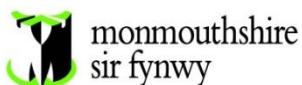


Public Document Pack



County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

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.
-

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

	<p>costs for the proposed works.</p>
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.	<p>Date of next meeting - 5th March 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	& 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 Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Lisa Dymock	United;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Tony Easson	West End;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Christopher Edwards	Shirenewton;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Martyn Groucott	Portskegwith;	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;	Independent Group
County Councillor Martin Newell	Crucorney;	Welsh Conservative Party
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 workings day 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.

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Agenda Item 3

Report for Council 2nd December – 9th January 2026

Tuesday 2 nd December 11 a.m.	Citizenship Ceremony Registrar's Office, Usk
Tuesday 2 nd December 2 p.m.	School Christmas Performance Undy Primary School, Undy
Wednesday 3 rd December 12 p.m.	Long Service Recognition Chair's Office, Usk
Thursday 4 th December 11 a.m.	MCC Carol Service County Hall, Usk
Friday 5 th December 2 p.m.	BEM Presentation County Hall, Usk
Monday 8 th December 6 p.m.	Caldicot Christmas Concert Caldicot Leisure Centre, Caldicot
Tuesday 9 th December 6 p.m.	Christmas Concert Usk Primary School, Usk
Wednesday 10 th December 1.30 p.m.	School Christmas Nativity Kymin View Primary School, Monmouth
Thursday 11 th December 1.30 p.m.	School Christmas Nativity Llandogo Primary School, Monmouth
Tuesday 16 th December 2 p.m.	Christmas Concert Castle Park Primary School, Caldicot
Wednesday 17 th December 11 a.m.	Long Service Recognition Chair's Office, Usk
Wednesday 24 th December 4 p.m.	Christmas Carol Service St Michaels Church, Tintern
Tuesday 6 th January 11 a.m.	Citizenship Ceremony Registrar's Office, Usk
Friday 9 th January 11 a.m.	BEM Presentation County Hall, Usk

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MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held on Thursday, 4th December, 2025 at 2.00 pm

PRESENT: County Councillor Peter Strong (Chair)
County Councillor Martyn Groucott (Vice Chair)

County Councillors: Rachel Buckler, Laura Wright, Tony Kear, Catrin Maby, Jan Butler, Ian Chandler, Sara Burch, Alistair Neill, Su McConnel, 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, Simon Howarth, Richard John, David Jones, Penny Jones, Malcolm Lane, Phil Murphy, M. Newell, Paul Pavia, Maureen Powell, Tudor Thomas, Armand Watts and Ann Webb

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Paul Matthews	Chief Executive
Peter Davies	Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer for Resources
Jane Rodgers	Chief Officer for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health
Will McLean	Chief Officer for Children and Young People
Nicola Perry	Senior Democracy Officer
Matthew Gatehouse	Chief Officer People, Performance and Partnerships.
James Williams	Chief Officer Law & Governance
Deb Hill-Howells	Chief Officer Infrastructure

APOLOGIES:

County Councillors Frances Taylor

1. Declarations of Interest

County Councillors John Crook, Armand Watts, Mary Ann Brocklesby, Jan Butler declared personal, non-prejudicial interests in relation to item 5 of the agenda.

County Councillor Sue Riley declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in relation to item 6a of the agenda.

2. Chair's Announcement

[Click here to view the meeting](#)

The Chair referred to the tragic news of the fatal dog attack in Rogiet and paid tribute to the emergency services.

The Chair opened the meeting by inviting group leaders to speak on the impact the recent floods.

Council noted the Chair's announcement.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held on Thursday, 4th December, 2025 at 2.00 pm

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd October 2025

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd October 2025 were approved as an accurate record.

4. Reports to Council:

5. Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2024/25

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

The Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement presented the 2024/25 annual report of the Council's Standards Committee.

Council resolved to accept the recommendation to note the report.

6. Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB) Annual Report 2024/25

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

The Cabinet member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Accessible Health Services presented the report to update Members on the work of the Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB) in fulfilling local authority statutory duties required under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. The report sought to ensure that Members had the opportunity to review the RPB Annual Report 2024/25 and the progress made against the objectives set out in the Area Plan 2023-2027.

Council resolved to accept the recommendation to receive and endorse the RPB Annual Report 2024/25.

7. Appointment of the Chief Executive as an Executive Director of CCR Energy Ltd

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

The Chief Executive presented the report for Council to consider the appointment of the Chief Executive as an Executive Director of CCR Energy Ltd.

Council resolved to accept the recommendation that the Council appoints the Chief Executive, Paul Matthews, as an Executive Director of CCR Energy Ltd for a period up to the next Annual General Meeting of Council in 2026.

8. Annual Safeguarding Evaluation Report 2024/25 (Self-Assessment)

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

The Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Accessible Health Services presented the report, the purpose being:

- To evaluate the progress of Monmouthshire County Council's key safeguarding priorities during 2024 / 2025 through self-assessment, highlighting progress, identifying risks and setting out actions and priorities for 2025 – 2026.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held on Thursday, 4th December, 2025 at 2.00 pm

- To inform Members about the effectiveness of safeguarding in Monmouthshire and the work that is in progress to support the Council's aims in protecting children and adults at risk from harm and abuse.
- To inform Members about the progress made towards meeting the standards in the Council's Corporate Safeguarding Policy approved by Council in July 2017, amended July 2022 and January 2024.

Council resolved to accept the recommendations:

To receive and endorse the Annual Safeguarding Report 2024 /2025.

To task the Strategic Director for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health to maintain focus on the priority actions as set out in the Whole Authority Safeguarding Action Plan.

9. Annual Director's Report 2024 / 2025, Social Care Safeguarding and Health

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

The Chief Officer for Social Care and Health presented the Annual Director's Report for 2024/25.

Council resolved to accept the recommendations:

For Council to receive and endorse the Annual Director's Report 2024/25.

That Council tasks the Strategic Director of Social Care, Safeguarding and Health to maintain focus on the priority actions for 2025/26 as set out in the summary section.

10. Motions to Council:

11. Submitted by County Councillor Paul Pavia

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

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.*

Seconded by County Councillor Ian Chandler.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held on Thursday, 4th December, 2025 at 2.00 pm

Upon being put to a vote the motion was carried.

12. Submitted by County Councillor Martin Newell

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

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.

Seconded by County Councillor Jane Lucas.

Upon being put to a vote the motion was carried.

County Councillor Maureen Powell left the meeting at 17:27pm.

County Councillor Phil Murphy left the meeting at 17:44pm.

County Councillor Tony Easson left the meeting at 18:28pm.

13. Submitted by County Councillor Tomos Davies

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

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.

Seconded by County Councillor Alistair Neill.

Upon being put to a vote the motion was carried.

14. Member Questions

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

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held on Thursday, 4th December, 2025 at 2.00 pm

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

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?

The Cabinet Member responded that highways colleagues have reported that the carriageway markings have recently been refreshed. There is a meeting booked with officers to discuss what further steps can be taken and they will be contacting Gwent Police commercial HGV vehicle unit regarding support for more targeted enforcement.

As a supplementary Councillor Kear asked for a site meeting to be held with officers to discuss the issues with local members. He added that the road markings had not been re-marked.

The Cabinet Member apologised as she had been informed that the markings had been refreshed. She agreed to a site, or teams meeting, to talk through possibilities.

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

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

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 inappropriately 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?

The Cabinet Member was sorry to hear of the accident and explained that measures to improve issue of speeding in Little Mill could involve the location of the transport pick up points, the potential for another pedestrian crossing and speed enforcement traffic calming. I think we need to talk through how these interact together. Speed surveys had been undertaken in August and had not seemed to indicate an issue, but there was the average speed issue. She added that she wanted to talk to the traffic team to discuss how to look at the whole situation in the village and what could be done.

As a supplementary Councillor Kear referred to the results of the survey and asked that the Cabinet Member meet with the Llanbadoc Community Councillors for further discussion. She agreed to look at the issue further.

County Councillor Su McConnel left the meeting at 19:33pm.
County Councillor Dale Rooke left the meeting at 19:47pm.

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

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

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

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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same matters 12 months ago, what review measures will now be taken to proactively clear and alleviate these hot spots?

The Cabinet Member was sorry to hear about the pub and households affected and understood the issue to be a culvert that runs through private land which was not sufficient to deal with such extreme storm conditions. There is a growing list of hotspots to be checked and cleared whenever there are storm warnings, and it was recognised that many culverts were cleared prior to storms but still block during the storm because of the way detritus is washed off fields. It was noted that many culverts and water courses were on private property, and the importance of raise awareness about keeping water courses clear so that they don't impact people further downstream.

As a supplementary Councillor Kear asked that officers liaise with himself, County Councillor Howells and the Llanbadoc Community Council to resolve these long-standing issues.

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

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

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?

The Cabinet Member understood this to be a road safety study rather than a road safety audit. Several options have been identified, including the permanent 50mph along the section of the A40A, no right turn out of Monmouth Road and no right turn into Croesenan Road from the A-40. Work is being undertaken with Welsh Government colleagues on these options to ensure that implementation does not negatively impact or create a worse position for all road users, including cyclists.

She added that the term quick wins is probably not reflective of the actual timelines needed to undertake the design, consultation and construction. The joint initial designs have been submitted to independent road safety auditors to ensure both works do complement each other. Councillors will be updated on progress in the New year once the road safety audits been completed.

The Cabinet Member thanked Raglan Community Council for sending minutes of a meeting held 10 days which provided further detail around the options.

As a supplementary Councillor John sought further information on timescales. The Cabinet Member reiterated that Members would be updated in the New Year on the outcome of the road safety audit.

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

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

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?

The Cabinet Member stated that he, or his Cabinet colleagues did not have a view on this.

As a supplementary Councillor John asked if the Cabinet Member was prepared to meet with

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held on Thursday, 4th December, 2025 at 2.00 pm

either the Cabinet Secretary or WLGA to raise this as it is at odds with the role of NRW, particularly in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

In response the Cabinet Member explained that the process of making decisions on individual planning applications in this authority is that our planning officers will consider the manner in which this application is or is not consistent with the local development plan and will consider its economic impacts, its impact on the environment and will make a recommendation to the Planning Committee.

The Planning Committee will decide whether these applications should be supported or not. Any views should be shared with the Planning Committee in the normal way.

20. County Councillor Louise Brown to County Councillor Laura Wright, Cabinet Member for Education

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

Please can the Cabinet Member provide details of the following costs to the Council: 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)?*

The Cabinet Member provided the following response:

1. Route Assessments
 - WSP assessed three routes:
 - Mathern → Chepstow Secondary School
 - St. Arvan's → Dell Primary School
 - Caldicot → Archbishop Rowan Williams Church in Wales Primary School
 - Reports shared with ward members and parents; cost: £13,152.
 - Later, three more routes assessed:
 - Portskewett → Caldicot Comprehensive
 - Two routes from Bulwark and Thornwell → Chepstow School
 - Additional cost: £8,040. All routes found available. Reports received this week and will be shared.
2. Haysgate Footway
 - Refers to footway along A48 from Haysgate Junction towards Garden Centre.
 - £67,000 funding identified for approx. 800m resurfacing.
 - Additional traffic management and temporary suspension mean costs and scope will be reviewed in the new year.
3. Survey and Feasibility Costs
 - Pedestrian/cycle counters: £4,900
 - Automatic traffic counters: £250
 - Topographical surveys: £2,250
 - Feasibility study: £10,000 (includes project management, options, crossing assessment, design, safety audit).
 - Detailed design: £15,000–£20,000 (e.g., pelican crossing hardware).
 - Construction costs not included.

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4. Crossing Monitoring
 - Monitoring not required now but can be done if needed.
 - Crossing will have a one-year liability period, then maintained by MCC Street Lighting and Operations.
5. Design and Construction Costs
 - Design not finalized; consultation will guide options.
 - Zebra crossing: £25,000–£35,000
 - Pelican crossing: £55,000–£70,000
 - Costs include curb/footpath adjustments, markings, lighting, and signals for pelican crossings.
 - Funded through Chepstow Levelling Up Fund.
 - Public consultation via MCC teams and “Let’s Talk Monmouthshire”.

As a supplementary Councillor Brown asked why the Cabinet Member has refused to walk the route with parents. In response the Cabinet Member explained that the decision had been made as the WSP report had been available.

21. County Councillor Rachel Buckler to County Councillor Ben Callard, Cabinet Member for Resources

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

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?

The Cabinet Member explained that no parking impact assessment was required for the proposed community centre as its use was considered similar or less demanding than the building's previous use as a library. The occupier's business plan indicates that most regular users live and work in the town centre, meaning they are already part of existing parking patterns. The new use is expected to increase footfall, which is seen as positive for the town's vitality and ensures productive use of a vacant building. The occupier has also agreed to encourage visitors to use any of the four public car parks within 200 metres of the property to help manage parking demand.

The Cabinet Member clarified that discussions about a resident parking permit scheme are separate from the lease issue. These discussions have been ongoing for several years, with Cllr Wright supporting residents who wish to see such a scheme introduced. Parking on Victoria Street has long been affected by town centre visitors, and a consultation on a potential scheme is currently underway. Residents are encouraged to respond to the consultation.

In response to a supplementary question about the proposed annual cost of £83 compared to £35 in Cardiff and Newport, and whether the scheme could be paused for a full area-wide assessment including options that do not require payment, the Cabinet Member stated that parking does not fall within their portfolio and they cannot commit to pausing the scheme. He reiterated the importance of residents engaging with the consultation and noted that the council has incurred legal costs from previous challenges related to the lease process.

22. County Councillor Alistair Neill to County Councillor Laura Wright, Cabinet Member for Education

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[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

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?

The Cabinet Member acknowledged the serious financial challenges facing schools and confirmed that schools in deficit must produce recovery plans. These plans are agreed either by the Strategic Director or, in cases of significant deficits, by the Cabinet Member alongside the Cabinet Member for Resources. Governing bodies are responsible for identifying savings and agreeing recovery plans, which typically focus on balancing budgets over time without negatively impacting learning standards. Staffing is the largest cost for schools, so savings often involve staffing changes, but schools are given flexibility and time to avoid harm to educational outcomes. Recovery plans are tailored to each school's needs, and some may take several years to deliver. The Cabinet Member welcomed further discussion at scrutiny committee.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Neill suggested the council should consider reducing its own structure to pass on savings to schools and avoid staff reductions in schools. The Cabinet Member sought clarification on what this would look like in practice and stated they could not provide an answer without further detail.

23. County Councillor Alistair Neill to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

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?

The Cabinet Member explained that officers will work with the contractor through an early involvement process to minimize disruption for residents and businesses during the bridge repair project. The primary focus is to fix the bridge while reducing disruption as much as possible. Works on Porthycarne Street have been completed, and new signage for increased HGV height restrictions is in progress. Designs for passing places through Bettws Newydd have been consulted on with the community council, and work on the first passing place will begin in the coming weeks. Communication with businesses has started, and a meeting is planned before Christmas. The Cabinet Member noted that dates for closures were changed from weekends to weekdays following feedback from businesses to reduce impact.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Neill emphasized the importance of clear project plans and dedicated project managers for major projects, noting concerns about workload on senior officers. The Cabinet Member agreed with this point.

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

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

To ask the Cabinet Member to review the effectiveness of speed calming measures through the villages of Llanellen and Govilon.

The Cabinet Member explained that speed and traffic volume surveys were carried out in Govilon village in July, and officers will share these results if not already provided. A review of Llanellen, particularly Gypsy Lane, will be considered in the new financial year, noting that the trunk road is not a county council asset.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Davies invited the Cabinet Member to attend a future community council meeting to discuss practical measures to improve safety for families and vulnerable residents. The Cabinet Member advised that residents could contact GoSafe directly regarding enforcement, as this covers both trunk and county roads, and confirmed they will follow up with the traffic team. The councillor was asked to provide specific details to assist with this process.

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

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

To ask the Cabinet Member and the administration to prioritise urgent repair and clean-up work to the Tyla Road, Govilon.

The Cabinet Member explained that work has been carried out to cut back overgrown hedges and remove overhanging branches along Tyla Road. The stone walls in the area are mainly landowner boundary walls, but where possible, the team cleared vegetation back onto the walls. Weekly refuse collections continue, and recent inspections confirm the road is now passable. In a supplementary question, the councillor noted residents remain concerned about the road's poor condition, including broken surfaces and unmanaged verges, which have previously prevented emergency services from reaching a vulnerable resident and may affect home-to-school transport.

As a supplementary Councillor Davies asked for assurance that updates will be provided to both residents and the local ward councillor as repairs and cleanup progress. The Cabinet Member agreed and advised that any unsatisfactory works should be reported to Highways and Neighbourhood Services with precise details to ensure issues are addressed.

26. Date of next meeting - 22nd January 2026

Noted.

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm



SUBJECT:	DIARY OF MEETINGS FOR 2026/27
MEETING:	Full Council
DATE:	22 January 2026
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	N/A

1. PURPOSE:

To approve the diary of meetings for 2026/27.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council approve the diary of meetings for 2026/27 to ensure good governance arrangements are in place and meet the requirements of the Council's Constitution.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Some Committees set their own dates during the year eg SAC, Appointment of LEA Governors Committee, Corporate Parenting Panel and these will be added to the diary in due course if we have not already received those dates.
- 3.2 The diary includes, for information only, dates of meetings for political groups and outside bodies that are not agreed by Council and are subject to change by the organising bodies.
- 3.3 As per previous years, as far as is practicable meetings have not been scheduled during school holidays as requested by Councillors. There is an inevitable need to hold some meetings during school holidays so that the diary does not become too congested and avoids clashes with other meetings and priorities, but these have been kept to a minimum.
- 3.4 The diary for 2026/27 will cover the election period for the local authority elections in May 2027. There is nothing preventing the council from carrying out its normal business during the pre-election period and councillors remain in their roles until after the election itself. Meetings have been scheduled as normal to allow for business to be carried out as normal. Forward work programmes will need to be reviewed closer to the time to consider the business to be debated at the meeting and consider whether it is appropriate for that item to be considered during the pre-election period.

4. REASONS:

The Council calendar needs to be approved annually to ensure appropriate governance arrangements are in place for the year and enables Members and officers to forward plan effectively.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

None as a direct result of this report.

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

There are no sustainable development or equality impacts arising from this report.

7. SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

There are no safeguarding or corporate parenting implications associated with this report.

8. CONSULTEES:

SLT
Political Group Leaders
Committee Chairs
Scrutiny Manager
Democratic Services Committee

9. CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

Feedback was received from councillors during the consultation on the draft diary with concerns to the November 2027 Full Council Meeting being scheduled for the 5th November 2026 which would clash with councillors' commitments for community events. As such the date of this meeting has been moved on a week to the 12th November 2026. Consideration was given to moving the meeting earlier however a week earlier would have fallen within the school holidays and earlier again would have pushed the meeting closer to September.

The need for a Full Council meeting in April 2027, ahead of the local elections and whilst councillors will be campaigning, was questioned as to whether it was required. Councillors will remain in their posts until just after the election in May 2027 and can carry out their normal course of business during the pre election period. If it is decided it is not appropriate to hold the meeting, or there is no business to debate at that meeting, then a decision to postpone can be taken closer to the time but including it in the diary allows for members to plan their schedules accordingly.

Feedback was also received from officers relating to the cabinet meetings for January and March 2027 which have both been adjusted by a week to better accommodate the anticipated budget setting process at that time.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.

11. AUTHOR:

John Pearson, Local Democracy Manager

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CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

1 MAY 2026 - 7 MAY 2027

MAY, 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 9.00 am Planning Site Visits
4 Bank Holiday	5 2.00 pm Planning Committee	6	7 SENEDD ELECTION	8
11 Page 16	12 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - People Scrutiny Committee	13 4.30 pm PROVISIONAL - Cabinet	14 8.15 am PROVISIONAL - Children and Young People Appointment of Local Authority Governors Committee 9.15 am Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 2.00 pm County Council	15
18	19	20 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	21 9.15 am Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Place Scrutiny Committee	22
25 Bank Holiday	26	27	28 9.15 am Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	29

JUNE, 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 9.00 am PROVISIONAL - Planning Site Visits	2 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning Committee	3 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	4 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Governance and Audit Committee	5
8 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Public Services Scrutiny Committee	9 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee	10 4.30 pm PROVISIONAL - Cabinet	11 8.15 am PROVISIONAL - Children and Young People Appointment of Local Authority Governors Committee 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	12
15 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Standards Committee <i>June 17</i>	16 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Taxi and Regulatory Committee	17 3.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Standing Advisory Council for Religion, Values and Ethics (SAC) 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	18 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	19
22 ARMED FORCES DAY	23	24 11.00 am PROVISIONAL - Corporate Parenting Panel	25 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 12.30 pm PROVISIONAL - Welsh Church Fund 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - County Council	26
29 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Joint Advisory Group	30			

JULY, 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	2 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Place Scrutiny Committee	3
6 9.00 am PROVISIONAL - Planning Site Visits 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Wye Valley National Landscape Joint Advisory Committee	7 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning Committee	8 4.30 pm PROVISIONAL - Cabinet	9 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Scrutiny Chairs Meeting	10
13 11.00 am PROVISIONAL - Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust	14 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - People Scrutiny Committee	15 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	16 8.15 am PROVISIONAL - Children and Young People Appointment of Local Authority Governors Committee 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - County Council	17
20 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Democratic Services Committee	21 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee	22	23 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Governance and Audit Committee	24
27 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Public Services Scrutiny Committee	28 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Taxi and Regulatory Committee	29 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	30 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	31

AUGUST, 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 9.00 am PROVISIONAL - Planning Site Visits	4 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning Committee	5	6	7
10	11	12 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	13 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	14
17 Page 19	18	19	20 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	21
24	25	26 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	27 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	28
31 Bank Holiday				

SEPTEMBER, 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2	3 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	4
7 9.00 am PROVISIONAL - Planning Site Visits	8 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning Committee	9 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	10 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Governance and Audit Committee	11
14 P 21 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Standards Committee	15 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Taxi and Regulatory Committee	16 4.30 pm PROVISIONAL - Cabinet	17 WLGA CONFERENCE 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	18 WLGA CONFERENCE
28 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Joint Advisory Group	29 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee	30 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	24 8.15 am PROVISIONAL - Children and Young People Appointment of Local Authority Governors Committee 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 12.30 pm PROVISIONAL - Welsh Church Fund 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - County Council	25

OCTOBER, 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Place Scrutiny Committee	2
5 9.00 am PROVISIONAL - Planning Site Visits	6 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning Committee	7	8 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Scrutiny Chairs Meeting	9
12 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Public Services Scrutiny Committee Page 19 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Democratic Services Committee	13	14 4.30 pm PROVISIONAL - Cabinet 6.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Corporate Parenting Panel	15 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Governance and Audit Committee	16
26 School Holiday Start	27	28	29 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	30 School Holiday End

NOVEMBER, 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 9.00 am PROVISIONAL - Planning Site Visits 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Wye Valley National Landscape Joint Advisory Committee	3 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning Committee	4 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	5	6
9	10	11 ARMISTICE DAY 4.30 pm PROVISIONAL - Cabinet	12 8.15 am PROVISIONAL - Children and Young People Appointment of Local Authority Governors Committee 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - County Council	13
16 Page 22	17 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - People Scrutiny Committee	18 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	19 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Governance and Audit Committee	20
23	24 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee	25	26 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Place Scrutiny Committee	27
30 9.00 am PROVISIONAL - Planning Site Visits				

DECEMBER, 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning Committee	2 3.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Standing Advisory Council for Religion, Values and Ethics (SAC) 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	3	4
7 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Public Services Scrutiny Committee	8 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Taxi and Regulatory Committee	9 4.30 pm PROVISIONAL - Cabinet	10 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 12.30 pm PROVISIONAL - Welsh Church Fund 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - County Council	11
14 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Standards Committee 12.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Democratic Services Committee	15	16 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	17 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	18
21 School Holiday Start	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

JANUARY, 2027

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4 School Holiday End	5	6 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	7 8.15 am PROVISIONAL - Children and Young People Appointment of Local Authority Governors Committee 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	8
11 9.00 am PROVISIONAL - Planning Site Visits 12 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning Committee	12 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning Committee	13 11.00 am PROVISIONAL - Corporate Parenting Panel 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions 4.30 pm PROVISIONAL - Cabinet	14 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Governance and Audit Committee	15
18 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Public Services Scrutiny Committee	19 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee	20 4.30 pm PROVISIONAL - Cabinet	21 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - County Council	22
25 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Joint Advisory Group 11.00 am PROVISIONAL - Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust	26 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Tax and Regulatory Committee	27	28 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Place Scrutiny Committee	29

FEBRUARY, 2027

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 9.00 am PROVISIONAL - Planning Site Visits	2 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning Committee	3 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	4 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Scrutiny Chairs Meeting	5
8 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Democratic Services Committee	9 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - People Scrutiny Committee	10 4.30 pm PROVISIONAL - Cabinet	11 8.15 am PROVISIONAL - Children and Young People Appointment of Local Authority Governors Committee 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Governance and Audit Committee	12
15 School Holiday Start	16	17 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	18 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	19 School Holiday End
22	23 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee	24	25 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	26

MARCH, 2027

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 9.00 am PROVISIONAL - Planning Site Visits 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Wye Valley National Landscape Joint Advisory Committee	2 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning Committee	3 4.30 pm PROVISIONAL - Cabinet 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	4 12.30 pm PROVISIONAL - Welsh Church Fund 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - County Council	5
8 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Public Services Scrutiny Committee	9 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Taxi and Regulatory Committee	10 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	11 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Place Scrutiny Committee	12
15 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Standards Committee	16 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - People Scrutiny Committee	17 3.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Standing Advisory Council for Religion, Values and Ethics (SAC) 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	18 8.15 am PROVISIONAL - Children and Young People Appointment of Local Authority Governors Committee 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Governance and Audit Committee	19
22	23 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee	24	25 School Holiday Start 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	26
29	30	31 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions		

APRIL, 2027

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	2
5 9.00 am PROVISIONAL - Planning Site Visits	6 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning Committee	7 4.30 pm PROVISIONAL - Cabinet	8 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Scrutiny Chairs Meeting 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - County Council	9 School Holiday End
12 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Public Services Scrutiny Committee	13	14 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions 6.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Corporate Parenting Panel	15 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	16
19	20 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Taxi and Regulatory Committee	21	22 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Place Scrutiny Committee	23
26 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - Joint Advisory Group	27 10.00 am PROVISIONAL - People Scrutiny Committee	28 5.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	29 9.15 am PROVISIONAL - Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	30 9.00 am PROVISIONAL - Planning Site Visits

MAY, 2027

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Bank Holiday	4 2.00 pm PROVISIONAL - Planning Committee	5	6 COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS	7



Subject: COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2026/27

Meeting: Council

Date: 22nd January 2026

Divisions/Wards Affected: All

1. PURPOSE:

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- present arrangements for the implementation of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and approve it for 2026/27.
- agree to adopt the amendments to the Regulations proposed by Welsh Government, as detailed in point 3.7.
- affirm that annual uprating amendments will be carried out each year without a requirement to adopt the whole Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 To note the making of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations ("the Prescribed Requirements Regulations") 2013 by the Welsh Government on 26 November 2013.

2.2 To adopt the provisions within the Regulations above ("the Prescribed Requirements Regulations") and any 'annual uprating regulations' in respect of its Scheme for the financial year 2026/27 including the discretionary elements previously approved as the Council's local scheme from 1st April 2026.

3. KEY ISSUES:

3.1 The Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) is a national benefit administered by local authorities to help people on low incomes pay some or all of their Council Tax bill. Residents can claim Council Tax Reduction regardless of whether they own or rent their home. The Welsh Government made regulations to introduce a national scheme for Council Tax Reduction in 2013, replacing the former Council Tax Benefit. The Council is currently required to adopt the scheme each January in accordance with the regulations set by Welsh Government.

3.2 The Regulations approved by the Assembly are available as follows:

The Default Scheme

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2013/3035/contents/made>

The Prescribed Scheme

- 3.3 A failure to adopt a 'local' scheme by 31 January 2026 will result in the Default Scheme being imposed on the Council.
- 3.4 The Welsh Government's regulations for 2026/27 ensure claimants can continue to receive a reduction up to 100% of their Council Tax bill dependent upon their income and household circumstances.
- 3.5 Annual uprating regulations to increase benefits and personal allowances from April 2026 within the Council Tax Reduction Scheme were considered by a plenary session of the Senedd on 20th January 2026. The draft regulations are here:

[SL\(6\)691 - The Council Tax Reduction Schemes \(Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme\) \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2026](#)

- 3.6 In addition to the annual uprating of allowances, there are a couple of other amendments to the 2013 CTRS Regulations. These make provision for the treatment of some other types of payments and ensure the 2013 Regulations remain up to date and fit for purpose.
- 3.7 These amendments allow for the following:

Definition of a 'Pensioner'

To ensure consistency and prevent financial disadvantage for pensioners in Wales, amendments have been made to the definition of 'pensioner' within the CTRS Regulations. This ensures that individuals who have migrated from Working Tax Credit to Universal Credit continue to qualify for pension-age CTRS, rather than working-age CTRS, thereby safeguarding their entitlement and promoting equitable treatment across Wales. Without this, they would be financially worse off.

Infected Blood Scheme Payments (where left to an estate)

This amendment introduces a capital disregard to any payment made from the estate of a deceased person, where the payment originates from an approved infected blood support scheme or the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme, in line with The Social Security (Infected Blood Capital Disregard) Regulations 2024 which applied to Housing Benefit.

Neonatal Care Leave and Pay

The Neonatal Care (Leave and Pay) Act 2023 introduces new provisions for employees responsible for children undergoing neonatal care. These provisions build upon the existing framework of statutory family-related leave and pay entitlements, including maternity, paternity, adoption, shared parental leave and pay, and parental bereavement leave and pay.

To safeguard parents accessing these new entitlements from financial disadvantage and to ensure fair treatment in line with those receiving existing parental leave and pay, the CTRS regulations have been amended to incorporate references to Neonatal Care Leave and Neonatal Care Pay.

LGBT Veterans Redress Scheme

To ensure that no veteran in Wales is financially disadvantaged as a result of receiving a payment under the LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme, amendments have been made to the CTRS regulations to disregard such payments.

Displaced Persons from Israel, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip or East Jerusalem

The Department for Work and Pensions has laid regulations to ensure that displaced persons arriving in the UK from conflict in Israel, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip or East Jerusalem are able to meet the residency conditions for income-related, disability and carer benefits. Amendments have been made to extend access to CTRS in Wales for displaced individuals from these regions.

Generalised provisions to provide support for overseas crisis situations

In response to a crisis overseas there have been several occasions over the past few years where the UK Government has advised British nationals to leave an affected country or territory, help evacuate them, or allow foreign nationals to come to the UK through safe immigration routes. As a result, the DWP laid emergency regulations to help these people get benefits when they arrived in the UK. The Welsh Government also made sure they could get help with CTRS in Wales.

The UK Government has now established generalised provisions to allow the DWP to provide support without the need for new legislation each time a similar overseas crisis arises. These provisions will apply automatically to future situations that meet the defined criteria.

This legislation does not extend eligibility to individuals who are in the UK unlawfully or whose immigration status restricts access to public funds.

In line with these provisions, amendments have been made to ensure that eligible individuals can access CTRS support during future overseas crises and would reduce the need to introduce new case-specific provisions each time such an incident occurs.

Miscarriage of Justice Compensation Payments

To prevent any financial disadvantage for CTRS applicants in Wales who have received a Miscarriage of Justice Compensation Payment, a consequential amendment has been made to the CTRS regulations. This amendment ensures that these payments are excluded from the calculation of an applicant's income and capital under the scheme.

Universal Credit claimants

The DWP has introduced regulations enabling individuals receiving Universal Credit (UC) to be treated as meeting the requirements of the Habitual Residence Test. This change would mirror the treatment of legacy benefit claimants, removing the need for local authorities to duplicate the Habitual Residence Test. Claimants would only need to provide evidence once, via their UC application.

Minor technical and consequential amendments

Minor technical amendments have been made to correct omissions in relation to disregards for Windrush payments and Post Office compensation payments.

4. Background

- 4.1 It was reported to Council on 28th January 2013 that the Welfare Reform Act 2013 included provisions to abolish Council Tax Benefit on 31 March 2013. From 1st April 2013, the responsibility for arranging support towards paying Council Tax and the associated funding transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to local authorities in England and to the Scottish and Welsh Governments. The UK Government's policy intention was to reduce expenditure on Council Tax and therefore to implement a 10 per cent funding cut.
- 4.2 The report to Council on 28th January 2013 referred to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme Regulations 2012 and the amending regulations 2013. Those regulations

were for implementation during the 2013/14 financial year only and Council resolved to adopt a new scheme for subsequent years in accordance with new regulations approved by the Welsh Government.

4.3 The regulations for Council Tax Reduction include provision for support up to 100% of council tax. The regulations control the implementation of reduction schemes across the whole of Wales and are designed to ensure that each local authority consistently provides support for Welsh taxpayers.

5. The Reduction Scheme and discretionary areas

5.1 Although a national scheme has been approved, within the Prescribed Requirements Regulations there is limited discretion given to the Council to apply additional discretionary elements that are more generous than the national scheme and which provide for additional administrative flexibility. Council approved the discretionary areas to be applied (listed below in 5.2) following public consultation. It is not proposed to change them in any way therefore no further consultation is required at this stage.

5.2 It is recommended to adopt the Scheme in the Prescribed Requirement Regulations as noted in paragraph 3.2. and to exercise the previously approved discretions that were agreed by Council on 17th January 2019, as follows:

- The ability to increase the standard extended reduction period of 4 weeks given to persons after they return to work where they have previously received a council tax reduction that is to end because of their return to work - it is not recommended to increase the standard extended reduction period.
- Discretion to increase the amount of War Disablement Pensions and War Widows Pensions (including Armed Forces Independent Payments and Guaranteed Income Payment) which is to be disregarded when calculating income of the claimant - it is recommended to disregard the whole amount of War Disablement Pensions and War Widows Pensions.
- The ability to backdate the application of council tax reduction regarding late claims prior to the new standard period of three months before the claim - it is not recommended to increase the backdated period.
- To provide above the minimum level of information to customers to ensure they are appropriately notified of their award in accordance with legislation - it is recommended that we maintain the current standard provision.

5.3 There are no additional monies available from the Welsh Government to fund discretionary elements but they are allowed for within our existing budget.

5.4 Changes to pensions, benefits and allowances normally take effect every April and sometimes during the year. The scheme has to reflect the changes to benefits in order to adjust calculations of entitlement. This is part of normal Benefits administration. We are advised that the Council need to approve the annual uprating regulations each year without formal adoption of the whole scheme.

5.5 As the uprating of benefits is not an area of discretion the Council is not able to consult on it.

6. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING)

6.1 There are no implications for sustainable development.

- 6.2 The scheme to be applied for 2026/27 does not contain any significant changes from the scheme that is currently operational.
- 6.3 The Welsh Government has undertaken a detailed 'regulatory' impact assessment, which includes equality impact assessment and we understand that the findings reported were in line with their expectations.
- 6.4 Our Sustainability Community Officer has confirmed that under these circumstances there is no requirement to complete a Future Generations Evaluation.

7. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

This is not applicable as there are no changes to the scheme that is currently in place. The report has been presented as the uprating regulations are effectively amendments to the main scheme, for which we need to obtain overall approval.

8. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The scheme is largely prescribed by Welsh Government. Previous annual reports have reaffirmed the minimal discretions that the Authority can apply. These discretions have been found to be resilient and fair.

9. REASONS

- 9.1 To agree the council tax reduction scheme for the forthcoming financial year as required by legislation.
- 9.2 To affirm the annual uprating prescribed by the Welsh Government.

10. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 From 2014/15 onwards the Council Tax Reduction Scheme was funded through the Revenue Support Grant (RSG). The Council therefore needs to manage the cost of the Scheme within its annual budget.
- 10.2 Any additional costs for growth in caseload and/or increases in entitlement attributable to a rise in the overall level of Council Tax have to be managed and are built into our budget proposals for 2026/27.
- 10.3 Caseload has now returned to pre pandemic levels with current data indicating that there are approximately 5,433 active CTRS claims.
- 10.4 The provisional budget allocation, for 2026/27 of £9,605,556 is based on a 5.95% increase in Council Tax which is currently being used for budget modelling purposes. Any subsequent changes in the council tax increase will be reflected in the final budget proposal report.

11. CONSULTEES:

Cabinet
Strategic Leadership Team
Chief Officer for Resources
Head of Legal
Head of Finance

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None

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