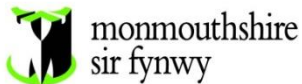


Public Document Pack



County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Wednesday, 8 July 2026

Notice of meeting

County Council

**Thursday, 16th July, 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.	Public Questions	
3.1.	Question from Kelvin Vater to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment Why is the evidence sent to the Council in the form of the 1881 Census, our electoral roll address and a petition signed by 35 residents of the village - to support the historic Welsh name of our road as Banal Lane - deemed to be circumstantial and unsubstantiated?	
3.2.	Question from Charles Heaven to County Councillor Paul Griffiths, Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development Please can the Council explain what long-term, sustainable measures the Council intends to implement to protect both Sudbrook Cricket Club and the neighbouring school playing fields from repeated unauthorised encampments?	
4.	Chair's Announcement	1 - 2
5.	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 25th June 2026	3 - 16
6.	Response to Council Motion: Review of Council and Greater Pension Fund Investments	17 - 38

7.**Motions to Council****7.1.****Submitted by County Councillor Peter Strong**

This council notes that in the manifesto of Plaid Cymru for the most recent Senedd election, commitments were made to review and reform the Local Government funding formula, including the statements:

“And we will review and reform the Local Government funding formula, so that it fairly reflects the realities of serving largely rural populations” And

“Review the funding formula for Local Government so that it better reflects the real cost of delivering services in different parts of Wales.”

Any changes to the Local Government funding formula could have significant implications for Local authorities across Wales, including Monmouthshire County Council. The importance of ensuring that any reform to the funding formula reflects fairness, transparency and does not disadvantage communities within Monmouthshire.

This council therefore resolves to:

Write to the Welsh Government Minister for Finance and the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning, seeking urgent clarification on the detail scope and proposed implementation of the commitments made regarding reform of the Local Government funding formula.

To also, seek assurances that any proposed reforms will not have a detrimental impact on communities within Monmouthshire.

We request that Monmouthshire County Council be fully consulted on any proposed changes to the funding formula prior to implementation.

7.2.**Submitted by County Councillor Emma Bryn**

Council notes: The considerable impact that the current lane closure on Staunton Road (A4136) is having on residents, businesses, public & school transport operators travelling between Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire. The growing concern amongst residents regarding the lack of certainty around a permanent solution to the land slippage affecting the highway.

Council believes:

That restoring the A4136 to a condition that safely accommodates two-way traffic should be a priority for the Authority.

That residents and businesses deserve clarity regarding the long-term future of this important route.

That transparency around the options, costs and timescales for delivery is essential in maintaining public confidence.

Council therefore resolves:

To request that the Cabinet Member responsible for Highways brings forward a report to Full Council setting out:

- The proposed long-term solution for the restoration of the A4136.
- The estimated cost of delivering that solution. Including funding options.
- A projected timetable for delivery of the scheme.
- The risks associated with delaying or not proceeding with the preferred option.

7.3.**Submitted By County Councillor Fay Bromfield**

This Council:

Notes the increasing number of proposals for large-scale ground-mounted solar farms on productive agricultural land in Monmouthshire, including the proposed Candwr Solar Farm between Ponthir and Llangybi.

Believes that renewable energy development should prioritise previously developed land, commercial and industrial rooftops, public buildings, car parks and other suitable brownfield sites before productive farmland is considered.

Is concerned about the cumulative impact that multiple large-scale solar developments could have on the county's rural landscape, agricultural economy, biodiversity, tourism and food security.

Resolves to:

a) Ensure that the Council's Local Impact Reports on Developments of National Significance give full consideration to the loss of agricultural land, landscape and visual impact and the impact on biodiversity, highways and the local economy.

b) Write to the Cabinet Minister for Enterprise, Connectivity and Energy calling for planning frameworks and policies to be strengthened by introducing a presumption against large-scale ground-mounted solar developments on prime agricultural land.

c) Request that the Welsh Government adopt a "Rooftops Before Fields" approach to solar energy, prioritising rooftop, brownfield and previously developed land for solar generation before productive agricultural land is considered.

7.4. Submitted by County Councillor Tony Kear

This Council:

Notes that current methods of controlling weeds largely rely on manual and mechanical methods, which can be time-consuming, damage highways and raise concerns about effectiveness.

Calls on the Cabinet to commission a review of the Weed Management Policy, including:

- A cost-benefit analysis of current and alternative methods; assessment of environmental impact, operational effectiveness and whole-life costs;
 - consideration of an Integrated Weed Management approach combining targeted herbicide use with non-chemical methods where appropriate;
 - identification of pilot locations, particularly near schools, parks and environmentally sensitive areas; and
 - consultation with residents, community councils, environmental groups and staff.
- Expects findings and recommendations, including any policy or budget implications, to be reported to the appropriate Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet within six months.

8. Members questions

8.1. From County Councillor Meirion Howells to County Councillor Mary Ann Brockelsby, Leader of the Council

In light of the recent period of exceptionally high temperatures, which has affected communities across Monmouthshire, could the Leader outline what measures the Council has taken to support residents—particularly vulnerable individuals such as the elderly, young children, and those with health conditions—during the recent heatwave?

8.2. From County Councillor Jackie Strong to County Councillor Angelas Sandles, Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement

Can the Cabinet member provide an update on progress made towards protecting Monmouthshire County Council property in Caldicot from further unauthorised encampments.

8.3. From County Councillor Paul Pavia to County Councillor Paul Griffiths, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development

Will the Cabinet Member provide an update on plans to improve the Highbeech Roundabout in Chepstow?

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

Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on the financial and operational implications of transitioning the Council's fleet of heavy goods vehicles, including refuse trucks, to Ultra Low Emission Vehicles?

8.5. From County Councillor Paul Pavia to County Councillor Laura Wright, Cabinet Member for Education

Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on the resilience of Monmouthshire's school estate to periods of extreme heat and the council's plans to respond to the increasing frequency of such events?

8.6. From County Councillor Lisa Dymock to the Cabinet Member for Resources

Can the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the current status of the Section 106 funding associated with ARW Primary School expansion and the Church Road development?

8.7. From County Councillor Lisa Dymock to the Cabinet Member Resources or Planning and Economic Development

Can the Cabinet Member please confirm the total cost to the Council of clearing and restoring the site following the previous unauthorised encampment, alongside Sudbrook Cricket Club and Caldicot Comprehensive School?

8.8. From County Councillor Jan Butler to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

Can Cabinet Member Catrin Maby give residents of Goytre Fawr some idea when repairs and resurfacing might take place in Lapstone Lane and Nant-y-Derry Road from Goytre Hall to Chainbridge?

9.	Date of next meeting - 24th September 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 & 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;	Independent Group
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

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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.

Report for Council 27th June – 11th July

Saturday 27 th June	Abergavenny Pride Abergavenny Castle
Sunday 28 th June 4 p.m.	Newport City Council – Mayors Civic Service Newport Cathedral, Newport
Tuesday 30 th June 10 a.m.	Launch Video Uned Trochi Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni
Friday 3 rd June 10 a.m.	Youth Service annual youth conference County Hall, Usk
Saturday 4 th July 10 a.m.	Gwyl Hwyl Casgwent 4ydd mis Gorffennaf Welsh Event Chepstow
Saturday 4 th July	South Wales 43 rd Annual Shire Horse Show Bailey Park, Abergavenny
Tuesday 7 th July 11 a.m.	Citizenship Ceremony Registrars Office, Usk
Saturday 11 th July 3 p.m.	Monmouth Town Council Civic Service The Church of St Thomas the Martyr, Monmouth

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 5

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held
on Thursday, 25th June, 2026 at 2.00 pm

PRESENT: County Councillor Tudor Thomas (Chair)
County Councillor David Jones (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, Peter Strong, 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, Christopher Edwards, Martyn Groucutt, Simon Howarth, Richard John, Penny Jones, Malcolm Lane, Phil Murphy, M. Newell, Paul Pavia, Maureen Powell, Frances Taylor, Armand Watts and Ann Webb

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Paul Matthews	Chief Executive
Peter Davies	Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer for Resources
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
Craig O'Connor	Chief Officer, Place and Community Well-being

APOLOGIES:

County Councillor Tony Easson

1. Declarations of Interest

None.

2. Chair's Announcement

While noting the Chairs announcement the Chair, and Group Leaders took the opportunity to congratulate Monmouthshire residents who were recipients of honours from His Majesty the King earlier this month under the Birthday Honours.

3. Public Questions:

4. Submitted by Owen Lewis to County Councillor Ian Chandler, Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Accessible Health Services

Can you confirm that all concerns related to operations at Tudor Street have fully been considered and that the council remains committed to safeguarding and meeting the needs of users for the long term.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held on Thursday, 25th June, 2026 at 2.00 pm

The response confirmed that all concerns brought to the Council's attention have been fully considered and discussed with the trustees of the Gathering Community, the independent charity leasing the building from the Council and operating the Empowerment Oasis provision.

Members noted that safeguarding remains of the utmost importance to the Council. It was emphasised that all children, young people and adults have the right to be safe from harm and that any reports of suspected abuse are treated seriously and prioritised for prompt action.

The response further confirmed the Council's ongoing commitment to meeting the needs of adults with physical or learning disabilities and mental health concerns in line with its statutory duties under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, through a range of direct, commissioned and community-based services.

A supplementary question sought clarification on the day-to-day activities of the Gathering Community and associated groups operating from Tudor Street, including Empowerment Oasis and Brighter Days, and the distinctions between them.

In response, it was explained that the Council, in its capacity as landlord, engages periodically with the tenant charity regarding its operations, but does not hold detailed operational or programme information. It was confirmed that further information could be requested and shared with the Mr. Lewis,

5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th May 2026

The minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 14th May 2026 were approved as an accurate record.

6. Proposed Chepstow Bypass

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

The Deputy Leader presented the report to provide the information set out in 6.1.2 of the motion agreed at the Full Council Meeting dated 22nd January 2026.

That 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 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.

Upon being put to a vote Council resolved to note the content of the report.

7. Code of Corporate Governance

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

The Cabinet member for Resources presented the updated Code of Corporate Governance for consideration and to ensure that the Council's governance framework remains aligned with the CIPFA/SOLACE Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework and the 2025 Addendum, thereby supporting the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS).

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held on Thursday, 25th June, 2026 at 2.00 pm

Upon being put to a vote Council resolved to accept the recommendations that Full Council considers the updated Code of Corporate Governance and approves its adoption as part of the Council's Constitution.

8. WG Salix Loan Funding Bid for Energy Retrofit Works

The Cabinet member for Climate Change and the Environment presented the report to seek financial approval to undertake decarbonisation and energy efficiency works in Monmouthshire County Council buildings using Welsh Government loan funding through the Salix Wales Funding Programme (WFP).

Upon being put to a vote Council resolved to accept the recommendations:

To approve the installation of a second phase of energy conservation measures (ECMs) with a combined simple payback of 8 years across multiple MCC buildings at a budget cost of up to £1M, generating net savings to the Council and reducing operational carbon emissions

To fund the installation of the ECMs via a low-interest Salix loan from the WG Wales Funding Programme (WFP) repayable over 10 years from the energy savings generated.

To allocate a capital budget of up to £100,000 to provide a contingency within the total budget cost of the project.

To agree a delegated approval process for future Salix WFP eligible projects as part of the capital programme.

9. Panel Performance Assessment

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

The Leader presented the Panel Performance Assessment report and the authority's response to the recommendations.

Upon being put to a vote Council resolved to accept the recommendations:

To note and accept the findings of the Panel Performance Assessment report attached at appendix

To approve the draft response to the recommendations attached as appendix 2.

10. Caldicot Leisure Centre - First Floor Fitness Suite Investment

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

The Cabinet Member for Engagement and Equalities presented the report to seek Councils approval for the proposed refurbishment and reconfiguration of the Fitness Suite and associated first floor areas at Caldicot Leisure Centre, and for the associated funding arrangements to enable the scheme to progress through the UK Leisure Framework, subject to final affordability and cost certainty.

Upon being put to a vote Council resolved to accept the recommendations:

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held on Thursday, 25th June, 2026 at 2.00 pm

To approve the proposed refurbishment and reconfiguration of the Fitness Suite and associated first floor areas at Caldicot Leisure Centre, as set out in this report.

To approve the proposed allocation of £300,000 of capital match funding and £301,429 of borrowing to support delivery of the scheme, with borrowing costs to be supported through additional income generated within leisure services.

To approve the progression of the RIBA Stage 4 development work and the proposals set out in this report, including delivery of the refurbishment scheme through the UK Leisure Framework, subject to final affordability and cost certainty.

11. Representation of Political Groups Review

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

The Cabinet Member for Engagement and Equalities presented the report for Council to review the representation of different political groups on the bodies to which the Council makes appointments under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Upon being put to a vote Council resolved to accept the recommendations:

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

Committee	Welsh Labour	Welsh Conservatives	Independent Group	Green Independent Group
Scrutiny (9) *(x4)	15	15	4	2
Licensing & Regulatory (12)	6	5	1	0
Planning (16)	7	7	1	1
Democratic Services (12)	5	5	1	1
Governance & Audit (8) (excluding lay members)	4	3	1	0
Appointments (5)	2	2	1	0
Aggregate Entitlement (89)	39	37	9	4

12. Motions to Council

13. Submitted by County Councillor Catrin Maby

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

This Council requests that Cabinet adopts the Charter for the Rights of Rivers Rights of our Rivers:

The Right to Flow and Perform Natural Functions *To maintain its natural course and seasonal rhythms without obstructions or extractions that detrimentally affect ecological function of any part of the river system.*

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held on Thursday, 25th June, 2026 at 2.00 pm

The Right to Biodiversity To good biological health through the existence of balanced, diverse, and viable populations of native species and habitats specific to the Wye and its tributaries.

The Right to Be Free from Pollution To exist in a state of ecological health and not be subject to detrimental levels of known and emerging pollutants that adversely affect the life of the river.

The Right to Be Supported by a Healthy Catchment To flow through environments which support the river as a balanced, sustainable, and resilient aquatic ecosystem. **The Right to Regenerate** To recover to full ecological function through natural processes and for this to be supported by intervention, where necessary, to halt the decline in biodiversity and abundance and to increase both over time.

The Right to Representation To be represented and have these intrinsic rights recognised in the determination of matters that directly affect the river's health now and in the future.

Seconded by County Councillor Meirion Howells.

Upon being put to a vote Council resolved to accept the motion.

14. Submitted by County Councillor Frances Taylor

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

That this Council note the initial works undertaken by officers to deliver additional outdoor formal sports pitch provision on the land at Knollbury to serve the communities of Magor with Undy.

This Council requests that those works are completed urgently so that the proposed planning application can be made for a change of use for recreational purpose in an urgent manner. Council notes that circa residual £188,000 capital balance held by the council from the S106 agreement relating to the development of land at Vinegar Hill, Undy (Planning Ref: DM/2019/01937) are already largely committed to this development.

Seconded by County Councillor Simon Howarth.

Upon being put to a vote Council resolved to accept the motion.

15. Submitted by County Councillor Frances Taylor

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

That this council take all such steps as to ensure urgent compliance with the unilateral undertaking related to the master planned development of 13.8 hectares of land at Rockfield Farm DC 2016/0083 in relation to clause 2.1 "To construct the estate road to be completed up to the site boundary with the adjoining Vinegar Hill prior to the occupation of any unit in phase C1 or C2."

This Council notes the impact on the wider local road network as a result of the failure to comply with this condition and commits to learning from the matter.

Seconded by County Councillor Simon Howarth.

Upon being put to a vote Council resolved to accept the motion.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held on Thursday, 25th June, 2026 at 2.00 pm

15.1. Submitted by County Councillor Simon Howarth

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

Council notes the considerable impact that the current restrictions on Gilwern Viaduct are having on residents, businesses, public transport, school transport and the wider local economy.

Council also notes the importance of the viaduct as a key transport link for Gilwern, Govilon, Llanelly Hill and the surrounding communities, also recognises the growing concern within the community regarding the lack of certainty around a permanent solution.

Council believes that restoring the viaduct to a condition that safely accommodates all appropriate traffic including HGVS should be made a priority for the authority.

Council therefore calls upon the Cabinet member for Climate change and the environment to bring forward a report to full council setting out the following:

- *A proposed long-term solution for the restoration off Gilwern Viaduct.*
- *The estimated cost of delivering that solution.*
- *The funding options available to the council including capital investment, borrowing also external funding opportunities.*
- *An individual timetable for delivery and any wider economic and community benefits arising from the proposed works.*

Council further requests that upon receipt of this report, full council be given the opportunity to consider the options and associated funding arrangements prior to a Cabinet decision

Seconded by County Councillor Fay Bromfield.

Upon being put to a vote Council resolved to accept the motion.

16. Submitted by County Councillor Tomos Davies

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

A4042 Motion

This Council:

- *Notes that the A4042 is a strategically important transport corridor linking Abergavenny and northern Monmouthshire with Cwmbran, Newport and key employment, education and healthcare facilities, including The Grange University Hospital.*
- *Further notes that collisions, road closures and traffic diversions on the A4042 have significant impacts not only on communities along the route, but also on residents across Abergavenny and northern Monmouthshire who rely on the road to access healthcare, including urgent and emergency services at The Grange.*
- *Recognises the need to improve road safety and pedestrian access along the A4042 for residents and all road users.*
- *Welcomes the recent opening of the new pedestrian crossing in Goytre and the benefits it will bring to the local community.*
- *Recognises the strength of local feeling in Llanellen, demonstrated by the recent village meeting attended by more than 100 residents calling for action on road safety, and ongoing concerns about vehicle speeds, collisions and damage to property along the A4042.*
- *Notes that residents of Llanover successfully led a cross-party Senedd petition calling for a pedestrian crossing but are still awaiting progress.*

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held on Thursday, 25th June, 2026 at 2.00 pm

• *Calls on Monmouthshire County Council, the Welsh Government, relevant highway authorities and local stakeholders and partners to develop and deliver credible long-term solutions, including appropriate road safety, pedestrian access and traffic calming measure in Llanellen, Llanover and along the wider A4042 corridor.*

Seconded by County Councillor Jan Butler.

Upon being put to a vote Council resolved to accept the motion.

17. Submitted by County Councillor Jayne McKenna

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This Council: Notes that the UK's copper lines are due to be switched off by 31st January 2027. Recognises that many properties in rural Monmouthshire do not have access to Fibre to the Property (FTTP) or a mobile phone signal and are at risk of digital isolation. Calls on Openreach to delay the switch off until such time as all residents can access modern provision.

Seconded by County Councillor Rachel Buckler.

Upon being put to a vote Council resolved to accept the motion.

18. Member Questions

19. From 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, further to my question of 4th of December, to provide an update on a proposed review of speeding through the village of Llanellen.

The Cabinet Member advised that speed monitoring had been undertaken during the previous year. It was confirmed that a meeting would be arranged between the questioner, the Head of Service and representatives from the traffic team to review the collected data and consider any potential options.

In response, Councillor Davies welcomed the update and noted the link between road safety concerns on the Gypsy Lane stretch and the wider issues previously discussed in relation to the A4042. The offer of a meeting was accepted, with a view to discussing the findings further with officers and sharing the outcomes with local residents.

20. From County Councillor Tomos Davies to County Councillor Mary Ann Brocklesby, Leader of the Council

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To ask the Leader, further to my motion of 4th December seeking a fairer funding settlement for Monmouthshire, what representations has she made to the newly elected Welsh Government.

The Leader advised that, following previous discussions and representations, the administration had worked proactively to secure a fairer funding settlement for the current financial year. It was reported that the 4.4% increase from the Welsh Government was higher than anticipated and

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had enabled the Council to protect services, invest in education and social care, and allocate additional resources towards improving road conditions.

Members noted that engagement with Welsh Government Ministers, including the Cabinet Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning, had been constructive and ongoing. It was further reported that discussions were taking place regarding a review of the local government funding formula, with the Leader confirming her intention to continue making the case for a more equitable settlement for Monmouthshire.

Councillor Davies welcomed the Leader's comments but expressed concern that, despite the uplift, Monmouthshire remained at the lower end of funding settlements across Welsh local authorities. The importance of delivering on previous commitments was highlighted, alongside continued support for efforts to improve the Council's funding position.

The Leader emphasised the importance of maintaining constructive dialogue with both Welsh Government and wider partners. It was noted that reform of the funding formula had been identified as a priority and that progress would require sustained and consistent engagement. The Leader undertook to report back to Council as discussions develop.

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

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

To ask the Cabinet Member to confirm how the authority intends to support and promote next year's Gwent Urdd Eisteddfod.

The Cabinet Member welcomed the opportunity to outline the Council's approach, noting that although the event will be hosted in Newport, it is a regional Eisteddfod (Eisteddfod yr Urdd Bro Wnion Gwent 2027), with strong cultural links to Monmouthshire.

Members were reminded of the success of the previous Eisteddfod hosted in Abergavenny and the significant cultural and community benefits it provided. It was confirmed that Monmouthshire would play an active role in supporting the event through encouraging participation, volunteering, attendance and promotion across communities.

The Cabinet Member outlined that:

- Schools would play a central role in promoting awareness, encouraging participation in competitions, and embedding Welsh language and cultural learning across the curriculum.
- Community learning services would provide opportunities for wider engagement with Welsh language and culture.
- The Council's community development and communications teams would promote volunteering, participation and attendance to maximise benefits for residents and local businesses.
-

It was further noted that the event would support the Council's Welsh language and cultural strategies and was expected to leave a positive legacy.

As a supplementary Councillor Davies young people from Monmouthshire who had recently participated in Eisteddfod activities and highlighted their role as ambassadors for the county. Support was expressed for continuing to promote Welsh language and cultural participation.

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22. From County Councillor Louise Brown to County Councillor Mary Ann Brocklesby, Leader of the Council

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

How is the administration communicating with stakeholders, elected members and residents about the Cardiff Capital Region Strategic Development Plan?

The Deputy Leader responded that the preparation of the SDP is a statutory function of the Cardiff Capital Region Corporate Joint Committee (CJC), with responsibility delegated to the Strategic Development Committee comprising Cabinet Members with planning responsibilities from the ten constituent local authorities. It was noted that the plan is at an early stage of development.

Members were advised that the CCR had recently issued a call for candidate sites to inform the potential distribution of development across the region. The Cabinet Member emphasised the importance of engagement with local authorities and communities as the plan progresses, and reiterated the Council's position that, while regional context is appropriate, decisions regarding site allocations should remain with local authorities. It was also noted that this position would be raised with the Welsh Government.

In a supplementary question, concern was expressed regarding the lack of timely communication to Members, stakeholders and residents at this early stage, particularly in relation to the call for candidate sites.

In response, the Cabinet Member acknowledged that communication to ward Members had not been as timely as it should have been. It was confirmed that a members' workshop was scheduled to provide further information on the process, and that the issue would be raised with the CCR. The Cabinet Member also reflected on the need for improved local dissemination of information going forward.

23. From County Councillor Peter Strong to County Councillor Paul Griffiths, Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development Deputy Leader

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

Has the new Welsh Government confirmed the commitment of the previous Welsh Government to developing a road link between the M48 and Severn Tunnel Junction railway station?

The Deputy Leader responded with an update regarding proposed transport improvements associated with a new junction on the M48 and a link road serving Rogiet and Severn Tunnel Junction.

The Cabinet Member advised that the previous Welsh Government had included provision within its 2026/27 budget to progress design options for a new M48 junction and associated link road. It was noted that this scheme is intended to provide a bypass for Rogiet, alleviating traffic on local roads, improve access to the motorway network for Severnside residents, reduce congestion in Chepstow, and support wider regional connectivity, including aspirations for a Severnside Parkway.

Members were informed that the new Welsh Government had recently published its supplementary budget and that confirmation was being sought to ensure continued support for

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the scheme. Whilst no evidence had been identified to suggest a change in commitment, the Council was actively seeking clarification and engaging with the Transport Minister.

In a supplementary question, concern was raised regarding the condition of Station Road, Rogiet, and the potential for increased traffic ahead of the link road being delivered, particularly in light of anticipated enhancements to rail services from Severn Tunnel Junction. It was suggested that priority be given to resurfacing works and consideration of additional road safety measures.

In response, the Cabinet Member acknowledged the anticipated increase in traffic and the challenges this would present for existing infrastructure. It was stated that, whilst the link road would not be in place in the short term, the changing circumstances would be taken into account and given due consideration as part of future planning and prioritisation.

24. From County Councillor Simon Howarth to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

Could the cabinet member please provide update on the site meeting from Church Road and upper Church Road Gilwern.

The Cabinet Member responded that Highways Operations are currently reviewing drainage options following a recent site meeting. Members were advised that a significant proportion of the water affecting the highway originates from field runoff, which is difficult to manage within the existing drainage infrastructure. It was further noted that during periods of heavy rainfall, the drainage system may become overwhelmed.

The Cabinet Member highlighted that additional core revenue funding allocated this year for sweeping and vacuuming would provide increased capacity for maintenance activities, helping to improve drainage performance where possible.

It was confirmed that the Head of Service would provide an update to the local Member and residents who attended the site visit, including proposed timescales for any potential works.

In a supplementary question, a request was made for a further site meeting at the earliest opportunity to consider minor works aimed at alleviating flooding impacting properties in the lower part of the area.

In response, it was agreed that the matter would be referred to the flooding team to confirm whether it was being progressed and, if not, to ensure that it was brought to their attention.

25. From County Councillor Christopher Edwards to County Councillor Laura Wright, Cabinet Member for Education

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Can the Cabinet Member outline what actions have been taken to protect pupils and staff of Chepstow schools; leisure centre staff and users; and local residents from a safeguarding perspective after the activities of the illegal traveller encampment at Chepstow Leisure Centre in March of this year, and what measures will be put in place to ensure that this will not happen again

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The Cabinet Member for Engagement and Equalities responded that following the incidents, officers had reviewed the circumstances and were identifying practical measures to reduce the risk of recurrence. Council services are working collaboratively to explore options, including the potential introduction of physical control measures, while ensuring that any interventions remain appropriate given the operational complexity of the site.

Members noted that the site presents particular challenges, including a one-way system, limited access and egress points, and high volumes of pedestrian and vehicular traffic associated with nearby facilities such as a leisure centre, school, and public transport routes. It was emphasised that any measures must balance security improvements with the need to maintain safety, access, and traffic flow.

It was further reported that, in addition to considering physical changes, a revised internal approach has been implemented, including the establishment of a cross-council response group to enable a coordinated and rapid response to encampments. This approach has already been utilised successfully in responding to a recent encampment.

Members were reminded that the Council must operate within the relevant legal framework, balancing enforcement with safeguarding responsibilities and appropriate processes, with safeguarding concerns treated as a priority.

In a supplementary question, concerns were raised regarding the impact of encampments on staff, residents and site users, and a request was made for consideration of height restriction barriers as a deterrent measure, together with an indicative timescale for implementation.

In response, the Cabinet Member acknowledged the request but advised that, due to the complexity of the site, a range of options is currently being considered, and no specific timeline could be provided at this stage. It was confirmed that further information regarding timescales would be sought and shared when available.

26. From County Councillor Lisa Dymock to County Councillor Paul Griffiths, Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development Deputy Leader

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When was the Cabinet Member first aware that the PEDW hearings would need to be postponed because of a failure to comply with Regulation 23 and what steps is the Council now taking to ensure full compliance with the process?

The Deputy Leader responded that the Council had taken steps to communicate the examination process to residents and stakeholders, including those who had previously engaged in consultation. This included publishing the timetable via a link on the Council's website, which led to a high level of public engagement and participation in the examination.

However, Members noted that on 29 May 2026, Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) advised that the use of a hyperlink alone did not meet the required legal standard, and that the timetable should be published directly on the Council's website. It was confirmed that this requirement has since been addressed.

The Cabinet Member emphasised that the examination of the RLDP has not been suspended and will proceed as planned, with hearing sessions scheduled to commence on 8 September 2026. The Council reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring the process remains fair and transparent.

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In a supplementary question, concern was raised that the initial approach may undermine public confidence, and a request was made for a review to understand how the issue arose and to ensure lessons are learned.

In response, the Cabinet Member acknowledged the need for a review. It was suggested that this should be considered more broadly across Wales, involving Welsh Government and other local authorities, particularly in relation to guidance on acceptable methods of communication.

27. From County Councillor Penny Jones to County Councillor Ben Callard, Cabinet Member for Resources

[Click here to watch the meeting](#)

Please could the Cabinet Member give an update on the long-awaited Asset Transfer for the MUGA in Raglan to Raglan Community Council?

The Cabinet Member acknowledged that the matter has been longstanding, with the original Cabinet decision dating back to 2017. It was reported that progress had recently been delayed due to changes in legal representation on the part of the Community Council, although this issue had now been resolved with a new appointment.

Members were advised that the Council has responded to the remaining outstanding matters, including issues relating to repair and maintenance responsibilities, electricity recharging arrangements, and formal confirmation of agreement by Raglan Community Council. It was anticipated that, subject to resolution of these matters, a report would be brought forward to Cabinet to approve the transfer.

In a supplementary question, concern was expressed regarding the ongoing delay and the impact on local residents, particularly given the limited availability and condition of community facilities within Raglan. A request was made for a clear and defined timeline for completion of the transfer.

In response, the Cabinet Member acknowledged these concerns and the importance of progressing the matter. It was noted that delivery is dependent on engagement with external parties and not wholly within the Council's control. However, it was reported that there had been positive developments more recently, including in relation to other local assets, and it was hoped that the transfer could be concluded within the coming year.

28. From County Councillor Richard John to County Councillor Mary Ann Brocklesby, Leader of the Council

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What discussions has the Leader had with Cabinet Ministers in the new Welsh Government?

The Leader confirmed a commitment to maintaining a constructive and proactive dialogue with the new administration to support and promote Monmouthshire's priorities. It was reported that correspondence had been sent to the First Minister and all Cabinet Members to offer congratulations and to reinforce the Council's willingness to work collaboratively. Ongoing engagement was noted, particularly during the initial 100-day period of the new Government.

Members were advised that regular meetings were being held through the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), and that the Leader continues to represent Monmouthshire in key spokesperson roles, including social services and rural affairs. Meetings have already taken

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place with the Cabinet Minister for Local Government and Housing, with further engagements scheduled with Ministers responsible for enterprise, connectivity, energy, and rural resilience. Issues raised to date include planning, housing, and local government funding.

In a supplementary question, concern was raised regarding the proposed council tax revaluation scheduled for 2028 and its potential disproportionate impact on Monmouthshire residents. Clarification was sought on discussions with Welsh Government and the likelihood of the proposals proceeding.

In response, the Leader advised that, given the recent establishment of the new Government, this matter had not yet been discussed. However, it was noted that the Council had previously expressed concerns regarding the proposals and had supported the option considered least detrimental to residents. The Leader further advised that the new Government has indicated that all elements of the funding framework are under review, with Ministers signalling an intention to maintain an open and ongoing dialogue with local authorities.

29. Date of next meeting - 16th July 2026

Noted.

The meeting ended at 19:00pm

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SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO COUNCIL MOTION: REVIEW OF COUNCIL AND GREATER GWENT PENSION FUND INVESTMENTS

MEETING: FULL COUNCIL

DATE: 16th July 2026

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: Countywide

1. PURPOSE:

To provide Council with an update on progress made in response to the motion agreed at Full Council on 18 September 2025 concerning the review of Monmouthshire County Council's own treasury investments and the request that the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund reviews relevant pension fund investments.

The report asks Council to note the action taken to date, the current position reported by the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund and Wales Pension Partnership, the findings of the Council's own treasury investment review, and the proposed next steps for ongoing monitoring and reporting.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Council notes the progress made in response to the motion carried on 18 September 2025.
- 2.2 That Council notes the separate role and fiduciary responsibilities of the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund Committee in relation to pension fund investments, and the update provided by the Chair of that Committee.
- 2.3 That Council notes the revised Wales Pension Partnership (WPP) Responsible Investment Policy and exclusions framework approved by the WPP Joint Governance Committee on 10 March 2026 and implemented from 1 April 2026.
- 2.4 That Council notes the outcome of the review of Monmouthshire County Council's own treasury investment portfolio and the finding that no direct holdings in individual defence contractors, arms manufacturers or military companies have been identified within that portfolio.
- 2.5 That Council agrees the proposed next steps set out in section 6 of this report, including continued engagement with treasury advisers, investment managers and the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund on responsible investment matters.
- 2.6 That Council notes the Integrated Impact Assessment at Appendix 1.

3. KEY ISSUES:

Background to the motion

- 3.1 On 18 September 2025, Council considered and carried a motion submitted by County Councillor Ian Chandler. The motion noted concern about the humanitarian situation in Gaza and resolved that the Council should review its own investments and request that the Greater Gwent Pension Fund reviews its investments to identify any direct or indirect holdings in companies supplying arms, military technology or logistical support which enable breaches of international law in Gaza. The motion also requested that the Council and the Fund work with asset managers to take steps to end such investments and report back to Council within three months on progress made.
- 3.2 The three-month reporting timeline has not been achieved. This reflects the fact that key aspects of the response sit outside the direct control of Monmouthshire County Council and have required work to be progressed through the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund and the Wales Pension Partnership, including the development of an all-Wales responsible investment and exclusions framework.

Council's own treasury investments

- 3.3 Officers have undertaken a specific review of the Council's treasury investment portfolio, rather than relying only on routine annual treasury management reporting. The review considered the live investment position at 30 June 2026, the nature of each investment, the level of direct and indirect exposure involved, and the extent to which the Council can influence underlying holdings.
- 3.4 As at 30 June 2026, the Council held treasury investments totalling £19.7m across operational banking arrangements, UK Debt Management Office deposits, money market funds, diversified pooled income funds and a local authority property fund.

Investment	Amount
State Street MMF – SSgA GBP Liquidity Fund Ireland	£200,000
Federated Short-Term Sterling Prime Fund	£4,000,000
Barclays FIBCA	£2,000,000
Aberdeen Liquidity Sterling Fund Luxembourg	£500,000
UK Debt Management Office	£9,000,000
Aegon Diversified Income Fund	£2,000,000
CCLA Property Fund	£500,000
Ninety One Diversified Income Fund	£1,500,000
Total	£19,700,000

- 3.5 The review concluded that the Council does not directly hold shares or bonds in individual arms manufacturers, military contractors or defence companies through its treasury portfolio. The portfolio is instead held through operational banking arrangements, UK Government deposits, money market funds and pooled investment funds. These

arrangements can create counterparty, sovereign or indirect pooled exposure, but do not give the Council ownership or control of individual companies.

- 3.6 Treasury management decisions must continue to comply with the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy, the CIPFA Treasury Management Code, Welsh Government investment guidance and the Council's fiduciary responsibilities for stewardship of public funds. Security and liquidity remain the Council's overriding investment priorities, ahead of yield. ESG and reputational considerations are increasingly relevant to future treasury strategy development, but cannot be applied in a way that undermines the prudent management of public funds or the Council's ability to meet its obligations as they fall due.

Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund and Wales Pension Partnership

- 3.7 The Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund is administered by Torfaen County Borough Council and overseen by its Pension Fund Committee. The Fund is legally and operationally distinct from Monmouthshire County Council's own treasury arrangements. Investment decisions for the Fund must be taken by the administering authority and Pension Fund Committee in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme regulatory framework and fiduciary obligations to scheme members and employers.
- 3.8 At its meeting on 30 March 2026, the Pension Committee considered a report responding to the recent Torfaen petition and related motions passed by other Gwent local authorities, including Monmouthshire. The Committee was advised that WPP had approved a formal exclusions framework to provide a consistent and transparent basis for assessing investments against breaches of international law and human rights considerations. The Committee discussed the petition and agreed its response.
- 3.9 The Chair of the Pension Fund Committee has provided a written update confirming that the Fund is an active participant in WPP and that over 75% of Fund assets are currently managed by WPP. The update states that the WPP responsible investment policies expect relevant ESG factors to be considered, including human rights and respect for global norms. It also confirms that the March 2026 policy changes will result in exclusions relating to material involvement in thermal coal, unconventional oil and gas, controversial weapons, and companies in breach of global norms, encompassing breaches of international humanitarian law.
- 3.10 The WPP exclusions framework was implemented from 1 April 2026. At present it applies to listed equity and bond mandates, representing around 65% of total Welsh LGPS fund assets and over 80% of Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund assets. WPP will consider expanding the policy to cover all assets, including private market investments, over time.
- 3.11 In the interests of transparency, the Chair's letter states that, as at the end of March 2026, the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund had approximately £62m invested in companies covered by three sources used to assess potential exposure relating to the Occupied Palestinian Territories: the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the American Friends Service Committee and Who Profits. The letter also notes

that these sources are inputs into the process rather than a sole basis for decision-making and that there is no definitive source of information around such exposure.

Wales Pension Partnership Responsible Investment Policy

- 3.12 The updated WPP Responsible Investment Policy confirms that WPP recognises ESG factors, including climate change and human rights, as financially material risks and potentially investment opportunities. WPP's stated beliefs include that ESG integration is a prerequisite for any investment strategy and that, in many circumstances, investors are most effective through engagement for change from within, particularly in collaboration with like-minded investors.
- 3.13 The policy also sets out circumstances where WPP will not invest, to the extent practicable, including companies involved in the production of controversial weapons and companies in persistent breach of the principles of the UN Global Compact or otherwise demonstrated to be complicit in the violation of international humanitarian law where engagement has demonstrated that there is no immediate prospect of concerns being rectified.

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

- 4.1 The Integrated Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix 1. In summary, the report is primarily an update and governance response to a Council motion and does not directly change service provision or access to services. It does, however, have relevance to transparency, ethical stewardship of public resources, public confidence, responsible investment practice and the Council's contribution to a globally responsible Wales.
- 4.2 The assessment identifies no direct negative impacts on protected characteristic groups, the Welsh language, safeguarding, corporate parenting or socio-economic disadvantage. The main positive impacts are improved transparency, strengthened consideration of responsible investment and human rights issues, greater clarity about the respective roles of the Council, the Pension Fund and WPP, and continued attention to long-term ethical, fiduciary and reputational considerations. The key mitigation is to ensure future work remains evidence-based, legally compliant, transparent, proportionate and mindful of the Council's treasury management and fiduciary duties.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Option	Description	Assessment
1. Take no further action	Do not provide a formal update to Council.	Not recommended. This would not respond adequately to the motion and would reduce transparency.

2. Provide an update limited to the Council's own treasury investments	Report only on the Council's own investment arrangements.	Not sufficient. The motion also requested engagement with the Greater Gwent Pension Fund.
3. Provide a combined update on Council treasury investments and the Pension Fund/WPP position	Report on the Council's own review while clearly distinguishing the separate governance responsibilities of the Pension Fund and WPP.	Recommended. This provides the most complete and proportionate response while respecting legal and fiduciary boundaries.
4. Seek to instruct the Pension Fund to divest	Attempt to direct Pension Fund investment decisions.	Not recommended. Pension Fund investment decisions rest with the administering authority and Pension Fund Committee, subject to their statutory and fiduciary duties.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

6.1 The following evaluation criteria are now proposed:

- Receipt and consideration of updates from the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund and WPP on implementation of the exclusions framework.
- Ongoing treasury management review of the Council's own investment portfolio through established reporting to Governance and Audit Committee and Council.
- Ensure that future Treasury Management Strategies continue to consider ESG, reputational and responsible investment matters alongside security, liquidity and yield.
- Evidence of continued engagement with relevant fund managers, treasury advisers and pension fund officers where significant responsible investment issues arise.

7. REASONS:

7.1 The report is required to respond to the motion carried by Council on 18 September 2025 and to demonstrate that proportionate action has been taken. It also provides Members with a clear account of progress, the limits of the Council's direct control, and the governance arrangements that apply to treasury and pension fund investments.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

8.1 There are no direct additional revenue or capital budget implications arising from the recommendations in this report. Officer time has been required to review treasury investment information, consider responsible investment information and liaise with relevant stakeholders. Any future change to treasury investment strategy would need to be

considered through the annual Treasury Management Strategy and established governance arrangements, with advice from treasury advisers and appropriate consideration of security, liquidity, yield, risk, legal and reputational factors.

- 8.2 The Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund operates separately from the Council's revenue budget. Pension Fund investment management and governance costs are met by the Fund and do not fall directly on the Council's revenue budget, although the Council remains a participating employer in the Fund.

9. CONSULTEES:

Cabinet
Strategic Leadership Team

Chair of the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund Committee – written update provided on the Fund and WPP position.

Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund officers – through the published Pension Committee report and minutes of 30 March 2026.

Jonathan Davies, Head of Finance – review of the Council's own treasury investment arrangements.

Treasury management officers and treasury advisers – information considered through the treasury investment review process.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Motion to Council submitted by County Councillor Ian Chandler, carried by Council on 18 September 2025.

Letter from Councillor Nathan Yeowell, Chair of the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund Committee, dated 3 July 2026.

Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund Committee minutes, 30 March 2026, item 8 (Consideration of the recent Torfaen County Borough Council Petition and Other Gwent Local Authority Motions).

Pension Committee report: Consideration of the recent Torfaen County Borough Council Petition and Other Gwent Local Authority Motions, 30 March 2026.

Wales Pension Partnership Responsible Investment Policy, March 2026.

MCC treasury investments review, prepared by Jonathan Davies, Head of Finance.

Integrated Impact Assessment, Appendix 1.

- 11. AUTHOR:** Peter Davies, Deputy Chief Executive

12. CONTACT DETAILS:

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monmouthshire
sir fynwy

Integrated Impact Assessment Template

(incorporating Equalities, Socio-economic Duty, Future Generations, Welsh Language Measures, Corporate Parenting)

Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Peter Davies, Deputy Chief Executive Phone no: 07398 954828 E-mail: peterdavies@monmouthshire.gov.uk	Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal To provide Council with a progress update on the motion agreed on 18 th September 2025 concerning the review of the Council's own treasury investments and the request that Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund reviews relevant pension fund investment exposure. The proposal is to note progress, clarify governance responsibilities, and agree proportionate next steps.
Name of Service area Resources Directorate, Finance	Date: Full Council, 16 th July 2026

1. **Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics?** Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

<u>Protected Characteristics</u>	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age <i>Consider the impact on our community in relation to age, e.g. how do we engage with older and younger people about our services, access issues etc. Also consider what issues there are for employment and training.</i>	Positive impact arises from improved transparency and governance in relation to public funds and responsible investment considerations.	No direct negative impact identified at this stage.	Maintain transparent reporting and ensure future engagement is accessible, evidence-based and respectful of diverse community views.

<u>Protected Characteristics</u>	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Disability <i>Consider the impact and what issues there are around each of the disability needs groups e.g. access to buildings/services, how we provide services and the way we do this; producing information in alternative formats, employment issues etc.</i>	As above	As above	As above
Gender reassignment <i>Consider the provision of inclusive services for transgender people and groups. Also consider what issues there are for employment and training.</i>	As above	As above	As above
Marriage or civil partnership <i>Same-sex couples registered as civil partners have the same rights as married couples and must be provided with the same benefits, such as survivor pensions, flexible working, maternity/paternity pay and healthcare insurance. Consider the impact of your proposal on these rights.</i>	As above	As above	As above

<u>Protected Characteristics</u>	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Pregnancy or maternity <i>A woman is protected from discrimination during her pregnancy, maternity leave and 26 weeks from the day she gives birth. Including the provision of services, goods and facilities and recreational or training facilities. Consider the impact of your proposal on these protections.</i>	As above	As above	As above
Race <i>What will the proposal do to promote race equality with the aim of eliminating unlawful discrimination, promoting equality of opportunity and promoting good relations between different racial groups. Think about the potential to affect racial groups differently. Possible issues include providing translation/interpreting services, cultural issues and customs, access to services, issues relating to Asylum Seeker, Refugee, Gypsy & Traveler, migrant communities and recording of racist incidents etc.</i>	The report acknowledges significant public concern about human rights and international humanitarian law. Transparent decision-making supports confidence among communities with differing lived experience, ethnicity, nationality, faith or belief perspectives.	No direct negative impact identified at this stage.	Maintain a rights-based, evidence-led approach.
Religion or Belief <i>Consider the impact e.g. dietary issues, religious holidays or days associated with religious observance, cultural issues and customs. Also consider what issues there are for employment and training.</i>	The report acknowledges significant public concern about human rights and international humanitarian law. Transparent decision-making supports confidence among communities with differing lived experience, ethnicity, nationality, faith or belief perspectives.	No direct negative impact identified at this stage.	Maintain a rights-based, evidence-led approach.

<u>Protected Characteristics</u>	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Sex <i>Consider what issues there are for men and women. Will this impact disproportionately on one group more than another e.g. equal pay, responsibilities for dependents, issues for carers, access to training, employment issues.</i>	Positive impact arises from improved transparency and governance in relation to public funds and responsible investment considerations.	No direct negative impact identified at this stage.	Maintain transparent reporting and ensure future engagement is accessible, evidence-based and respectful of diverse community views.
Sexual Orientation <i>Consider the provision of inclusive services for e.g. older and younger people from the Lesbian, Gay and Bi-sexual communities. Also consider what issues there are for employment and training.</i>	As above	As above	As above

2. The Socio-economic Duty

The Socio-economic Duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage when taking key decisions.

Socio-economic disadvantage can be defined as living in less favorable social and economic circumstances than others in society. It also includes social justice, which is about reducing inequalities by working towards more equal distribution of wealth and opportunities so everyone can achieve their full potential.

Consider how the proposal could affect the following vulnerable groups:

Armed Forces Community (including veterans)

Single parents

Vulnerable families

Single adult households

Carers

Students

People living in the most deprived areas

Pensioners

Homeless People

People misusing substances

People who have experienced the asylum system

People involved in the criminal justice system

<u>Socio-economic Duty</u>	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering from socio economic disadvantage.	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts in relation to the Socio-economic disadvantage?
<i>Think of what evidence you have about socio-economic disadvantage and inequalities of outcome in relation to this proposal. Will it impact disproportionately on certain groups? Can the proposals be improved to reduce inequalities of outcome?</i>	The report supports confidence that public resources are being stewarded responsibly and transparently. Continued prudent treasury management protects public funds and supports the Council's ability to deliver services over time.	No direct negative impact identified. A potential indirect risk would arise if ethical or reputational considerations were pursued without regard to security, liquidity, yield and fiduciary duties, as this could weaken financial stewardship.	Ensure future treasury and pension-related considerations remain legally compliant, proportionate and financially prudent. Continue to balance responsible investment considerations with the duty to protect public funds and pension scheme interests.

30 Policy making and the Welsh language

What are the effects that the proposals would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated? Explain how you believe the proposals could be improved so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:	Describe the positive impacts of this proposal	Describe the negative impacts of this proposal	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts
Policy Making: <i>Consider what impact this policy decision will have on the Welsh Language. This includes opportunities for people to use the language, opportunities to promote the language and treating the language no less favourably than the English language. Include any data and evidence e.g. WESP, Census Data, Cymraeg 2050, Welsh Language Strategy.</i>	The proposal does not alter Welsh language service provision.	No negative impact identified at this stage.	Ensure the report and public-facing materials comply with the Council's Welsh Language Standards and translation requirements.
Operational: Recruitment & Training of workforce <i>Carefully consider whether vacant posts require Welsh language skills as a desirable or essential skill. This is especially pertinent with front line roles as more than 10 % of the population of Monmouthshire speak Welsh. Also, when assessing the need for Welsh language skills keep in mind the existing Welsh language skills within the workforce. In service areas where there is a current lack of Welsh language skills, posts should be advertised as Welsh language essential. Additionally, consider where further training may be needed to increase the number of staff who can speak Welsh and to enhance the skills of current Welsh speakers.</i>	No workforce or recruitment changes are proposed.	No negative impact identified at this stage.	None identified beyond normal compliance with workforce Welsh language requirements.
Service Delivery: Use of Welsh language in service delivery <i>When advertising our services you must promote the fact that people can deal with the council in Welsh by</i>	No service delivery change is proposed.	No negative impact identified at this stage.	Ensure any future consultation or public engagement offers Welsh language arrangements in line with Council standards.

phone, email, twitter, Facebook, letters, forms, website transactions etc.			
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4. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!

<u>Well Being Goals</u>	Describe the positive impacts the proposal has on the wellbeing goal.	Describe the negative impacts the proposal has on the wellbeing goal.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A prosperous Wales <i>An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises global limits and uses resources efficiently (including acting on climate change); a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides jobs.</i>	Prudent treasury management and responsible investment oversight support long-term financial resilience and protect public funds.	No direct negative impact identified.	Retain security and liquidity as primary treasury principles while considering ESG and reputational factors.
A resilient Wales <i>Maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).</i>	The WPP Responsible Investment Policy includes climate, nature and ESG considerations.	No direct environmental impact from this report.	Continue to consider ESG risk through treasury strategy and pension fund engagement.
A healthier Wales <i>People's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</i>	No direct health service impact. Transparent governance may support community trust in public decision-making.	No negative impact identified.	Maintain clear reporting and appropriate signposting for public concerns.

<u>Well Being Goals</u>	Describe the positive impacts the proposal has on the wellbeing goal.	Describe the negative impacts the proposal has on the wellbeing goal.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A Wales of cohesive communities <i>Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</i>	The report addresses a matter of public concern through democratic reporting and clarifies roles and responsibilities.	The issue is sensitive and could be divisive if reporting is unclear or perceived as partial.	The report has been prepared using factual, balanced language with a focus on legal, fiduciary and governance responsibilities.
A globally responsible Wales <i>Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing</i>	The proposal has the clearest positive link to this goal by considering human rights, international humanitarian law and responsible investment impacts beyond Wales.	No direct negative impact identified.	Continue to engage with WPP and the Pension Fund on policy implementation and transparency.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language <i>Promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and participation in the arts, and sports and recreation</i>	No direct cultural or Welsh language impact.	No negative impact identified.	Comply with Welsh Language Standards in publication and engagement.
A more equal Wales <i>People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances. (This includes the protected characteristics listed in Section 1 above. You can add more detail there. Don't forget to think about the impacts on poverty)</i>	No direct service change. Rights-based and transparent governance may support fair decision-making.	No direct negative impact identified.	Ensure future work recognises diverse community perspectives.

5. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

<u>Sustainable Development Principles</u>	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 Long Term Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future <i>We are required to look beyond the usual short term timescales for financial planning and political cycles and instead plan with the longer term in mind (guidance says at least 10 years, but preferably 25)</i>	The report considers long-term stewardship of public funds, pension fund investment governance and responsible investment risks, including human rights and ESG considerations.	Ongoing review of future Treasury Management Strategies to determine how ESG, reputational and ethical issues should be reflected alongside security, liquidity and yield.
 Collaboration Working together with other partners to deliver objectives	The response relies on engagement with Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund, WPP, treasury advisers and investment managers.	Maintain dialogue with Pension Fund officers and WPP updates as implementation of the exclusions framework develops.
 Involvement Involving those with an interest and seeking their views <i>Who are the stakeholders who will be affected by your proposal? Have they been involved? Do those people reflect the diversity of the area which is served?</i>	The motion arose from democratic debate and public concern. Correspondence from stakeholders and a petition considered by Torfaen have informed the broader context.	Ensure future engagement is transparent and accessible, and that any further representations are considered through the appropriate governance route.

<u>Sustainable Development Principles</u>	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 Prevention Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse	Responsible investment and treasury governance can help manage legal, financial and reputational risks before they crystallise.	Use established treasury and pension fund governance to identify significant emerging risks.
 Integration Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies <i>Focus here on how you will better integrate the Wellbeing Goals impacts</i> Page 33 <i>on people, economy and environment described above and balance any competing impacts. Think about impacts the proposal may have on other organisations</i>	The report balances ethical, financial, legal, governance and reputational considerations and recognises the separate responsibilities of Council, Pension Fund and WPP.	Continue to integrate IIA findings into future reports where policy changes are proposed.

6. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Corporate Parenting, Care Leavers, Care Experienced People and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<u>Safeguarding</u> <i>Safeguarding in this context applies to children (not yet reached 18th birthday) and adult at risk (identified as a person over the age of 18 and who (a) is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect, (b) has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs), and (c) as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.) Safeguarding is about ensuring that everything is in place to promote the well-being of children and adults at risk, preventing them from being harmed and protecting those who are at risk of abuse and neglect.</i>	No direct safeguarding impact. Prudent stewardship of public funds supports the Council's capacity to provide statutory services over time.	No negative impact identified at this stage.	No specific mitigation required beyond normal safeguarding duties.

<u>Corporate Parenting, Care Leavers and Care Experienced People</u> <i>This relates to those children who are 'looked after' by the Local Authority either through voluntary arrangements with their parents or through a Court Order. The Council has a corporate duty to consider 'children who are looked after especially and to promote their welfare (in a way, as though those children were their own). It also relates to care experienced people (people who have spent time in care when they were under 18 years old). The Council must consider how to help overcome the disadvantages and discrimination they experience.</i>	No direct impact is identified.	No negative impact identified at this stage.	No specific mitigation required.
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7. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

It will include your baseline position, measures and studies that have informed your thinking and the recommendation you are making. It should allow you to identify whether any changes resulting from the implementation of the recommendation have had a positive or negative effect. Key strategies and documents that may help you include: Community and Corporate Plan, Asset Management Strategy, Digital and Data Strategy, Medium Term Financial Strategy, People Strategy, Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy: [Enabling Strategies](#) See Guidance for more examples.

- Council motion approved on 18th September 2025.
- Monmouthshire County Council treasury investment review using holdings as at 30th June 2026 and relevant supporting information including advice from the Council's treasury advisors.
- Letter from the Chair of the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund Committee dated 3 July 2026.
- Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund Committee report and minutes of 30 March 2026, item 8.
- Wales Pension Partnership Responsible Investment Policy approved in March 2026 and implemented from 1 April 2026.
- Published responsible investment, ESG, stewardship and sustainability information considered as part of the treasury review.
- Council reporting and IIA template guidance.

8. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

This section should summarise the key issues arising from the evaluation. This summary must be included in the Committee Report Template

The proposal is primarily a progress and governance report. It does not directly change service provision, employment arrangements, access to services, eligibility criteria, Welsh language provision, safeguarding arrangements or corporate parenting responsibilities. No direct negative impacts have been identified at this stage for protected characteristic groups, people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, Welsh language users, children, adults at risk, care leavers or care experienced people.

The main positive impacts are improved transparency, accountability and public confidence; a clearer articulation of the Council's own investment position; recognition of the separate fiduciary responsibilities of the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund; and continued alignment with responsible investment, human rights and globally responsible Wales considerations.

The assessment has reinforced the need for future work to remain evidence-led, legally compliant and proportionate, balancing responsible investment considerations with treasury management duties, fiduciary duties, security, liquidity and value for money. Further work should be reported through established governance routes if policy changes or material findings arise.

9. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

What are you going to do?	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible?
Ongoing review of Treasury Management Strategy wording to consider how ESG, reputational and ethical considerations are reflected alongside security, liquidity and yield.	As part of the next annual Treasury Management Strategy update.	Head of Finance / Treasury Management officers and advisors.
Continue to monitor WPP and Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund updates on implementation of the responsible investment and exclusions framework.	Ongoing; report significant developments through established governance arrangements.	Deputy Chief Executive / Head of Finance, with Pension Fund officers.

10. VERSION CONTROL: The Integrated Impact Assessment should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision-making process. It is important to keep a record of this process to demonstrate how you have considered and built in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage <i>e.g. budget mandate, DMT, SLT, Scrutiny, Cabinet etc</i>	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
0.1	Officer draft	6 th July 2026	Initial draft prepared
0.2	Post Cabinet and SLT consultation	7 th July 2026	Draft updated following consultation
1.0	Council agenda publication	8 th July 2026	Final version ahead of publication.