

Wednesday, 9 July 2025

Notice of meeting**County Council**

**Thursday, 17th July, 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 26th June 2025	3 - 18
5.	Reports to Council	
5.1.	Chepstow Integrated Transport LUF Project	19 - 24
5.2.	Strategic Director, Children, Learning and Economy Annual Report	25 - 88
6.	Motions to Council	
6.1.	Submitted by County Councillor Frances Taylor That this council notes that the Leader, Cllr Brocklesby is also the chair of the Cardiff Capital region and recently attended a Senedd Inquiry into City and Growth Deals. It appears the Leader was able to tell a very positive story (her words). The leader also recently advised that the contract to demolish Aberthaw Power Station was the subject of a legal challenge regarding	

the procurement exercise. The leader reported to the Senedd Inquiry that a settlement sum of £5.25 million has been agreed through mediation and this cost has been fully funded from interest accrued on capital balances held by Cardiff Capital Region, with no impact on core programme budgets or any requirement for further public funding.

That this Council clarify the protocols and reporting mechanisms to provide detailed reports to all members on the balances held, investment requirements, opportunity cost and outcomes for Monmouthshire residents in respect of the progress of the Cardiff Capital Region or CCJC.

6.2. Submitted by County Councillor Lisa Dymock

This council:

- Regrets that the administration's adoption of statutory distances to qualify for home to school transport will cause financial hardship and logistical difficulties for many Monmouthshire families.
- Instructs the cabinet to ensure that all families whose eligibility has changed are directly contacted, setting out their rights to appeal, committing to an assessment of whether a safe walking route exists, and expediting all appeals and complaints processes in light of the short notice to many parents ahead of the September school year.
- Commits to working with schools, parents, and community groups to explore safe, affordable transport alternatives for those affected.

7. Member Questions

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

Can the Cabinet Member please provide an update on what the Council is doing to ensure the safety of pedestrians who are forced to walk the 200m along the 60mph pavement-less section of A466 at Redbrook. Residents and visitors have had to run the gauntlet on this stretch of road to access or leave the village along Wye Valley Walk for many years and the road is not getting any quieter.

7.2. From County Councillor Rachel Buckler to County Councillor Ian Chandler, Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Accessible Health Services

Does the Cabinet Member for Social Care believe the new domiciliary care arrangements in South Monmouthshire are progressing as expected and does he still consider his decision the right one?

7.3. From County Councillor Alistair Neill to County Councillor Ben Callard, Cabinet Member for Resources

In 2024/25 our Monmouthshire pupils were funded at nearly £600 per pupil below the Wales average, a substantial gap. For the previous year, 2023/24, funding was £400 per pupil below the Wales average, making a two-year total of Monmouthshire pupils being funded at £1,000 below the Wales average. Funding per pupil is determined by each local authority and in those 2 years

Monmouthshire County Council increased council tax by 14%. Should this large increase in council tax not have ensured our funding per pupil was at least at the Wales average?

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

How many Primary and Secondary School Children who live in Monmouthshire County Council area will lose their free school bus this September 2025 based on both the change to statutory distances and having an initial route assessment of an available walking route to school and when were parents informed?

7.5. From County Councillor Louise Brown to County Councillor Angela Sandles, Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement

How will the Cabinet Member ensure that key decisions which are significant in terms of its effects on the wellbeing of individuals living or working in the council area are published and made available to members on the Council website to allow for Call in, in accordance with paragraph 24 of the Council's Constitution?

7.6. From County Councillor Louise Brown to County Councillor Angela Sandles, Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement

How will the Cabinet Member ensure that the Council and Forward Planner lists items going to Cabinet in sufficient time to allow Scrutiny Committees/members to ask for a Scrutiny report prior to them going to Cabinet or Full Council?

7.7. From County Councillor Paul Pavia to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

Could the Cabinet Member please provide an update regarding the progress of both the Traffic Regulation Order and the road resurfacing works for High Street Chepstow?

7.8. From County Councillor Lisa Dymock to County Councillor Laura Wright, Cabinet Member for Education

Could the cabinet member please provide an update on the funding promised to ARW for their planned expansion?

7.9. From County Councillor Lisa Dymock to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

In light of a recent incident where a resident was knocked to the ground by a cyclist on an the Portskewett active travel path, will measures such as improved signage or lane markings to provide designated walking and cycling zones be considered to prevent further accidents?

7.10. From County Councillor Richard John to County Councillor Sara Burch, Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Housing & Tourism

Has the Cabinet given further consideration to the Conservative Group's proposal that the Council should rule out introducing a tourism tax in

	Monmouthshire?	
7.11.	From County Councillor Richard John to County Councillor Sara Burch, Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Housing & Tourism What steps is the Council taking to promote Monmouthshire as a tourist destination?	
7.12.	From County Councillor Jane Lucas to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment What steps will the Council take to protect the 12 bat species, including rare and endangered bats, recently identified in the Dixon Bat Project, a citizen science initiative verified by qualified ecologists?	
7.13.	From County Councillor Richard John to County Councillor Laura Wright, Cabinet member for Education Would the Cabinet Member set out the administration's expectations for the level of school balances at the end of the 25/26 financial year.	
8.	To exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information	89 - 90
9.	APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE MONMOUTHSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC) FOR RELIGION, VALUES AND ETHICS	91 - 104
10.	Date of next meeting - 18th September 2025	

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

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

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

Park;
Bulwark and Thornwell;
St Arvans;

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

Public Information

Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

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.

