

26th November 2025**Notice of meeting****County Council**

**Thursday, 4th December, 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. | Declarations of Interest | |
| 3. | Chair's Announcement | 1 - 2 |
| 4. | To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd October 2025 | 3 - 10 |
| 5. | Reports to Council: | |
| 5.1. | Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2024/25 | 11 - 28 |
| 5.2. | Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB) Annual Report 2024/25 | 29 - 78 |
| 5.3. | Appointment of the Chief Executive as an Executive Director of CCR Energy Ltd | 79 - 140 |
| 5.4. | Annual Safeguarding Evaluation Report 2024/25 (Self-Assessment) | 141 - 180 |
| 5.5. | Annual Director's Report 2024 / 2025, Social Care Safeguarding and Health | 181 - 258 |
| 6. | Motions to Council: | |

6.1. Submitted by County Councillor Paul Pavia

Council Tax relief for residents living with a terminal illness

This Council notes:

- Marie Curie's UK-wide campaign to ensure residents living with a terminal illness receive appropriate Council Tax relief.
- That approaches differ across the UK: in England, the ask is for councils to adopt local discretionary schemes, and several authorities have already implemented such arrangements. In Wales, the ask is for Welsh Government to amend the national Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) regulations so that terminal illness is explicitly included, creating a consistent statutory route across all Welsh councils.

This Council resolves:

- 1) To support, in principle, the aims of the Marie Curie campaign.
- 2) To ask the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Finance to write to Welsh Government, urging inclusion of terminal illness within CTRS regulations and to work with WLGA to advocate for a consistent Wales-wide framework, ensuring that any regulatory change will be fully funded centrally and the costs passed down to local authorities via the Revenue Support Grant.

6.2. Submitted by County Councillor Martin Newell

This Council:

- Shares the shock felt by residents in communities across Monmouthshire devastated by Storm Claudia, in Monmouth, Skenfrith, Abergavenny and other areas in the north of the county.
- Pays tribute to the emergency services, MCC officers and staff, partner organisations and volunteers who helped ensure there was no loss of life.
- Welcomes the financial relief announced so far, including household grants, non-domestic rate relief and council tax reductions.
- Calls on the Cabinet Member to:
 - Urgently review the major incidences of flooding to determine lessons that can be learned that may assist prevention, or response and recovery in any future flood event.
 - Explain why sandbags weren't provided to homes and businesses in areas expecting high rainfall.
 - Provide an update on regular drain maintenance to prevent flooding.
 - Set out a plan to invest in more resilient flood prevention measures.
 - Confirm that the Wonastow pumping station was in fully operational and when it was last inspected.
 - Return to Full Council with a report with precise details and review on the above points.

6.3. Submitted by County Councillor Tomos Davies

This Council:

- Notes the Chancellor's Budget Statement of 26th November.

- Recognises the UK Government faced difficult and unpalatable choices.
- Calls upon this authority, where possible, to protect and support those families and businesses which may be adversely impacted by the Budget statement.
- Urges the Leader and the wider administration to press Welsh Government colleagues to deliver a fair funding settlement for Monmouthshire County Council.

7. Member Questions

7.1. County Councillor Tony Kear to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

On 23rd November, the Grade Two listed Usk Bridge was hit and damaged for a third time since it was repaired yet again in the summer. Can the Cabinet member advise what proactive steps are in motion to bring a solution to this longstanding and increasingly occurring issue to this historic structure?

7.2. County Councillor Tony Kear to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

On 24th November, a pupil, on his journey to school in Little Mill was struck by a car near one of the school transport pick-up points. Parents have raised with me serious concerns that the bus stops are in appropriately situated particularly give the continue issues of speeding on Berthon Road through to Alexander Terrace. Can the cabinet member undertake a review of the school transport pick up points on safety grounds and advise what further measures can be undertaken by Highways to tackle speeding in Little Mill?

7.3. County Councillor Tony Kear to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

The recent storm Claudia caused flooding in Little Mill affecting residents in Cae Melin and Berthon Road as well as the Little Jockey pub which was due to reopen on 1st December with new Landlords after being closed for over 12 months. The brook and culvert along Ty-Draw lane as well as blocked drains appear to have contributed to the issues. Given this is a repeat of the same matters 12 months ago, what review measures will now be taken to proactively clear and alleviate these hot spots?

7.4. County Councillor Richard John to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

Why have the council and Welsh Government failed to deliver the 'quick wins' cited in the A40 Raglan crossings road safety audit within 12 months of publication back in June 2024?

7.5. County Councillor Richard John to County Councillor Paul Griffiths, Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development, Deputy Leader

What is the view of the administration on the series of planning applications by Natural Resources Wales to set up fast food vans at car parks in the Wye Valley?

| | |
|------|---|
| 7.6. | <p>County Councillor Louise Brown to County Councillor Laura Wright, Cabinet Member for Education</p> <p>Please can the Cabinet Member provide details of the following costs to the Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The WSP reports on home to school walking route assessments (how many reports written, which routes and at what cost?) 2. The cost of the footpath improvements in the Haysgate area of the A48 Pwllmeyric? 3. The cost to the Council of the land surveyors on the A48 Pwllmeyric? 4. The cost of a feasibility study for a potential pedestrian crossing and the loops analysis? 5. The cost of the traffic measures monitoring and for how long? 6. The cost of a potential pedestrian crossing on the A48 Pwllmeyric (including the cost of full engagement and consultation on any potential proposals)? |
| 7.7. | <p>County Councillor Rachel Buckler to County Councillor Ben Callard, Cabinet Member for Resources</p> |
| | <p>Will Cllr Ben Callard, Cabinet Member for Resources and Cllr Laura Wright, Councillor for Grofield Ward, explain why no parking impact assessment or mitigation plan was prepared before granting the 30-year lease on the Abergavenny Carnegie Library, despite concerns, and what steps Monmouthshire County Council will now take to ensure residents are not financially penalised through the introduction of an £83 residents' permit scheme?</p> |
| 7.8. | <p>County Councillor Alistair Neill to County Councillor Laura Wright, Cabinet Member for Education</p> |
| | <p>The overall school reserves deficit is now forecast to increase by a further £3 million, to over £7 million by the end of 2025/26. This is an extremely serious, unprecedented situation. Each school with a deficit is required to deliver a recovery plan. Would the cabinet member please outline the expected real impact on schools of these recovery plans requiring them to take £7 million out of their current expenditure?</p> |
| 7.9. | <p>County Councillor Alistair Neill to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment</p> |
| | <p>With investigatory works on the B4598 Chainbridge scheduled for w/c 8th December, and the full engineering work to repair the bridge expected next year closing the bridge for 12-18 months, businesses and residents are very concerned about the impact of this prolonged closure of a critical north-route through the county. It is clear there will be major impact on the businesses/ farms for many miles at both ends of the bridge, involving significant reductions in trade/ customers and problems for staff reaching work, transport of goods and suppliers reaching businesses affected. These business interruption/ reduction impacts are extremely serious – the very least that needs to be done is for MCC to understand and mitigate them by working closely with all the businesses likely to be affected. Is MCC conducting an impact assessment on those businesses before full works begin, and as those full works are drawing so close, would the cabinet member please now share the project plan for these works that will have such serious impact for a prolonged period?</p> |

| | | |
|---------------------|--|--|
| <p>7.10.</p> | <p>County Councillor Tomos Davies to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment</p> <p>To ask the Cabinet Member to review the effectiveness of speed calming measures through the villages of Llanellen and Govilon.</p> | |
| <p>7.11.</p> | <p>County Councillor Tomos Davies to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment</p> <p>To ask the Cabinet Member and the administration to prioritise urgent repair and clean-up work to the Tyla Road, Govilon.</p> | |
| <p>8.</p> | <p>Date of next meeting - 22nd January 2026</p> | |

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

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

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.

