

Wednesday, 14 January 2026

Notice of meeting

County Council

**Thursday, 22nd January, 2026 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 4th December 2025	3 - 12
5.	Reports to Council:	
5.1.	DIARY OF MEETINGS FOR 2026/27	13 - 28
5.2.	COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2026/27	29 - 34
6.	Motions to Council:	
6.1.	Submitted by County Councillor Paul Pavia	
	Motion: Chepstow Infrastructure Debate	
	Council notes that:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic congestion in and around Chepstow continues to have a significant impact on residents, businesses and the strategic road network. In March 2022, Monmouthshire County Council and Gloucestershire County Council agreed to jointly fund and progress the Chepstow Bypass through the next phase of Transport Appraisal Guidance 	

(TAG/WeITAG).

- Progress towards developing a full business case for a relief road has since stalled.
- The prolonged delay in completing the Highbeech roundabout WeITAG work or progressing the Burn's Commission recommendations, demonstrates the lack of momentum in addressing wider infrastructure matters.
- In early 2024, Gloucestershire County Council indicated a willingness to commit £500,000 towards further scheme development but no matching funding has been identified by Monmouthshire County Council.
- Although the majority of any relief road would be located in England and led by the UK Government, Monmouthshire County Council and the Welsh Government have important roles in cross-border partnership working and scheme development.
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Council resolves to:

1. Reaffirm that addressing the traffic congestion in and around Chepstow remains a strategic transport priority for Monmouthshire County Council.
2. Request that the Cabinet bring a report to Full Council setting out:
 - the current status of previous commitments made by the Council in relation to a bypass/relief road for Chepstow
 - available options for funding and progressing the next phase of Transport Appraisal Guidance (TAG/WeITAG) for a bypass/relief road for Chepstow
 - a clear timetable for engagement and decision-making with Gloucestershire County Council, Welsh Government and UK Government partners, including elected parliamentary members.
3. Confirm that Full Council should have the opportunity to debate and make recommendations to Cabinet on the Council's future role in progressing infrastructure projects, rather than the matter being deferred or allowed to stall further.

6.2. Submitted by County Councillor Richard John

This Council:

Believes the Cabinet's draft budget for 2026-27 fails to equip the Council to meet the expectations of Monmouthshire taxpayers and calls on the Cabinet to revise the budget and explain how the £1million budget shortfall will be bridged.

7. Member Questions:

7.1. From County Councillor Emma Bryn to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

Could you please provide an update on the progress of plans for the repair and refurbishment of Staunton Road in Wyesham, including updated details of the recent investigations undertaken. I would like clarification on:

1. The findings from recent surveys or assessments of the road condition.
2. The proposed timeline and scheme of works for both sections:
 - Wye Bridge to the Mayhill Public House; and
 - Mayhill to the Kymin turning.
3. A long-term maintenance plan for Staunton Road to prevent recurring deterioration and reliance on short-term fixes with an estimated

	costs for the proposed works.	
7.2.	<p>From County Councillor Emma Bryn to County Councillor Angela Sandles, Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement</p> <p>Could you please provide an update on progress toward ensuring that public facilities across Monmouthshire are stoma-friendly, as previously agreed at Council. What steps have been taken to implement stoma-friendly provisions and has bilingual signage now been obtained?</p>	
7.3.	<p>From County Councillor Richard John to County Councillor Laura Wright, Cabinet Member for Education</p> <p>What steps is the council taking to improve the quality of school meals?</p>	
7.4.	<p>From County Councillor Louise Brown to County Councillor Mary Ann Brocklesby, Leader</p> <p>How much does Monmouthshire County Council contribute each year to the Cardiff Capital Region in relation to all its business and projects and what projects/benefits/employment has been provided to Monmouthshire Residents?</p>	
7.5.	<p>From County Councillor Paul Pavia to County Councillor Paul Griffiths, Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development Deputy Leader</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member provide an update on what the Council is doing to enforce parking restrictions on High Street in Chepstow?</p>	
7.6.	<p>From County Councillor Richard John to County Councillor Paul Griffiths, Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development Deputy Leader</p> <p>When will work commence on the next reviews of county car parks?</p>	
7.7.	<p>From County Councillor Tony Kear to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment</p> <p>What new measures or operational processes have been implemented since May 2022 to tackle potholes in Monmouthshire, and how is their effectiveness being assessed</p>	
7.8.	<p>From County Councillor Simon Howarth to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment</p> <p>Could the cabinet member please give the council an update ref to the situation revolving around the position with repairs forward planning on the viaduct as a main artery for the community and businesses also a main link to western side to Wales and the wider area could we have a full brief as to works been carried out.</p>	
8.	Date of next meeting - 5th March 2026	

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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 &	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jackie Strong	Larkfield;	
County Councillor Rachel Garrick	Caldicot Cross;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Maria Stevens	Caldicot Castle;	Labour and Co-Operative Party
County Councillor Steven Garratt	Severn;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Angela Sandles	Overmonnow;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Ben Callard	Magor East with Undy;	Labour and Co-Operative Party
County Councillor John Crook	Llanfoist & Govilon;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Tomos Dafydd Davies	Magor East with Undy;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Dale Rooke	Llanfoist & Govilon;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Sue Riley	Chepstow Castle &	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jayne McKenna	Larkfield;	
County Councillor Jill Bond	Bulwark and Thornwell;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Louise Brown	Mitchel Troy and Trellech	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Lisa Dymock	United;	
County Councillor Tony Easson	West End;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Christopher Edwards	Shirenewton;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Martyn Groucutt	Portskewett;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Simon Howarth	Dewstow;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Richard John	St. Kingsmark;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor David Jones	Lansdown;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Penny Jones	Llanelly Hill;	Independent Group
County Councillor Malcolm Lane	Mitchel Troy and Trellech	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Phil Murphy	United;	
County Councillor Martin Newell	Crucorney;	Independent Group
County Councillor Paul Pavia	Raglan;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Maureen Powell	Mardy;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Frances Taylor	Caerwent;	Welsh Conservative Party
	Town;	Welsh Conservative Party
	Mount Pleasant;	Welsh Conservative Party
	Pen Y Fal;	Welsh Conservative Party
	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

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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.

