area. What can the cabinet member do to ensure these vital road networks are kept open and these historically significant structures are not in danger of disappearing for good?

<https://www.youtube.com/live/lxJxdKzZJiQ?si=fzje-8dCq1Q7N5Nh&t=13634>

County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment responded that she shared the concerns raised. Bridges are regularly monitored for safety and where they don't meet safety standards, restrictions are put in place until this can be remedied.

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Officers show diligence in doing their best to manage what seems like an impossible situation arising from a substantial shortfall in funding for highways infrastructure across the UK over the last 15 years. A backlog of an estimated £80 million worth of work was inherited that needed to bring the highways network asset up to standard.

Monmouthshire County Council has 1600 kilometres of roads to maintain including the bridges with funding from Council budgets, with a workforce and budget of a similar size to SEWTRA which has 160 kilometres of road to maintain helping to explain why rural roads look rough compared to the trunk roads.

The Cabinet Member commented that the Council, under previous administrations, should have allocated more funds to roads to avoid getting them into the current state. Priority may have been given to other demands, such as social services and education.

The Cabinet Member consistently argues for more resources for roads and infrastructure, and that it is close to a critical point.

Residents concerns are understandably passed on to Highways. The impacts of climate change with more frequent extreme weather events is adding to the damage to our infrastructure and it means that we sometimes have to divert from our planned programs to manage new more urgent problems.

Challenges are faced by highways teams in England and Wales and it's now recognised that there is not the level of funding needed to keep local roads in good condition. It is reported that the backlog of carriageway repairs in England and Wales has reached new heights at almost £17 billion.

While local roads are only resurfaced on average once every 93 years, and one in six miles are reported of only five years of structural life remaining, Over the last decade, more than £20 billion has been spent on carriageway maintenance in England and Wales, including spending to fill the equivalent of 1 pothole every 18 seconds, every day for 10 years. But unfortunately, due to the short term nature of the allocation of funding this has resulted in no quantifiable uplift in the condition and resilience of the network.

The Cabinet Member explained that the Council is ensuring that funding brought in is maximised and officers are currently submitting a bid to the local government borrowing initiative for improvements to roads and infrastructure, including bridges.

The funding bid was sent last week and as soon as officers know what's to be funded, a Members Workshop to discuss this year's programme of works will be arranged. The funding is welcome, but the amounts so far announced are relatively small compared to what is needed, and there are concerns about the stability of the supply chain and the cost of the materials.

A much more long-term substantial investment is needed in the network across the country to ensure that connectivity to our communities is maintained. The Cabinet Member has raised it in the community, in the Cardiff Capital Region and with Ministers.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Buckler highlighted that when bridges collapse, then there's an enormous job to do and asked that each Ward Councillor be provided

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with an overview of the bridges in their ward, when they were last surveyed and what sort of problems were flagged up.

The Cabinet Member agreed to ask what data is available and how it can be shared.

A Members Workshop is planned for the summer and it may be possible to have as much data as possible available to explain about bridges as well as roads before the workshop.

12.9. From County Councillor Rachel Buckler to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment

The state of road repairs in Monmouthshire seems to be at a crisis point. Regular reports from community councillors and residents in the Devauden Ward rarely seem to lead to pot holes being filled, culverts being cleared and gullies kept open. If potholes are filled they last for a couple of weeks and then the roads are back to square one. The road from Nantygelli Crossroads to Llansoy in the Devauden ward I represent is a case in point. Soon even a pony and trap will not be able to navigate it. What will the Cabinet Member do to change this depressing trajectory?

<https://www.youtube.com/live/lxJxdKzZJiQ?si=hprziWDdX4FX9cSU&t=14152>

The Cabinet Member responded that the reduction in funding for highways has left a bad shortfall to maintain even a steady state. Long term funding is needed to improve the network and that's what will be fought for at a political level.

On the specific road mentioned, temporary repairs were carried out a few weeks ago. Ideally, we would do more permanent fixes but there are not always resources available to do that.

There's an endless list of new potholes appearing and it is recognised many of the roads weren't built for the high level and weight of traffic we are seeing.

The Cabinet Member will keep on fighting for funding for the repair of highways.

Referring to the Nantygelli to Llansoy road, in a supplementary question, Councillor Buckler said the road had been quite comprehensively repaired twice which is then washed away which is a waste of resources and asked for a more sustainable method of repair.

The Cabinet Member responded that this point can be discussed at the Members' Workshop.

The meeting ended at 6.00 pm

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MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

SUBJECT:	REPRESENTATION OF POLITICAL GROUPS - REVIEW
MEETING:	COUNCIL
DATE:	15 MAY 2025
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. PURPOSE

The Council is required to review at, or as soon as practicable after, the Council's annual general meeting, the representation of different political groups on the bodies to which the Council makes appointments.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Council approves the report as a review under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and to allocate ordinary committees with the numbers as indicated below representing political balance.

Committee	Welsh Labour	Welsh Conservatives	Independent Group	Green Independent Group
Scrutiny (9) *(x4)	16	15	3	2
Licensing & Regulatory (12)	6	5	1	0
Planning (16)	7	7	1	1
Democratic Services (12)	5	5	1	1
Governance & Audit (8) (excluding lay members)	4	3	1	0
Appointments (5)	2	2	1	0
Aggregate Entitlement (89)	40	37	8	4

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Council must determine the allocation to the different political groups of all the seats to be filled by appointment by the Council and exercise its power of appointment to the body concerned to give effect to such wishes about who is to be appointed to the seats on that body which are allocated to a particular group as are expressed by that group.
- 3.2 Sections 15 to 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ("the 1989 Act") and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 ("the 1990 Regulations") lay down requirements designed to ensure that there is political balance on Committees. The rules apply to all ordinary committees, advisory committees, scrutiny committees, the Democratic Services Committee, and other bodies where the Council appoints three or more seats.

- 3.3 At its AGM, the Council is required to review the political make up of its Committees, and determine the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the principles set out in Section 15 of 1989 Act, namely:
- a. not all seats on a Committee should be allocated to the same political group;
 - b. the majority group on the Council should form the majority on a Committee;
 - c. subject to (a) and (b), that the proportion of seats allocated to each political group on the total of all Committees should be the same as the proportion of Council Members who belong to that group; and
 - d. subject to (a)–(c), that the proportion of seats allocated to each political group on each Committee should be the same as the proportion of Council Members who belong to that group.
- 3.4 In certain cases the Council/committee does not have to comply with the statutory requirements. The exceptions are as follows:
- (a) alternative arrangements approved by the Council following notice of the proposed arrangement being included in the agenda for the relevant meeting of Council and without any member of the Council/committee voting against the proposal (s17 and Reg. 20).
 - (b) the committee or sub-committee is established exclusively to discharge functions or to advise in respect of part of the area of the authority and where that area of that part does not exceed one-half of the total area of the authority or the population of that part does not exceed one-half of the total population of the area. In addition, that part must consist of one or more electoral divisions and all the members of the authority who are elected for that electoral division (or those electoral divisions) (and only those members) are entitled to be members of the area committee or sub-committee.
- 3.5 In accordance with s.70 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, the appointment of Scrutiny Committee Chairs will be done in accordance with the political balance of the Local Authority (rounded to the nearest whole number).

4. REASONS

To comply with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 as amended.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None

6. CONSULTEES

Group leaders
SLT
Democratic Services

7. AUTHOR:

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Chief Officer Law & Governance
Monitoring Officer
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Appendices:

Appendix A - Methodology applied to calculate political balance
Appendix B - Appointments by Council

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APPENDIX A

Methodology applied to allocations

1. The legislative requirements in relation to political balance are set out at paragraph 3.3 of the main report.
2. Appointments by the Council

The principles are considered separately for ordinary committees, advisory committees and for other bodies to which appointments must be made. Ordinary committees are committees that make decisions on behalf of the Council. The other form of committee, the advisory committee, is one appointed to advise the Council on any matter relating to the discharge of its functions

(a) Ordinary Committees

According to the draft circular issued in 1990, a suitable sequence for applying the principles will be:

- (i) calculate the total seats with votes on all the ordinary committees;
- (ii) calculate the proportion that each political group forms of the total membership of the authority (and that membership does not include a chairman who is no longer a councillor but remains a member of the Council by virtue of section 26 of the 1972 Act); the “total membership of the authority” does, however, include vacant seats;
- (iii) apply those proportions to the total number of ordinary committee seats to give the aggregate entitlement of each group; the requirement (here as elsewhere) to apply the proportions “so far as reasonably practicable” can be met by rounding up entitlements of a half or more; if this results in a greater aggregate than the number of seats available, the fractional entitlement(s) closest to a half should be rounded in the other direction until entitlements balance the available seats;
- (iv) apply the proportions to the number of members on each ordinary committee to give a provisional entitlement to seats on that committee;
- (v) where the provisional entitlement gives only one group the seats on the committee, adjust the entitlement so that the next largest group has a seat;
- (vi) where one group has a majority of the membership of the Council, but does not have a majority on any committee as a result of the provisional entitlement, increase its share on that committee so that it does have a majority;

- (vii) finally, adjust the seats on each committee so that the total allocated to each group is as near as possible to their aggregate entitlement, while preserving the results reached at steps (v) and (vi)

This sequence of steps has been adopted in this report.

(b) Advisory Committees

The intention of the provision is to ensure that those seats to be filled by councillors are (in the absence of unanimous agreement to the contrary) shared fairly between the political groups.

It is, therefore, necessary for the Council first to decide how many of the seats on each advisory committee are to be filled by members of the Council; the statutory requirements then only apply to those seats; the allocation of those seats can conveniently be made by following steps (ii), (iv), (v) and (vi) above.

(c) Other Bodies

The intention is to ensure a fair distribution of the available seats among the political groups, as a majority group would reasonably be entitled to all the seats where the authority makes only one or two appointments, the duty to allocate seats to political groups only applies where the Council appoints to three or more seats.

The allocation can be made by following steps (ii), (iv), (v) and (vi) above.

3. Appointments by Committees

Where an ordinary committee appoints a sub-committee with executive powers, the allocation can be carried out by following steps (ii), (iv), (v) and (vi) above.

When an advisory sub-committee is appointed, the committee will first need to determine how many seats are to be filled by members of the Council (not just members of the committee). The duty to allocate to political groups then applies only to those seats. The same steps can be followed.

APPENDIX B

Appointments by Council

1. The following committees are appointed by the Council with the number of seats shown:

<i>Committee</i>	<i>Seats</i>
Planning	16
Licensing and Regulatory	12
Governance and Audit (excluding 4 lay members)	8
Place Scrutiny	9
People Scrutiny	9
Performance and Overview Scrutiny	9
Public Services Scrutiny	9
Democratic Services	12
Appointments	5
Total	89

Notes:

- (i) Member/Officer Working Groups are not Committees or Sub-Committees;
 - (ii) the Standards Committee is not subject to the political balance rules;
 - (iii) the Joint Advisory Group (Teachers/LGE) is a Cabinet advisory committee;
 - (iv) political balance rules do not apply to Area Committees;
 - (v) SAC will be allocated in accordance with the Constitution.
2. The rest of this appendix deals with the appointment of committees only.
 - (a) Total number of members for the purpose of political balance - 46

Labour	21
Conservative	19
Independent Group	4
Green Independent Group	2
 - (b) Provisional statutory entitlement multiplier (i.e. the relevant number of members divided by 46):

Labour	0.456
Conservative	0.413
Independent Group	0.086
Green Independent Group	0.043

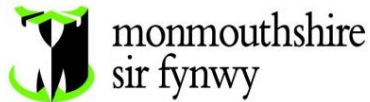
- (c) Aggregate entitlement of seats (i.e. 89 multiplied by the relevant figure in paragraph (b) above):

Labour	40.584
Conservative	36.757
Independent Group	7.654
Green Independent Group	3.827

Rounding up/down gives:

Labour	40
Conservative	37
Independent Group	8
Green Independent Group	4

Where the Council makes appointments of three seats or more to other bodies, the political balance rules apply, and appointments will be made in accordance with paragraph 3.3 of the main report, taking into account the methodology in Appendix A and applying ratios above.



SUBJECT:	APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES
MEETING:	County Council
DATE:	15 May 2025
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

1. PURPOSE:

To appoint committees together with their membership and terms of reference in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

That the following committees be appointed together with their membership as set below, and their terms of reference attached as appendices.

That Council appoints the Chair of Democratic Services Committee.

2.1 GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

That the Governance and Audit Committee be appointed, with the terms of reference attached as appendix A.

That the membership of the Committee comprises 8 members of the Council, to be appointed in accordance with political balance, plus four lay members.

That it be noted that the Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee will be appointed by the Committee.

2.2 DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

That a Democratic Services Committee be appointed, with the terms of reference attached as appendix B.

That the membership of the Committee comprises 12 members of the Council, politically balanced.

That the Chair of the Democratic Services Committee be appointed by the Council. In accordance with s14 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure the Chair of the Democratic Services Committee cannot be a Member of the Executive or the Executive Group.

2.3 REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEES

That the following Committees, together with their terms of reference, attached as appendix C, be appointed, subject to any changes to be notified by the political groups.

- (a) Planning (16 Members)
- (b) Licensing and Regulatory (12 Members)
- (c) Sub-Committees under the Licensing Act 2003
 - Three sub-committees of three members to be established to meet on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
 - The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Opposition spokesman of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee to be appointed as Chairman of each sub-committee
 - The nine remaining members be called to attend sub-committee meetings on a rota basis in discussion with the Chairman of the relevant sub-committee.
- (d) Appeals Panel (3 members)

3 members to be nominated on an ad hoc basis.
- (e) Appointment of Local Authority Governors Committee (7 Members)
- (f) Standing Advisory Council on Religion, Values and Ethics (SAC)
 - 6 members to represent the County Council.
 - Religions, denominations, and non-religious philosophical convictions: 13 members

The Church in Wales	1 member
The Roman Catholic Church	1 member
Free Churches	4 members
Bahá'í Faith	1 member
Buddhist Faith	1 member
Hindu Faith	1 member
Muslim Faith	1 member
Jewish Faith	1 member
Sikh Faith	1 member
Non-religious philosophical convictions	1 member

 - Teachers associations: 7 members
 - Co – opted - 2 members

The Chair of SAC will be the Cabinet Member for Education as agreed by Council in May 2022.

(g) The following committees will be appointed as and when required, based on the below membership arrangements, and the constitution:

- Investigation Committee (3 members)
- Disciplinary Committee (3 members)
- Remuneration Committee (6 members)

2.4 SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

That the following Scrutiny Committees be appointed, together with their terms of reference, attached as appendix D:

- People Scrutiny Committee (9 Members)
- Place Scrutiny Committee (9 Members)
- Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee (9 Members)
- Public Services Scrutiny Committee (9 Members)

That the following members be co-opted to the Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee

Voting on Education Issues only

Church in Wales
Parent Governor Representative
Parent Governor Representative
Catholic Church

Non-Voting

ASCL
NAHT
NASUWT
NEU
Free Church Federal Council
Association of School Governors

That each Scrutiny Committee shall be entitled to recommend to Council the appointment of a maximum of five people as non-voting co-optees.

2.5 STANDARDS COMMITTEE

That the Standards Committee be appointed with the terms of reference attached as appendix E.

That the membership of the Committee comprise 3 members of the authority other than the Leader, up to 5 voting independent members and one community member.

3. REASONS

To ensure the Council is compliant with its constitution.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Members to be remunerated in line with the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report for this Council year unless explicitly requested to opt-out of receiving some or all of their remuneration by individual Members.

5. CONSULTEES:

Monitoring Officer
All Group Leaders

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

None

7. SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS:

None

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Monmouthshire County Council Constitution, April 2025
Education Act 1996

9. AUTHOR:

John Pearson, Local Democracy Manager
Email: johnpearson@monmouthshire.gov.uk

APPENDIX A - TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

- (a) to review and scrutinise the authority's financial affairs,
- (b) to make reports and recommendations in relation to the authority's financial affairs,
- (c) to review and assess the risk management, internal control, *performance assessment* and corporate governance arrangements of the authority,
- (d) to make reports and recommendations to the authority on the adequacy and effectiveness of those arrangements,
- (e) to oversee the authority's internal and external audit arrangements, and
- (f) to review the financial statements prepared by the authority.
- (g) to undertake any other functions as the authority considers suitable to be exercised by the Governance and Audit Committee

Core functions

In order to meet the terms of reference above the Governance and Audit Committee will undertake the following core functions:

- Approve internal audit's strategy, plan and performance.
- Review summary internal audit reports and the main issues arising, and seek assurance that action has been taken where necessary.
- Consider the reports of external audit and inspection agencies.
- Consider the effectiveness of the authority's risk management arrangements, the control environment and associated anti-fraud and anti-corruption arrangements. Seek assurances that action is being taken on risk related issues identified by auditors and inspectors.
- Be satisfied that the authority's assurance statements, including the Statement on Internal Control and Governance Statement, properly reflect the risk environment and any actions required to improve it.
- Ensure that there are effective relationships between external and internal audit, inspection agencies and other relevant bodies, and that the value of the audit process is actively promoted.
- Review the financial statements, external auditor's opinion and reports to members, recommend the adoption of the financial statements by full Council and monitor management action in response to the issues raised by external audit.
- Maintain an overview of the Council's constitution in respect of contract procedure rules and financial regulations
- Make recommendations, as appropriate, to Cabinet and Council on any matters reported through the Governance and Audit Committee.

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APPENDIX B - TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

- (a) To exercise the function of the local authority under section 8(1)(a) (designation of head of democratic services)
- (b) To review the adequacy of provision by the authority of staff, accommodation and other resources to discharge democratic services functions, and
- (c) To make reports and recommendations to the authority in relation to such provision.
- (d) To fully support the non-executive role of councillors.
- (e) To undertake pieces of work aimed at improving the democratic function, in line with the ethos of the Local Government Measure 2011.
- (f) To draw up a job description for elected members and improve clarity, transparency and public engagement.
- (g) To review the ICT policy for members.

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APPENDIX C - TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEES

(a) PLANNING

With delegated powers:

1. Planning and conservation

Functions relating to town and country planning and development control as specified in Schedule 1 to the Local Authorities Executive Arrangements (Functions and Responsibilities) (Wales) Regulations 2007 as amended ('the Functions Regulations') save in relation to footpaths and bridleways.

2. Powers relating to the preservation of trees, the protection of important hedgerows and the power to make limestone pavement order.

(b) LICENSING AND REGULATORY

With delegated powers:

To determine traffic orders.

To act as the Licensing Committee designated for the purpose of Section 6 of the Licensing Act 2003.

To carry out all other functions and powers specified in Schedule 1 to the Functions Regulations, save in relation to the duty to approve the Authority's Statement of Accounts etc., the power to make Standing Orders, to appoint staff and to consider adverse reports from the Local Commissioner, all of which shall be reserved to Full Council.

To carry out all other Licensing functions in accordance with Part 2 of the Licensing Act 2003.

(c) SUB-COMMITTEES UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003

With delegated powers:

The discharge of all functions relating to licensable activities, as described in the Licensing Act 2003.

(d) APPEALS COMMITTEE

With delegated authority to determine appeals in accordance with the County Councils' constitution, e.g. School Transport Appeals, Discretionary Housing Payments Appeals

(e) APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS COMMITTEE

With plenary powers to act in accordance with the Code of Practice set out below:

1. LA Governors are appointed representatives of the LA on a school's governing body. They are not delegates, but can be removed at the discretion of the LA. Appointments are made on merit, irrespective of political persuasion and in the best interests of the children and school. Nominations of elected members will be viewed in exactly the same way as any other nominations.

2. They may represent the LA view, but in all cases the interests of the school are paramount and all governors shall abide by the governing body's rules and code of conduct.

3. A governor appointed by the LA must, like all governors be in a position to:

- Offer time, commitment and energy to the role.
- Become well informed about current educational thinking.
- Know about the needs of the school, its staff and pupils.
- Visit the school with purpose, sensitivity and understanding.
- Undertake training as necessary.
- Attend meetings regularly.
- Conform to agreed procedures at meetings, including the need for confidentiality concerning certain matters discussed in Governing Body meetings especially in relation to individual staff, pupils and parents.
- Undertake appropriate preparation and reading.
- Work co-operatively as a member of a team, accepting collective responsibility for decisions made.
- Share responsibilities including service on committees
- Find out as much as possible about the community served by the school.
- Understand that the position does not offer a personal or political platform.
- Offer commitment to raising education standards to enable every child and young person to reach their full potential

4. When an LA governor vacancy occurs, the school may advise the LA of its needs in terms of balance of skills, gender or other considerations for the good of the school. It shall have the right to submit names for consideration.

5. When an LA Governor vacancy occurs, the County Councillor in whose electoral area the school is situated, will be informed. (All other County Councillors will be advised by e mail of the vacancy for information.) They should consult the school's headteacher and chairman of governors as well as fellow Councillors in cases where pupils are drawn from beyond his/her electoral division. They may recommend names for consideration.

6. The LA will appoint the persons most suitable to be governors according to the criteria set out above. The appointment will be made as soon as possible after the vacancy arises, recognising the serious operational difficulties which may occur when governing bodies are incomplete.

7. The LA is able to remove governors which it has appointed by giving written notice to the clerk to the Governing Body and to the governor who is to be

removed. The governor will be given the opportunity to make written representation before removal. The LA will only remove a governor for a good reason.

8. Whilst it is anticipated that such procedures will be used infrequently, it is important for there to be a mechanism in place, if required, for the removal of local authority governors in order to ensure that difficulties, if they arise, can be dealt with in a consistent way. It is expected that these procedures would be used, for example, where there is evidence that the governor concerned has seriously or persistently breached their Governing Body's Code of Conduct, or there are significant other issues such as those detailed below. Removal of a local authority governor from office will only be used as a last resort after seeking to resolve any difficulties or disputes in a constructive way. Before the LA begins a formal process of removal, LA Officers will offer some form of conciliation, if appropriate, to seek to resolve the situation. Where there is no effective remedy, then the governor may be considered for removal from office.

9. All requests to remove a local authority governor from office would in the first instance be referred to the Chief Officer, Education who will consider the grounds for removal. The Chief Officer will then make a recommendation to the Chair of the LA Governor Appointments Committee on whether there are grounds for removal and they will take a decision. If the Chair of the Committee decides that there are no grounds for removal, they will write to the proposer and if appropriate, the governor concerned, setting out the reasons for the decision and advising, where appropriate, on a way forward to resolve any remaining difficulties. If the Chair of the LA Governor Appointments Committee decides that there may be grounds for removal, they will write to the governor concerned setting out the reasons why the matter has been referred for decision by the Committee and invite the governor to make written representation.

10. Reasons for the removal from office include, but may not be limited to, any of the following:

- Conduct that is inconsistent with the ethos or religious character and has or is likely to bring the school, the governing body or their office as a governor, or the LA into disrepute.
- Serious failure to co-operate with the LA, governors or the governing body as a whole.
- Irretrievable breakdown in relationship between the governor and the governing body and/or local authority.

11. The LA Governor Appointments Committee will meet and make a decision on the matter following receipt of the written representations from both parties. If necessary, both parties may be called to a meeting to give an account of their representation.

12. If a decision to remove is made, the Chair of the LA Governor Appointments Committee will write to the governor dismissing them from the Governing Body of the School, setting out the reasons for the decision. A copy of the letter will be copied to the clerk to the Governing

Body. If the proposal is not agreed, the Chair of the LA Governor Appointments Committee will write to the proposer and governor concerned, setting out the reasons for the decision and advising, where appropriate, on a way forward to resolve any remaining difficulties. Any governor who is removed from office may not be appointed to a governing body as a LA governor for a period of twelve months from removal. Should the governor concerned hold office on another governing body, that position would not necessarily be affected by his/her removal from the governing body the removal relates to; however, consideration would be given to this at the same time.

(f)STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGION, VALUES AND ETHICS(SAC)

1. Function

To advise the local authority, in accordance with section 391(1A)(a) of the Education Act 1996, upon matters connected with:

- (i) religious worship in community schools, and
- (ii) the provision of teaching and learning, under the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021, either in respect of the mandatory element of Religion, Values and Ethics (within the meaning of that Act) ("RVE"), or under section 60 of that Act (post-compulsory education in maintained schools: Religion, Values and Ethics), as the authority may refer to SAC or as SAC may see fit.

To provide particular advice in respect of the above matters around the methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers (section 391(2), Education Act 1996).

To carry out, in accordance with section 391(1A)(b) of the Education Act 1996, the functions conferred on SAC by section 394 of the same Act (determination of cases in which requirement for Christian collective worship is not to apply).

Where the representative groups so demand (other than the group consisting of persons appointed to represent the local authority), to require the local authority, in accordance with section 391(3) of the Education Act 1996, to review and establish the RVE agreed syllabus via an agreed syllabus conference in accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 31 to the same Act. In accordance with Welsh Government guidance, SAC should request a review of the RVE agreed syllabus at least once every 5 years.

To publish in each year a report as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by its representative groups in terms of requesting a review of the RVE agreed syllabus during the last preceding year (section 391(6)-(7), Education Act 1996). A copy of that report must be sent to the Department for Education and Skills, Welsh Government

To handle legacy advisory functions formerly the responsibility of the Monmouthshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education ("SACRE"), relating to the RE syllabus for those school years in which the RVE agreed syllabus has not yet been implemented.

To meet at least once a term (i.e. 3 meetings per academic year), but meetings can be arranged as required. The duty to convene a SAC implies a duty to fund the body satisfactorily. The local authority shall provide a clerk and sufficient funds for it to perform its functions.

2. SAC shall consist of representation from:

- Christian denominations and other religions and religious denominations, and non-religious philosophical convictions, the number of members appointed to the group to represent a religion, denomination or non-religious philosophical conviction being broadly reflective, so far as is consistent with the efficient discharge of the group's functions, of the proportionate strength of the religion, denomination or non-religious philosophical conviction in the area;
- Such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the authority, ought to be represented; and
- The local education authority.

It may also appoint co-opted members if required although these members have no voting rights.

It is for the local authority to appoint the members of the three groups.

Each group has a single vote on any matter to be decided by SAC.

It is open to the local authority to appoint the chairperson, or to allow a SAC to appoint its own chair from its members.

Composition:

Local authority - 6 places representing Monmouthshire County Council

Religions, denominations and non-religious philosophical convictions – 13 places:

Representing the Church in Wales (1)
Representing the Roman Catholic Church (1)
Representing the Free Church Council (4)
Representing the Bahai'i Faith (1)
Representing the Buddhist Faith (1)
Representing the Hindu Faith (1)
Representing the Muslim Faith (1)
Representing the Jewish Faith (1)
Representing the Sikh Faith (1)
Representing non-religious philosophical convictions (1)

Representing the Teachers Associations 7 places

Co-opted Members 2 places

The representative for non-religious philosophical convictions shall not participate or vote when SAC determines legacy SACRE matters.

Membership of WASACRE

Monmouthshire SAC is a member body of the Welsh Association of SACREs. Four SAC representatives are nominated for attendance at WASACRE but these may be substituted as required.

The RE Adviser to SAC shall act for the local authority at WASACRE meetings.

Supply cover and travel expenses will be paid to teacher representatives attending meetings.

Religious representatives and those representatives representing non-religious philosophical convictions may claim expenses from their respective organisations.

Any member who has not attended three consecutive meetings without apology will lose the right to their place.

Supply cover will be paid for teachers' attendance at meetings.

7. Membership of WASACRE

Monmouthshire SAC is a member body of the Welsh Association of SACs. Four SAC representatives are nominated for attendance at WASACRE but these may be substituted as required.

The RE Adviser to SAC shall act for the LA at WASACRE meetings.*
Supply cover and travel expenses will be paid to teacher representatives attending meetings.
Religious representatives may claim expenses from their respective organisations.

(g) INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

Appointed pursuant to the Council's Officer Employment Procedure Rules relating to the Head of Paid Service, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer

(h) DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

Appointed pursuant to the Council's Officer Employment Procedure Rules relating to the Head of Paid Service, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer

(I) REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Scope

To determine the remuneration for the Council's Senior Leadership Team which consists of the Chief Executive and 7 Chief Officers.

The purpose of the review is that there is a risk that the authority will not be able to attract qualified and competent chief officers due to uncompetitive pay arrangements.

The issue is about balancing the need for senior pay to be set in a fair, transparent way and be deemed an appropriate use of public funds, with the equal need to attract and reward leaders of sufficient calibre to drive a constant process of change and improvement.

We have a track record of creativity and innovation. We will need to build on this so that we are:

- 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

2. Background

Local Authorities are required to be transparent as to how they use public monies. They have to publish each financial year a pay policy setting out its remuneration for its chief officers.

The **Localism Act 2011 (section 38 (4))** states that a pay statement must include the authority's policies relating to:

- (a) the level and elements of remuneration for each chief officer,
- (b) remuneration of chief officers on recruitment,
- (c) increases and additions to remuneration for each chief officer,
- (d) the use of performance-related pay for chief officers,
- (e) the use of bonuses for chief officers,
- (f) the approach to the payment of chief officers on their ceasing to hold office under or to be employed by the authority, and
- (g) the publication of and access to information relating to remuneration of chief officers.

A Chief Officer is defined in **s.43(2)** of the **Localism Act 2011** as:

(aa)its chief executive appointed under—

(i)section 54 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (chief executive of council in Wales), or

(ii)regulations made under Part 5 of that Act (chief executive of a corporate joint committee).

(b)its monitoring officer designated under section 5(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989;

(c)a statutory chief officer mentioned in section 2(6) of that Act;

(d)a non-statutory chief officer mentioned in section 2(7) of that Act;

(e)a deputy chief officer mentioned in section 2(8) of that Act;

(f)its head of democratic services designated under section 8(1) of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (designation by council of a county or county borough in Wales).

s.54(3) of The Local Government and Election (Wales) Act 2021 requires the Chief Executive to keep under review such matters as:

(a)the manner in which the exercise by the council of its different functions is co-ordinated;

(b)the council's arrangements in relation to—

(i)financial planning,

(ii)asset management, and

(iii)risk management;

(c)the number and grades of staff required by the council for the exercise of its functions;

(d)the organisation of the council's staff;

(e)the appointment of the council's staff;

(f)the arrangements for the management of the council's staff (including arrangements for training and development).

3. Decision

All decisions will be made in accordance with the following principles: (a) proportionately (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome); (b) due consideration and the taking of professional advice from Officers; (c) respect for human rights; (d) a presumption in favour of openness; (e) clarity of aims and desired outcomes; (f) consideration of any alternative options; and (g) the giving and recording of reasons for the decision and the proper recording of these reasons.

The committee has to:-

- Make recommendations on senior pay and reward issues to Council

- Make recommendations on structure of senior pay and reward, and grounds for pay progression.
- To comply with the requirements set out in the Local Government (Wales) Act 2015, and any subsequent legislation, which relate to senior pay decisions. The committee and the Council must have regard to any Independent Remuneration Committee's recommendations when reaching decisions on relevant pay. Appendix 1 provides the process to refer any pay recommendations to the Independent Remuneration Committee (IRP).

The terms of reference will be subject to approval by Council.

4. General Principles

- No permanent change to pay and reward of the Senior Leadership Team can be actioned until it is ratified by Full Council
- The basic pay of the Senior Leadership Team (including the Chief Executive) will be determined using an Independent HR Consultant and advice sought from any other external experts as deemed appropriate.
- The Committee will provide a structured governance body through which recommendations affecting Chief Officers pay can be taken in the best interests of Monmouthshire County Council and its stakeholders. It enables remuneration issues to be reviewed and considered with an impartial and balanced mind-set.

5. Role

The Remuneration Committee will make recommendations to Council on the permanent pay and reward of Senior Managers. It will:-

- Contribute to the Council's positive reputation with regard to having appropriate and effective corporate governance arrangements for senior pay by operating an independent, transparent and informed approach to managing senior pay through the Remuneration Committee.
- Develop broad policy decision for senior pay, having regard to the Council's Pay Policy 2024
- Propose levels of remuneration considered to be sufficient to attract, retain and motivate senior managers of the quality required to run the organisation successfully.
- Consider the affordability of its proposals
- Be sensitive to the context of senior pay, including pay and employment conditions elsewhere in the organisation
- Ensure the relationship between reward and senior management tiers and for employees below this level remain reasonable
- Ensure individuals are fairly and responsibly rewarded for their individual contribution
- Understand what other relevant organisations are paying for similar roles as well as their general approach to reward, and consider whether Monmouthshire County Council should position itself in relation to 'the market' – for example, whether the Council's approach may be to pay at around the lower quartile, median or upper quartile of the market etc.
- Ensure that proper and professional advice is obtained to assist in its deliberations

The committee's recommendations will be based on data, advice, evidence and views collected from a number of possible sources – for example:

- External pay data, advice and facilitation (e.g. from external consultants or other sources)
- The Council's Chief Executive, key documents and reports

The Council's policies such as People Strategy

- Performance data where relevant

The committee would not normally expect to present all of the background data and advice it had received

6. Membership & Support

The committee will comprise of 6 Members to give a balanced political background. One member of the committee will act as Chair. The Chair will be appointed at the first meeting.

The membership should include the Lead Member for Resources and one member from Cabinet.

The Lead HR Business Partner will provide a 'secretariat' function to the Committee because she is not part of SLT or a Head of Service. She will be responsible for arranging meetings, coordinating and preparing documentation and arranging support, training, advice and information for the Committee.

The Committee may commission external independent expertise to train and support them in fulfilling their role and/or to provide external data or advice (including relevant market and regional data). The Lead HR Business Partner will provide details of external experts considered suitable for the purposes in terms of experience, cost and best value for the Committee to select from.

7. Confidentiality

Members will be expected to maintain confidentiality whilst discussions are taking place and until the decisions have been published.

8. Conflicts of Interest

Should any committee member feel there is a conflict of interest with regards to any agenda item or discussion in the committee:-

- They should declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest in the matter
- It is prejudicial then they should leave the meeting during any discussion on the matter

APPENDIX D – SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference	
Number of Committees:	4
Frequency of Meetings: (Additional meetings called as appropriate)	People Scrutiny Committee ~ 6 annually Place Scrutiny Committee ~ 6 annually Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee ~ 6 annually Public Services Scrutiny Committee ~ 6 annually
Committees and Terms of Reference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two thematic Scrutiny Committees, 'People' and 'Place', engage the public in the design of policy and services, reflecting the public voice to the Cabinet in advance of decisions being taken. These committees are vehicles through which the public can voice their opinion on major decisions, assisting the committees in drawing conclusions and making recommendations to the Cabinet. Members may engage with their communities by holding informal face-to-face meetings in the community or conducting surveys in their local area. The public is also able to submit audio, video and written submissions to these Scrutiny Committees and attend their meetings. The 'Performance and Overview' Scrutiny Committee provides constructive challenge to the Cabinet, holding them to account for the performance of service delivery and risk management. It also conducts robust financial monitoring and scrutinises the Council's performance in delivering the corporate objectives outline in its Corporate Plan. The 'Public Services' Scrutiny Committee scrutinises the effectiveness of strategic partnerships (including the Public Service Board) and other public service providers to ensure that services delivered in partnership with other bodies are accountable and deliver improved outcomes for residents. Topics suggested for scrutiny are assessed against the 'scrutiny topic criteria' to determine the committee best placed to undertake the scrutiny. The Scrutiny Committees are role-based, so policy or service changes are scrutinised by the two thematic policy development committees, and performance reports or reports on risks or financial matters are scrutinised by the Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee. Work programmes are planned and agreed by the Scrutiny Committees. 	

APPENDIX D – SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

People Scrutiny Committee	Place Scrutiny Committee	Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee	Public Services Scrutiny Committee
<p>To scrutinise policy and services delivered to adults, children and young people that promotes their health, education and well-being and can include scrutiny of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education (schools and adult learning), Additional Learning Needs, Pupil Support Services, Learning Disability Services. • Safeguarding vulnerable adults and children, children in care. • Family Support Services, support for carers and young carers, respite provision. • Social care and health; including domiciliary, residential, nursing home and community care, occupational therapy, reablement, assistive technology, Disability Services, Community Meals 	<p>To scrutinise policy and services delivered to residents that promotes community safety and well-being and supports sustainable, resilient communities.</p> <p>To ensure that policy and services are responsive to the needs of businesses and visitors and promote economic activity.</p> <p>This can include scrutiny of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing (Jointly with People Scrutiny Committee). • Public Health, Environmental Health and Trading Standards. • Community Safety • Highways, Transport and Traffic Management. • Street Lighting. • Grounds Maintenance. • Countryside management. 	<p>To scrutinise the ongoing performance of all Council services and ensuring that the Cabinet is held to account.</p> <p>To scrutinise the Council's delivery against its corporate objectives, corporate risks and to conduct budget monitoring for all services.</p> <p>Scrutiny also includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Planning Function: Building Control, Development Control. • Asset Management. • Corporate Procurement. • School Performance, Scrutiny of the Educational Achievement Service (EAS) • Management of Individual Schools Budgets, Schools Delegated Budgets, the Authority's Schools 	<p>To constructively challenge (where powers allow) the work and effectiveness of strategic partnerships (including the Public Service Board) and other public service providers to ensure public accountability of collaborative services, value for money and improved outcomes for people in Monmouthshire.</p> <p>To influence the decisions, policy and practice of public service providers by gathering evidence to make recommendations on effective multi-agency action to improve public service delivery.</p> <p>This can include scrutiny of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key services provided in partnership to local communities, such as those

APPENDIX D – SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

<p>Service and Sensory Impairment Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Services. • Homelessness prevention and housing. • Poverty prevention and Social Justice. • Youth Services. • Youth Justice and youth offending service. • Leisure services (in terms of health outcomes). • Welfare Rights. • Community Legal Service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change and Sustainability • Waste and Recycling. • Tourism and Destination Management • Public realm – Culture, libraries, museums, and theatre. • Economic growth, Place shaping and enterprise. • Local Development Planning, Economic Development Planning • Digital Infrastructure • Job creation and vocational skills. • Estates Management 	<p>Individually Managed Budgets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Executive's Function. • Revenues, Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates and Finance. • Corporate Costs and Levies. • Facilities and Accommodation Management. 	<p>delivered by the Regional Partnership Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's interface with the Voluntary Sector. • Any collaborative initiatives, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shared Resource Service (SRS) - Integrated Adults Services with Health Partners. - Domestic Violence Service, Drug and Alcohol Services. - Public health and well-being. • Crime and Disorder Scrutiny in line with the Police and Justice Act (2006) and Welsh Government Guidance published in 2010.
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The Scrutiny Chairs Group

The Scrutiny Chairs Group comprises the four Scrutiny Chairs and the Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee and meets every 9 weeks to discuss forward Work Programmes to ensure a coordinated approach. The group will also consider periodically: Scrutiny Member Development, Scrutiny Self-evaluation, Public Engagement, Corporate Assessments, Corporate Planning, Risk Management, and other relevant scrutiny matters as appropriate.

APPENDIX D – SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Terms of Reference:

- To ensure clear purpose and role for topics being tabled to Scrutiny Committees;
- To co-ordinate scrutiny and audit workstreams to avoid duplication, whilst recognising scrutiny has a clear and distinct role in the accountability for performance and scrutiny of budgets from that of the Governance and Audit Committee.

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APPENDIX E – STANDARDS COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

EXTRACT FROM THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

11 THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

11.1 Composition

11.1.1 Membership.

The Standards Committee will be composed of 9 members. Its membership will include:

- (a) up to 5 independent members, who are not either a councillor or an officer or the spouse of a councillor or an officer of this council or any other relevant authority as defined by the Act, appointed in accordance with the procedure set out in the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 (as amended);
- (b) 3 county councillors other than the Leader and not more than one member of the executive;
- (c) one member of a town or community council wholly or mainly in the Council's area (a 'community committee member').

11.1.2 Term of office:

- (a) independent members are appointed for a period of not less than 4 nor more than 6 years and may be reappointed for one further consecutive term not exceeding 4 years;
- (b) members of the local authority who are members of the Standards Committee will have a term of office of no more than 5 years or the period until the next ordinary local government election following their appointment, whichever is the shorter. They may be reappointed for one further term;
- (c) a community committee member will have a term of office of no more than 5 years or the period until the next ordinary local government election following their appointment, whichever is the shorter. They may be reappointed for one further term.

11.1.3 Quorum.

A meeting of the standards committee shall only be quorate when:

- (a) at least 3 members, including the Chairman, are present, and
- (b) at least half the members present (including the Chairman) are independent members.

11.1.4 Voting.

Independent members and community committee members will be entitled to vote at meetings.

11.1.5 Community committee members.

A community committee member shall not take part in the proceedings of the standards committee when any matter relating to their town or community council is being considered.

11.1.6 Chairing the Committee:

- (a) only an independent member of the standards committee may be the Chairman;

- (b) the Chairman will be elected by the members of the standards committee for a period not exceeding one year. The Chairman is eligible for re-election;
- (c) the election of a Chairman will be the first item of business for the standards committee at the commencement of each municipal year.

11.2 Role and Function

11.2.1 The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions:

- (a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives;
- (b) assisting the councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (c) advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (d) monitoring and from time to time reviewing the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct and protocols which apply to members of the Council, employees, contractors and other parties or organisations associated with Council activity;
- (e) advising, training or arranging to train councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (f) granting dispensations to councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (g) dealing with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal, and any report from the Monitoring Officer on any matter referred to that officer by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales;
- (h) mentoring and supporting the Council's Monitoring Officer in the discharge of their role;
- (i) receiving and investigating (where statute permits) reports and complaints relating to the Members' Code of Conduct and protocols approved by the Council from time to time;
- (j) the exercise of (a) to (i) above in relation to the town and community councils wholly or mainly in its area and the members of those town and community councils.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

SUBJECT:	APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES
MEETING:	County Council
DATE:	15 May 2025
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To appoint representatives to serve on outside bodies.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Council notes the appointments made at its 2022 AGM for the term of Council and confirms or amends the appointments that require annual renewal as well as confirming appointments to new positions.

3. REASONS:

- 3.1 The Council is required to appoint members to sit on outside bodies and represent the interests of the Council with various stakeholders and partners.
- 3.2 A schedule of appointments to outside bodies is attached. With some exceptions, appointments are normally made for the term of the Council. Some appointments are restricted to the responsible cabinet member as per the terms and conditions of the outside body's standing orders.
- 3.3 New appointments for this year are included in the report with regard to the establishment of the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 4.1 In most cases members will be able to claim travel allowances from the County Council. In some cases these expenses are payable by the appropriate outside body.

5. CONSULTATION:

Monitoring Officer
Group Leaders

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

List of Appointments to Outside Bodies

7. **AUTHOR:** John Pearson – Local Democracy Manager
johnpearson@monmouthshire.gov.uk

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MCC Representation on Outside Bodies (May 2025)

No.	Body / Organisation	Term of Office	Source of Expenses	No. of Reps	Councillor Appointed	Date Apointed
A	Category A - Regional/National					
1	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Term of Council	National Park	1	Simon Howarth	19/05/2022
2	Oldbury Power Station Stakeholder Group	Term of Council	Council	1	John Crook	19/05/2022
3	Gwent Police and Crime Panel	Term of Council	Police & Crime Commissioner	2	Tony Easson / Tony Kear	19/05/2022
4	Joint Council for Wales	1 year	Council	2 (plus 1 sub)	Phil Murphy / Ben Callard	19/05/2022
5	Gwent Internal Drainage District Engagement Group	Term of Council	Drainage Board	9	Tony Easson / John Crook / Jan Butler / Emma Bryn / Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Environment	04/01/2024
6	Cardiff Capital Region Joint Cabinet Committee	1 year		2	Leader / Deputy Leader	19/05/2022
7	Regional Transport Authority	1 year		1	Catrin Maby	19/05/2022
8	Local Governemnt Association	1 year	LGA	2	Leader / Deputy	19/05/2022
9	Local Government Association - Rural Commission	1 year	LGA	2	Steven Garratt / Sue Riley	19/05/2022
10	Wye Valley AONB Joint Committee	Term of Council	Council	4	Dale Rooke / Steven Garratt / Ann Webb / Emma Bryn	19/05/2022
11	Welsh Local Government Association	Term of Council	WLGA	2	Leader / Deputy Leader	19/05/2022
12	WLGA Executive Board	Term of Council	Council	1	Leader	19/05/2022
13	Welsh Centre for International Affairs	Term of Council	Council	1	Laura Wright	19/05/2022
14	Institute of Welsh Affairs	Term of Council	Council	1	Laura Wright	19/05/2022
15	Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Wales	Term of Council		1	Lisa Dymock	19/05/2022
16	South Easy Wales Strategic Planning Group	Term of Council	Council	2	Sara Burch / Chair of Planning	19/05/2022
17	Welsh Books Council	Term of Council	Council	1	Emma Bryn	19/05/2022
18	Scrutiny Champions Wales Network	Term of Council	Council	1	Tony Easson	19/05/2022
19	Living Levels Partnership Board	Term of Council	Council	2	Catrin Maby / Frances Taylor	19/05/2022

No.	Body / Organisation	Term of Office	Source of Expenses	No. of Reps	Councillor Appointed	Date Apointed
B	Category B - Joint Committees (Appointments made by Cabinet)					
1	Gwent Archives Joint Committee	Term of Council	Council	2	Peter Strong / Fay Bromfield	19/05/2022
2	Gwent Joint Cremation Committee	Term of Council	Council	2	Angela Sandles / Malcolm Lane (must be at least 1 CM)	19/05/2022
3	National Joint Committee for the National Adoption Service and Foster Wales	Term of Council	Council	1	Cabinet Member for Social Care	01/05/2024
4	Prosiect Gwyrdd Joint Committee	Term of Council	Council	2	Catrin Maby / Rachel Garrick	19/05/2022

No.	Body / Organisation	Term of Office	Source of Expenses	No. of Reps	Councillor Appointed	Date Apointed
C	Category C - Joint Committees and Local Authority Companies (appointments made by Council)					
1	Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council	Term of Council	Council	3	Jill Bond / Jan Butler	19/05/2022
2	Aneurin Bevan Local Health Board - Stakeholder Reference Group	Term of Council	Council	1	Maria Stevens	19/05/2022
3	Education Achievement Service	Term of Council	Council	2	Martyn Groucutt (CM for Education) / Paul Griffiths	19/05/2022
4	EAS Audit & Risk Assessment Committee	Term of Council	Council	2	Chair and Vice Chair of P&O Scrutiny	19/05/2022
5	SRS Public	Term of Council	Council	1	Cabinet Member for Resources)	19/05/2022
6	YPrentis	Term of Council	Council	1 Member and 1 Officer	Paul Griffiths	12/12/2024
7	CS Foundry Board	Term of Council	Council	1	Paul Griffiths	19/05/2022

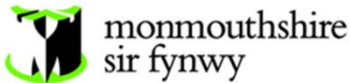
No.	Body / Organisation	Term of Office	Source of Expenses	No. of Reps	Councillor Appointed	Date Apointed
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No.	Body / Organisation	Term of Office	Source of Expenses	No. of Reps	Councillor Appointed	Date Apointed
D	Category D - Voluntary Organisations					
1	Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Working Group	Term of Council	Council	1	Dale Rooke	19/05/2022
2	Wales Council for the Blind	Term of Council	Council	2	Sue Riley / Jan Butler	19/05/2022

No.	Body / Organisation	Term of Office	Source of Expenses	No. of Reps	Councillor Appointed	Date Apointed
E	Category E - Local Interest					
1	Monmouthshire County Citizens Advice Bureau	Term of Council	Council	2	Jackie Strong / Phil Murphy	19/05/2022
2	The Palmer Centre	Term of Council	Council	3	Armand Watts / Sue Riley / Paul Pavia	19/05/2022
3	Raglan Community Centre Committee	Term of Council	Council	1	Penny Jones	19/05/2022
4	Monmouth School and Haberdashers' Monmouth School for Girls	Term of Council	Council	1	Steven Garratt	19/05/2022
5	Abergavenny Educational Foundation of King Henry VIII-Governors	Term of Council	Council	5	Martyn Groucutt / Ben Callard / Laura Wright / Malcolm Lane / Jan Butler	19/05/2022
6	Wye Navigation Advisory Committee	Term of Council	Council	1	John Crook	19/05/2022
7	Pratts Charity, Mathern	4 years from appointment	Council	2	Lousie Brown / Phil Murphy	19/05/2022
8	Monmouthshire Local Access Forum	Term of Council	Council	1	Tony Easson	01/05/2025

No.	Body / Organisation	Term of Office	Source of Expenses	No. of Reps	Councillor Appointed	Date Apointed
F	Category F - Other					
1	Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations	Term of Council	Council	1	Jackie Strong	19/05/2022
2	Armed Forces Champion	Term of Council	Council	1	Peter Strong	19/05/2022
3	LGBTQ+ Champion	Term of Council	Council	1	Ian Chandler	19/01/2023

	South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee	Term of Office	Source of Expenses	No. of Reps	Councillor Appointed	Date Apointed
1	CJC Governance and Audit Sub-Committee			1	Non-Executive - John Crook	16/05/2024
2	CJC Regional Transport Sub-Committee			1	Cabinet Member for Transport - Catrin Maby	16/05/2024
3	CJC Strategic Development Sub-Committee			1	Cabinet Member for Planning - Paul Griffiths	16/05/2024
	CJC Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Term of Council		2	Armand Watts (Primary Member) & Jan Butler (Deputy Member)	16/05/2024



SCHEDULE 12A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE OF DOCUMENTS

MEETING AND DATE OF MEETING: County Council, 15th May 2025

TITLE OF REPORT: APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE
MONMOUTHSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY
COUNCIL (SAC) FOR RELIGION, VALUES
AND ETHIC

AUTHOR: Sharon Randall-Smith

I have considered grounds for exemption of information contained in the report referred to above and make the following recommendation to the Proper Officer:-

EXEMPTIONS APPLYING TO THE REPORT:

Local Government Act 1972, Sch 1A, Part 4 paras 12 and 21

FACTORS IN FAVOUR OF DISCLOSURE:

None

PREJUDICE WHICH WOULD RESULT IF THE INFORMATION WERE DISCLOSED:

The disclosure would allow the identification of individuals and their faith.

MY VIEW ON THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST IS AS FOLLOWS:

The report contains information relating to a particular individual and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Specifically, the report contains names of nominees to be appointed to vacant posts on SAC.

RECOMMENDED DECISION ON EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE:

The items should be exempted from disclosure.

Date: 8th May 2025



Signed:

Post: Chief Officer, Children and Young People

I accept/do not accept the recommendation made above

Proper Officer: _____

Date: _____

By virtue of paragraph(s) 12 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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