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County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Monday, 6 July 2026

Notice of meeting:

People Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 14th July, 2026 at 10.00 am
The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA

Please note that a pre meeting will be held 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting for members of the committee.

AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for Absence.	
2.	Declarations of Interest.	
3.	Public Open Forum. Our Scrutiny Committee meetings are live streamed and a link to the live stream will be available on the meeting page of the Monmouthshire County Council website If you would like to speak under the Public Open Forum at an upcoming meeting you will need to give three working days' notice in advance of the meeting by contacting Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk The amount of time afforded to each member of the public to speak is at the Chair's discretion, but to enable us to accommodate multiple speakers we ask that contributions be no longer than 3 minutes. Alternatively, if you would like to submit a written, audio or video representation, please contact the team via the same email address to arrange this. The deadline for submitting representations to the Council is 5pm three clear working days in advance of the meeting. If combined representations received exceed 30 minutes, a selection of these based on theme will be shared at the meeting. All representations received will be made available to councillors prior to the meeting. If you would like to suggest future topics for scrutiny by one of our Scrutiny Committees, please do so by emailing Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk	

4.	Homelessness Update - To scrutinise the progress in preventing homelessness.	1 - 90
5.	Council and Cabinet Work Planner.	91 - 102
6.	People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme and Action List.	103 - 106
7.	To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting.	107 - 116
8.	Next Meeting: 22nd September 2026 at 10.00am.	

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive

**MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY**

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Jackie Strong, Caldicot Cross, Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor John Crook, Magor East with Undy, Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jan Butler, Goetre Fawr, Welsh Conservative Party
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 Penny Jones, Raglan, Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Maureen Powell, Pen Y Fal, Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Maria Stevens, Severn, Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru

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Public Open Forum

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The amount of time afforded to each member of the public to speak is at the Chair's discretion, but to enable us to accommodate multiple speakers we ask that contributions be no longer than 3 minutes.

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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.

Monmouthshire Scrutiny Question Guide

Role of the Pre-meeting	
1. Why is the Committee scrutinising this? (background, key issues) 2. What is the Committee's role and what outcome do Members want to achieve? 3. Is there sufficient information to achieve this? If not, who could provide this? - Agree the order of questioning and which Members will lead - Agree questions for officers and questions for the Cabinet Member	
Questions for the Meeting	
<u>Scrutinising Performance</u> 1. How does performance compare with previous years? Is it better/worse? Why? 2. How does performance compare with other councils/other service providers? Is it better/worse? Why? 3. How does performance compare with set targets? Is it better/worse? Why? 4. How were performance targets set? Are they challenging enough/realistic? 5. How do service users/the public/partners view the performance of the service? 6. Have there been any recent audit and inspections? What were the findings? 7. How does the service contribute to the achievement of corporate objectives? 8. Is improvement/decline in performance linked to an increase/reduction in resource? What capacity is there to improve?	<u>Scrutinising Policy</u> 1. Who does the policy affect ~ directly and indirectly? Who will benefit most/least? 2. What is the view of service users/stakeholders? What consultation has been undertaken? Did the consultation process comply with the Gunning Principles? Do stakeholders believe it will achieve the desired outcome? 3. What is the view of the community as a whole - the 'taxpayer' perspective? 4. What methods were used to consult with stakeholders? Did the process enable all those with a stake to have their say? 5. What practice and options have been considered in developing/reviewing this policy? What evidence is there to inform what works? Does the policy relate to an area where there is a lack of published research or other evidence? 6. Does the policy relate to an area where there are known inequalities? 7. Does this policy align to our corporate objectives, as defined in our corporate plan? Does it adhere to our Welsh Language Standards? 8. Have all relevant sustainable development, equalities and safeguarding implications

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| | <p>9. been taken into consideration? For example, what are the procedures that need to be in place to protect children?</p> <p>10.</p> <p>11. How much will this cost to implement and what funding source has been identified?</p> <p>12.</p> <p>13. How will performance of the policy be measured and the impact evaluated</p> |
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General Questions:

Empowering Communities

- How are we involving local communities and empowering them to design and deliver services to suit local need?
- Do we have regular discussions with communities about service priorities and what level of service the council can afford to provide in the future?
- Is the service working with citizens to explain the role of different partners in delivering the service, and managing expectations?
- Is there a framework and proportionate process in place for collective performance assessment, including from a citizen's perspective, and do you have accountability arrangements to support this?
- Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out? If so, can the Leader and Cabinet/Senior Officers provide members with copies and a detailed explanation of the EQIA conducted in respect of these proposals?
- Can the Leader and Cabinet/Senior Officers assure members that these proposals comply with Equality and Human Rights legislation? Do the proposals comply with the Local Authority's Strategic Equality Plan?

Service Demands

- How will policy and legislative change affect how the council operates?
- Have we considered the demographics of our council and how this will impact on service delivery and funding in the future?
- Have you identified and considered the long-term trends that might affect your service area, what impact these trends could have on your service/your service could have on these trends, and what is being done in response?

Financial Planning

- Do we have robust medium and long-term financial plans in place?
- Are we linking budgets to plans and outcomes and reporting effectively on these?

Making savings and generating income

- Do we have the right structures in place to ensure that our efficiency, improvement and transformational approaches are working together to maximise savings?
- How are we maximising income?
- Have we compared other council's policies to maximise income and fully considered the implications on service users?
- Do we have a workforce plan that takes into account capacity, costs, and skills of the

actual versus desired workforce?

Questions to ask within a year of the decision:

- Were the intended outcomes of the proposal achieved or were there other results?
- Were the impacts confined to the group you initially thought would be affected i.e. older people, or were others affected e.g. people with disabilities, parents with young children?
- Is the decision still the right decision or do adjustments need to be made?

Questions for the Committee to conclude...

Do we have the necessary information to form conclusions/make recommendations to the executive, council, other partners? If not, do we need to:

- (i) Investigate the issue in more detail?
- (ii) Obtain further information from other witnesses – Executive Member, independent expert, members of the local community, service users, regulatory bodies...

Agree further actions to be undertaken within a timescale/future monitoring report...

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**SUBJECT: HOMELESSNESS & RAPID REHOUSING UPDATE AND HOUSING SUPPORT
PROGRAMME INTERIM REVIEW 2026-2027**

MEETING: PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 14TH JULY 2026

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To provide an update on Homelessness for 2025/26 and consider an interim review of the Housing Support Programme Strategy for 2026-2027(see **Appendix 1**), the updated Action Plan (see **Appendix 2**) and interim Action Plan (**Appendix 3**).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.1 To scrutinise the positive progress the Council is making with tackling homelessness.
- 2.2 To scrutinise the desktop data analysis of the homelessness and Housing Support Grant teams for the financial years of 2024-2025 to 2025-2026 and how this informs the actions set out in the accompanying Action Plans.
- 2.3 To scrutinise the Housing Support Programme Interim Review (see **Appendix 1**) giving regard to meeting the aims priorities of the Council.
- 2.4 To note that a future report will be provided to the Committee about the Homeless & Social Allocations (Wales) Act and the impending implementation and associated risks.

3. KEY ISSUES:

Homelessness & Rapid Rehousing Update

- 3.1 In 2023, Cabinet adopted a Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan for Monmouthshire. The Plan aims to prevent homelessness at the earliest opportunity, to minimise any time households may have to spend in temporary accommodation and to provide the right level of support at the right time to sustain future tenancies through four priority areas:
 - Priority 1 - Prevent homelessness at the earliest opportunity.
 - Priority 2 - Increase the supply of affordable and settled accommodation.
 - Priority 3 - Provide timely and effective support to sustain accommodation.
 - Priority 4 - Maximising resources and benefits through well connected partnerships
- 3.2 The Council has assessed the up-to-date position in respect of the current homeless situation and below provides a summary overview of the Council's progress. It has been determined that, despite a continuing challenging environment of high presentations (although there is a trend of reducing presentations) and complex support needs, steady but positive progress has been made since 2023. **See Paragraph 3.9 onwards.**
- 3.3 Alongside Rapid Rehousing, the Council has a legal duty to develop a Housing Support Programme (HSP) Strategy ('the Strategy') every four years, with a mid-point review every two years, outlining the strategic direction of the Council's housing related support services. This report considers this mid-point review.

- 3.6 The Council published its existing Housing Support Programme Strategy in 2022 with a mid-point review in 2024. Though a new HSP is now due, the decision has been taken by Welsh Government to delay this process by a year to better align the Rapid Rehousing Guidance and planning process and Local Housing Market Assessment process going forward. A new Strategy will need to be in place by April 2027.
- 3.7 To ensure the HSP remains relevant to MCC's housing and homelessness aspirations, Welsh Government require, for the coming financial year a light-touch, desktop review of the 2022-2026 HSP, using data across the service for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 financial years.
- 3.8 The Housing Support Programme Strategy continues to guide the work of the Council in respect of homelessness and housing related support in the medium term and is aligned to the Rapid Rehousing Transition and Action Plan, as both are underpinned by the vision to prevent homelessness wherever possible and where homelessness cannot be prevented, it is rare, brief and unrepeatable as per Welsh Governments vision.

Key Findings - Homelessness

- 3.9 **Homeless Applications** - need is currently showing positive signs of stabilising and reducing, with an emerging trend of reducing applications. In 2023/24 there were 495 applications. Applications have continued to fall in subsequent years to 403 and 341 for 2024/25 and 2025/26 respectively. This in part, is due to generally increased and earlier homeless prevention. In tandem with this improvement is a reduction in open cases for the Housing Options Team. At 31st March 2026, open cases had fallen to 370 from 658 at the start of 2023/24 meaning that the team is increasingly better able to focus on individual applicants and prevention, enabling officers to increasingly work more proactively.
- 3.10 **Homeless Prevention** - prevention activity continues to be a critical element of the Council's response. The dedicated Prevention Team achieved a 71% success rate in 2024/25, with the most common outcomes being re-accommodation with family or friends (41%) and access to social housing (30%). This again reflects a strong focus on early intervention and seeking housing stability. Performance was 69% for 2025/26. The Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 and the need for private landlords to give periodic contract holders six months notice of possession will have supported homeless prevention. The impact of the legislation has tailed off since being implemented as there were landlords who didn't to transition.
- 3.11 Despite these successes, the ability to prevent homelessness through access to the Private Rented Sector (PRS) remains significantly constrained. In 2024/25 only 18% of prevention cases were resolved through the PRS, and 75% of these required financial incentives. Affordability remains the primary barrier, with 59% of failed prevention cases attributed to the cost of private renting. This highlights the ongoing impact of challenging housing market conditions and the limited accessibility of the PRS for households at risk of homelessness.
- 3.12 Overall, while progress has been made in reducing reliance on unsuitable temporary accommodation and maintaining strong prevention outcomes, structural challenges within the housing market—particularly affordability and supply—continue to limit sustainable solutions.
- 3.13 A priority going forwards will be to establish a Young Persons' Housing Group with Children's services to streamline homelessness procedures, ensure consistency, and improve outcomes for young people in Monmouthshire, essentially by seeking to intervene earlier. The group will also seek to support Social Care prepare for new duties relating to young people leaving care relating to the Homeless & Social Allocations (Wales) legislation.

- 3.14 **Duty to Accommodate (S.73 Housing Act (Wales) 2014)** – A local housing authority must help to secure that suitable accommodation is available for occupation by an applicant, if the authority is satisfied that the applicant is— (a) homeless, and (b) eligible for help. The Council has achieved particular success and good performance in this area. The Council can demonstrate a positive trend of reducing need. In 2023/24 294 households were owed a duty. This fell to 226 and 171 respectively over the last two years. For 2024/25 and of those assessed, 60% were owed a Section 73 duty, again reflecting a reduction.
- 3.15 **B & B Placements** - Significant progress has been made in reducing the use of Bed and Breakfast (B&B) accommodation, which remains both high-cost and unsuitable for extended stays. Between April 2023 and March 2026, the number of households accommodated in B&B fell substantially from 94 to 6. As per the priority of the Council, none of these were young people aged under 16, 16/17 or 18-24.
- 3.16 At the time of writing there was one household in B & B and there have been periods since April 2026 of there being **zero** households in B & B. This reduction aligns with the Council's Rapid Rehousing approach and has been supported by the expansion of temporary accommodation supply, particularly through the Monmouthshire Lettings Scheme (MLS), which has increased access to privately leased temporary accommodation. Additional permanent social housing has also been provided through the Council's development programme facilitated through both the Welsh Government Social Housing Grant and Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme (TACP) funding. TACP was introduced by Welsh Government to specifically increase the provision of permanent or temporary accommodation for homeless households and supplement the Social Housing Grant funding. TACP has been particularly effective for purchasing acquisitions for family use. TACP has, thereby, enabled the Council to reduce the number of families with young people living in temporary accommodation. The priority going forwards is one bedroomed accommodation for single people.
- 3.17 **Temporary Accommodation including B & B** – at it's peak the Council has had over 200 households in all types of temporary accommodation. At the end of 25/26 there were 142 households in temporary accommodation.
- 3.18 To help achieve the above reduction in B & B, focus has been given to increasing accommodation through the Monmouthshire Letting Service and engaging with private landlords with a view to leasing accommodation as an alternative to B & B. The acquisition and use of Severn View, Chepstow providing 17 units during 2025/26 also supported the reduced use of B & B. The Council has also started to purchase accommodation. Three properties have been purchased to date, two of which will be used as shared housing for single people. All are in the north of the County. In addition, the Council has repurposed Severn View, Chepstow providing 17 units of single persons accommodation.
- 3.16 Other forms of temporary accommodation providing an alternative to B & B, not only provide better quality accommodation but it is also more financially sustainable. The table below provides an illustration of example cost associated with placing an individual in different types of accommodation:

	B & B with Security Per Room	Shared Property per unit	1 Bed Self- Contained
Weekly Rental	490.00	150.00	200.00
Weekly DWP Rate	95.51	95.51	86.19
Total Annual Rent	25,480.00	7,800	10,400
Security	20,679.21	N/A	N/A

Void	N/A	764.08	689.50
Maintenance	1,200.00	300.00	1,200.00
Arrears	N/A	764.08	689.50
DWP Income	-4,966.52	Nil	Nil
Cost	42,392.68	9,628.16	12,979.04
DWP Income	Nil	-4,966.52	-4,481.88
Service Charge	Nil	-741.00	-1,352.00
Total Income	Nil	-5,707.52	-5,833.88
Net Cost	42,392.68	£3,830.64	£7,145.16

- 3.19 The improved position and the fall in need for temporary accommodation is enabling the Council to both reduce the portfolio of temporary accommodation and also re-model the portfolio in terms of type, quality and location. Key aims are to reduce the amount of shared housing and reduce the disproportionate amount of accommodation in the south. A process which has in progress, but inevitably the remodelling.

Key Findings - Housing Related Support

- 3.20 Housing Support remains a key component of Monmouthshire's approach to preventing and reducing homelessness, sitting alongside housing supply and Rapid Rehousing as a core strategic pillar. It is now appropriate to give Housing Support particular focus attention going forwards having given previous focus to homeless prevention (including additional staffing) and increasing the supply of accommodation over recent years, although these two priority areas continue to be relevant.
- 3.21 Work is underway to recommission the Housing Support Grant (HSG) programme, to better align services with local need, supported by improved data quality following a recent data cleansing exercise. While this limits direct comparison with historic data, it provides a more accurate picture of current demand.
- 3.22 Referrals to Housing Support have reduced overall (by 13.8%), but the profile of need is becoming increasingly complex. Mental health continues to be the dominant and fastest-growing support need, increasing significantly despite the reduction in referrals. Domestic abuse referrals, which had risen sharply in previous years in line with regional trends, have reduced in the most recent year, though remain a significant area of demand. Alongside this, there is continued reliance on generic and holistic support services, particularly for older people.
- 3.23 Outcomes from Housing Support remain positive, with over three quarters of individuals successfully maintaining accommodation for at least six months. However, this is set against a cohort entering services with high levels of need, including homelessness and those at risk of losing accommodation.
- 3.24 A key success has been the Codi Housing First initiative which is continuing to develop steadily. Housing First is well supported by the RSL's who assist the Council with the provision of accommodation for this purpose. At the end of 2025/26 there were 19 high need individuals accommodated. Although it is appropriate to note that evictions have unfortunately been necessary, again reflecting the challenges of supporting high needs individuals.

- 3.25 The overall complexity of need has increased markedly. There has been a substantial shift away from low-level support towards higher and more intensive need, with high and intensive cases now accounting for over 30% of all service users. It is not uncommon for the Council to be supporting individuals with considerable health need. Not just mental health needs but physical health issues too. This reflects both improved identification of need and a genuine increase in complexity, with many individuals requiring multi-agency support involving health, social care, and criminal justice services.
- 3.26 Despite rising demand and complexity, the Council's Housing Support Grant allocation from Welsh Government does not currently allow the Council to meet all identified needs in the County, which does limit the ability to maximise housing support to higher needs individuals.
- 3.27 Analysis of those in temporary accommodation reinforces this picture. This cohort is disproportionately male and younger, with a higher concentration of individuals under 40. Mental health remains the most significant need, often alongside co-occurring issues such as physical ill health and offending behaviour, both of which are increasing at a faster rate than within the wider HSG population. This presents risk for both the Council and communities.
- 3.28 The level of need within temporary accommodation has intensified significantly, with a sharp rise in those assessed as having high needs and a corresponding reduction in low and medium cases. Among those with the most intensive needs, mental health is a consistent factor, often combined with substance use and other vulnerabilities, even where these are underreported in formal data.
- 3.29 Overall, the evidence indicates a clear shift towards supporting individuals with more complex, overlapping, and higher-level needs. This places increasing pressure on existing housing support services and highlights the need for more intensive, coordinated, and longer-term support solutions, particularly for those in and moving on from temporary accommodation.
- 3.30 Extending and strengthening support for higher needs individuals is, therefore, a priority. Consideration is currently being given to identifying and scoping out how multi-agency wrap around support can be identified and effectively co-ordinated and delivered. This includes how the Council can work more collaboratively with Health and other partner agencies for this cohort.

Homesearch Housing Register & Settled Accommodation

- 3.31 As at the end of 2025/26 the homeless related profile of the Housing Register was as below:

- Total applicants 3412
- Total applicants in Band 1 468
- Total homeless in Band 1 188

- 3.32 The number of homeless in Band 1 has positively fallen from 303 at the end of 2022/23 and has fallen on consecutive years since. This has been enabled through the support of the Council's partner RSL's who have helped facilitated the provision of additional social housing to homeless households. Last year 76 units and 40% of General Needs lets went to homelessness. The previous year it was 187 units. Whilst this is a reduction on previous years, simplistically the reduction aligns with the reduction in homeless applications. In turn this means that more accommodation is being allocated to non-homeless households on the register.

3.33 Unfortunately, an area of reduced performance is in relation to the average time homeless households spend in Band 1, before they are accommodated. The average for 2025/26 was 20.06 months which was an increase from 10.96 months at the start of the year. The reason for this is because there are a disproportionate number of single people waiting for permanent housing and a disproportionate number of these households have higher needs. It is taking the Council longer to accommodate this cohort of homeless applicants because of the lack of housing support options. This informs the ongoing priority to deliver additional one bedroomed affordable housing units.

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

4.1 There are no negative implications with this report. **See Appendix 4.**

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

5.1 This isn't applicable to this report as this is an update report.

6. REASONS:

6.1 The Council has a statutory duty under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 to develop a Housing Support Programme (HSP) every four years, with a mid-point review every two years, outlining the strategic direction of the Council's housing related support services.

6.2 The Council published its Housing Support Programme Strategy in 2022 with a mid-point review in 2024. Though a new HSP is now due, the decision has been taken by Welsh Government to delay this process by a year to better align the Rapid Rehousing Guidance and planning process and Local Housing Market Assessment process going forward.

6.3 Furthermore, Welsh Government's Homeless & Social Housing Allocations (Wales) has recently received Royal Assent. This interim review and needs assessment will continue to have relevance. The legislation, due to be implemented in September 2027, will be the subject of a specifically focused report to the Committee in Autumn 2026. **See Appendix 5.**

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

7.1 There are no resource implications of the report itself nor the interim light touch review of the Strategy.

8. CONSULTEES: Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Housing & Tourism; Chief Officer Social Care, Housing & Public Health;

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Housing Support Programme Strategy 2022; Welsh Government Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans: Guidance for Local Authorities; Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2023; Welsh Government Housing Support Programme Strategy Guidance

10. AUTHOR: Rebecca Cresswell, Strategic Homeless Transformation Co-Ordinator

11. CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: 07815010928 E-mail: rebeccacresswell@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Housing Support Programme Strategy Interim Review 2026-2027

1 Introduction:

- 1.1 Monmouthshire County Council is required to develop a Housing Support Programme (HSP) Strategy ('the Strategy') every four years, with a mid-point review every two years, outlining the strategic direction of the Council's housing related support services.
- 1.2 MCC published its Housing Support Programme Strategy in 2022 with a mid-point review in 2024. Though a new HSP is now due, the decision has been taken by Welsh Government to delay this process by a year to better align the Rapid Rehousing Guidance and planning process and Local Housing Market Assessment process going forward
- 1.3 To ensure the HSP remains relevant to MCC's housing and homelessness aspirations for the coming financial year a light-touch, desktop review of the 2022-2026 HSP has been conducted using data across the service for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 financial years.
- 1.4 At the point of its creation, the Strategy set out a single strategic direction for both homelessness and housing support services in Monmouthshire until 2026. Since its adoption Monmouthshire has created, approved, and begun to implement a Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan concurrently.

Purpose of the Strategy

- 1.5 The Strategy continues to guide the work of MCC in respect of homelessness and housing related support in the medium term and is aligned to MCC's Rapid Rehousing Transition and Action Plan as both are underpinned by the vision to prevent homelessness wherever possible and where we homelessness cannot be prevented it is rare, brief and unrepeatable.
- 1.6 The Strategy seeks to contribute to the Council's commitment to the vision for Monmouthshire to be:
 - A Fair place to live where the effects of inequality and poverty have been reduced.
 - A Green place to live and work, with reduced carbon emissions, and making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency.
 - A Thriving and ambitious place, where there are vibrant town centres, where businesses can grow and develop.
 - A Safe place to live where people have a home and community where they feel secure.
 - A Connected place where people feel part of a community and are valued.

- A Learning place where everybody has the opportunity to reach their potential.

1.7 The Strategy fully aligns homelessness and the Council's Housing Support Grant Programme. The on-going review, development and commissioning of the programme is informed by homeless need in the County.

Methodology

This interim strategy draws on data from a range of sources relating to homelessness and housing support. The primary sources used were:

- WHO12 data
- Internal performance data
- Internal service logs
- Housing management system reports
- Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA)

1.8 Anomalies were identified within Housing Support service logs. In response, a manual data cleansing exercise was undertaken for the 2024–2025 and 2025–2026 financial years. Improvements to data collection processes were then introduced from 2025–2026 onwards.

1.9 Engagement with key stakeholders was also undertaken to better understand the causes of the data anomalies. This included a particular focus on domestic abuse figures referenced in the Needs Assessment (Section 2).

1.10 For consistency, homelessness and prevention data is sourced from WHO12 returns. At the time of writing, the 2025–2026 annual WHO12 data had not yet been validated and has therefore not been included.

New Legislative and Policy Context

National

1.11 Homelessness and Social Housing Allocations Bill

1.12 MCC is closely following the progression of the Homelessness and Social Housing Allocations Bill as it progresses through the Senedd. The Bill will irrevocably change the processes and statutory duties Local Authorities hold with regards to homeless residents.

1.13 Work will begin internally throughout 2026-2027 to support WG and prepare for implementation from 2027 onwards, should the Bill pass the Senedd this term as expected.

Local

- 1.14 **Local Housing Market (LHMA) Refresh 2022-2037, February 2026**
- 1.15 MCC conducted a refresh of the LHMA in Spring 2024 using the new methodology and toolkit provided by Welsh Government. This process produced an estimated need of 404 affordable homes (net), 313 being social rent accommodation, 60 LCHO, 31 intermediate rents per year in Monmouthshire until 2027. For the remaining 10 years of the LHMA period, there is an estimated need for 80 affordable homes, 43 being social rent, 37 intermediate housing.
- 1.16 The LHMA noted high demand for one bedroom accommodation following a significant increase in single person households presenting as homeless post Covid.
- 1.17 The severe shortfall in affordable accommodation to meet demand has a direct impact on the ability to make homelessness 'rare, brief and unrepeatable' in Monmouthshire. Increasing the supply of affordable housing remains one of Monmouthshire's top priorities in addressing homelessness.

2 Review of Needs Assessment

Homelessness

- 2.1 Monmouthshire Housing Options Team conducted **467** homeless applications (Section 62 applied) in the 2024-2025 financial year. This was a slight, but not significant, decrease from the year before and a sign that numbers may be plateauing. Of those who presented **281**, or **60%** were awarded a Section 73 duty, again another small decrease from 2023-2024.

Year	Total Assessments (S62)
2017-2018	533
2018-2019	440
2019-2020	783
2020-2021	379
2021-2022	773
2022-2023	598
2023-2024	495¹
2024-2025	467

- 2.2 Monmouthshire succeeded in reducing households accommodated in TA throughout 2024-2025. In line with Monmouthshire's Rapid Rehousing aims, the council targeted reducing the number of households in B&B, a form of accommodation considered to be poorer in quality and higher in cost. In September 2024 there were 52 households in B&B, by March 2026 that number was 6.

¹ This measure was data cleansed for end of year WHO 12 submission, it may therefore differ from the figure reported in Monmouthshire's previous HSP review (2024).

- 2.3 Initially, Monmouthshire was able to reduce the use of B&B through the acquisition of private leased accommodation. The Council's Monmouthshire Lettings Scheme (MLS) works with landlord to privately lease accommodation to use as temporary accommodation for homeless households. Graphs for 2024-2025 showed a strong positive correlation linking the numbers of households in B&B decreasing as TA stock increased. However, there are now indications that Monmouthshire's use of TA is gradually declining overall. This may also be attributed to the introduction, and increase, in the use of TACP funded accommodation. In 2024-2025 15 properties became available to homeless households through TACP, in 2025-2026 this more than doubles to 32 properties.

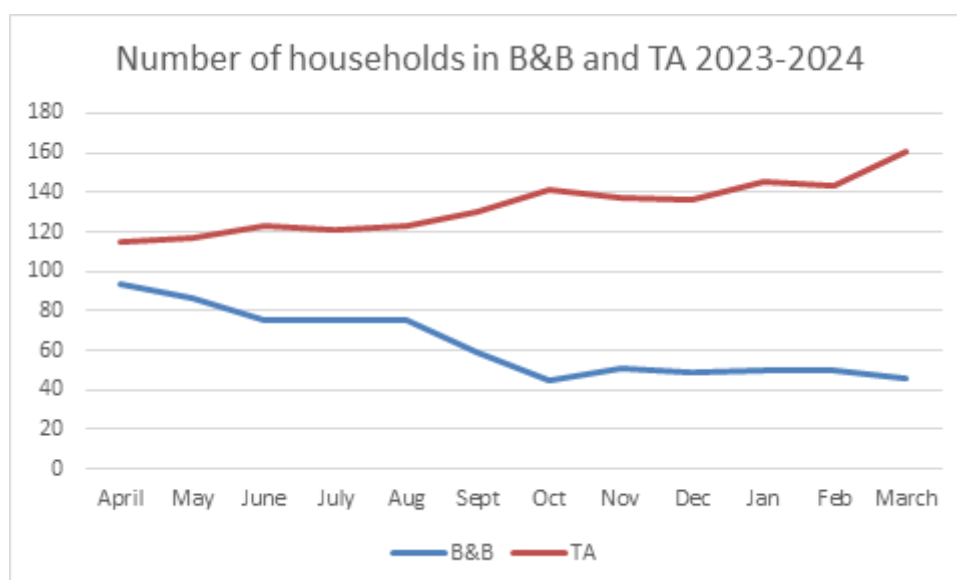


Figure 1: Graph showing strong positive correlation between B&B and TA numbers throughout the 2023-2024 financial year

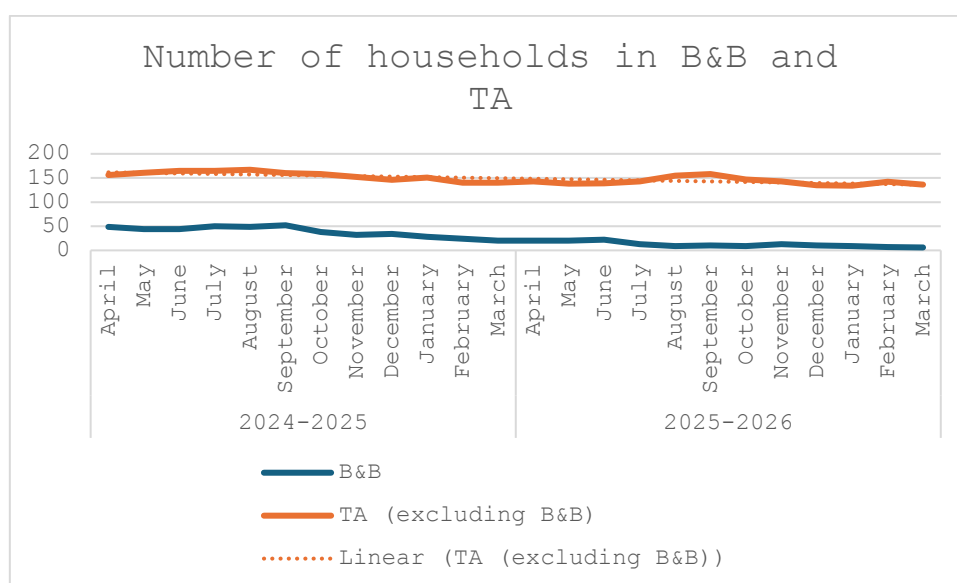


Figure 2: Graph shows strong positive correlation between B&B and TA figures, with both trending downwards

Prevention figures

- 2.4 Avoiding homelessness altogether is the optimum outcome for the household and the local authority. Monmouthshire has a proactive approach to homelessness prevention as part of its wider HSP and Rapid Rehousing strategies. Key to the success of homelessness prevention is a small, dedicated team working with households under a Section 66 duty who are not already in receipt of HSG funded support.
- 2.5 For the 2024-2025 financial year Monmouthshire's Prevention Team recorded a success rate of 71%. Prevention Officers had the greatest success in arranging alternative accommodation with family and friends (41%) and moving households into social rented accommodation (30%).
- 2.6 Reflecting the continuing challenging housing market conditions the Housing Options Team is operating in; Prevention Officers were only able to successfully accommodate 18% of households into the Private Rented Sector (PRS)- and 75% of these were only achieved with the support of an incentive (usually financial). 59% of all the failed Prevention cases in 2024-2025 were due to the unaffordability of the PRS.

PRS-LHMA

- 2.7 This echoes findings from the Feb 2026 LHMA refresh which concluded that although the PRS had increased slightly post Covid, the market was still roughly 65% smaller in 2022 than that of 2012 (Council, 2026). Price increases are often borne of scarcity, and the trend in Monmouthshire would support this. For the same time period that saw the market contract, the average cost increase for a privately rented property was 52.4% (Council, 2026).
- 2.8 Whilst the PRS remains unaffordable and inaccessible to large swathes of Monmouthshire residents social housing becomes the only viable housing option, creating strain on the system. The strain Monmouthshire's social rented accommodation stock is under is evidenced by the increasing waiting times for households on the Housing Register. In 2022-2023 the average time a household in Band 1 was waiting for settled accommodation was 10.2 months, for 2024-2025 this had increased to 11.7 months, and sat at 11.11 months by December 2025. At the same time there has been a decrease in social housing allocations (general needs) to homelessness, from 57% in 2023-2024, to 41% in 2025-2026. The LHMA has identified a need of 313 socially rented properties over the next 5 years.

Housing Support

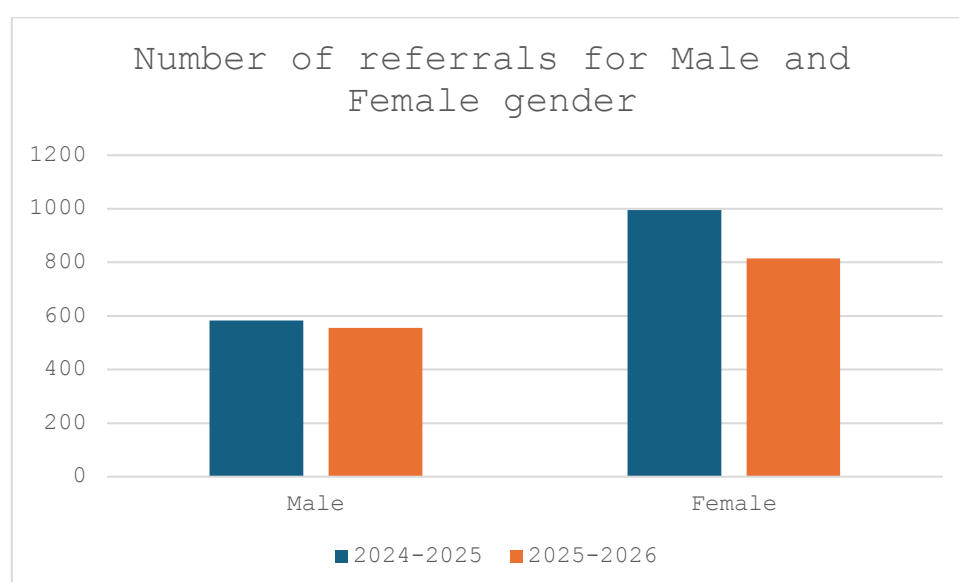
- 2.9 Whilst conversations around boosting affordable housing supply have, understandably, taken precedence in discourse around the reduction of homelessness, Monmouthshire recognises the value of Housing Support as a means to keep homelessness both rare and unrepeatable.

2.10 Good quality, responsive Housing Support forms one of the pillars of Monmouthshire's homelessness and Rapid Rehousing strategies. Work has started on procuring a new Housing Support Grant (HSG) programme that aligns with the needs of residents across Monmouthshire. This process began in 2024 with the first of several tenders set to go live winter 2025 /spring 2026.

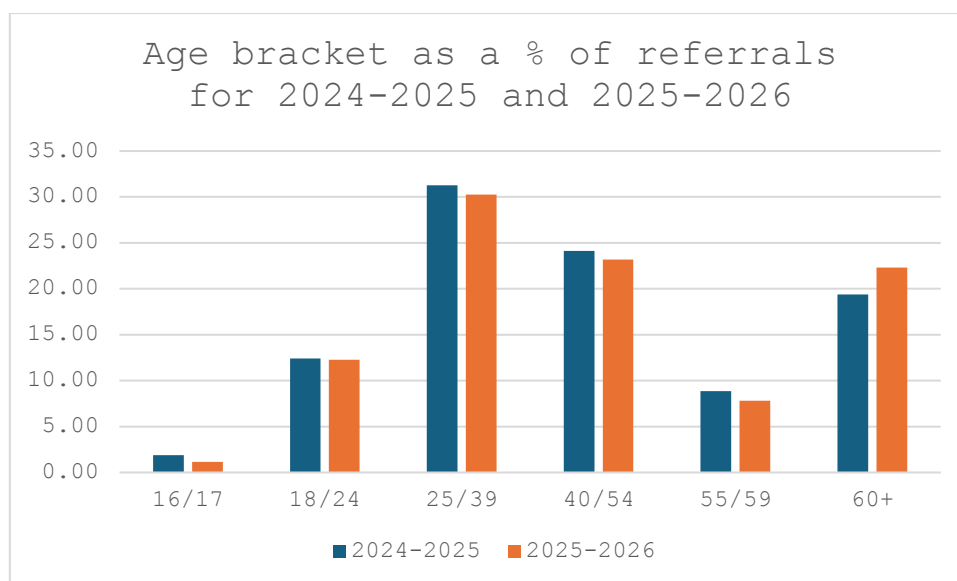
2.11 Anomalies were identified in the Housing Support Grant (HSG) data for 2024–2025. In response, a data cleansing exercise was carried out in Spring 2026 and later applied to the 2025–2026 dataset. This has allowed Monmouthshire's HSG team to improve how data is recorded, giving more accurate and detailed information. However, this means that data from 2024 onwards cannot be directly compared with data from earlier years, though trends can be identified.

Referral Data

2.12 The HSG team saw a drop in referrals from 1605 in 2024-2025 to 1384 in 2025-2026, a decrease of 13.77%. For both years the number of referrals for females outnumbered those for males, which has been a historical trend. However, the proportion of male referred increased in 2025-2026, from 36% of the total referrals to 40%, whilst those for females fell from 62% to 59%.



2.13 The spread of referrals across age groups remained consistent across both 2024-2025 and 2025-2026, with more referrals being made for those over the age of 40 than under.



Referral type

2.14 At the point of referral into Monmouthshire's HSG Gateway team clients will have support needs identified to assist with identifying the correct support provision for their needs.

Lead Need	2024-2025		2025-2026		Variance
	Number of referrals	As a % of referrals	Number of Referrals	As a % of referrals	
Families with Support Needs	110	6.85	68	4.91	-1.94
Generic/Floating Support/Peripatetic (tenancy support services which cover a range of user needs)	146	9.10	113	8.16	-0.93
Men experiencing Domestic Abuse	10	0.62	7	0.51	-0.12
People over 55 years of age with Support Needs (this category must be exclusive of alarm services)	116	7.23	90	6.50	-0.72
People with Alcohol Issues	20	1.25	21	1.52	0.27
People with Chronic Illnesses (including HIV,Aids)	16	1.00	10	0.72	-0.27
People with Criminal Offending History	25	1.56	21	1.52	-0.04
People with Developmental Disorders (i.e. Autism)	14	0.87	16	1.16	0.28
People with Learning Disabilities	15	0.93	23	1.66	0.73
People with Mental Health Issues	474	29.53	563	40.68	11.15
People with Physical and/or Sensory Disabilities	119	7.41	100	7.23	-0.19
People with Refugee Status	1	0.06	2	0.14	0.08
People with Substance Misuse Issues	22	1.37	13	0.94	-0.43
Women experiencing Domestic Abuse	451	28.10	290	20.95	-7.15
Young People who are Care Leavers	17	1.06	15	1.08	0.02
Young People with Support Needs (16 to 24)	49	3.05	32	2.31	-0.74
Grand Total	1605		1384		

2.15 The support need categories with the greatest variance between 2024-2026 were People with Mental Health Issues and Women Experiencing Domestic Abuse. The demand for support with mental health issues continues to climb, with 2025-2026 referrals for support in this area surpassing the number received in 2024-2025 despite there being an overall reduction in referrals through the Gateway.

2.16 Even accounting for differences in data collection, the number of referrals for women experiencing Domestic Abuse has seen a significant shift since 2022-2023. 2023-2024 saw a doubling of the previous year's referrals, and 2024-2025 saw a significant increase again, before a 36% decrease in referrals in 2025-2026.

2.17 Whilst this sudden and significant increase in domestic abuse referrals for women in Monmouthshire is alarming, it unfortunately fits the narrative of the broader area. The Office for National Statistics has recorded that the Gwent

police force area had the highest rate of domestic abuse incidents in the UK per 1,00 people for both 2024 and 2025.

2.18 (Office of National Statistics, 2025)

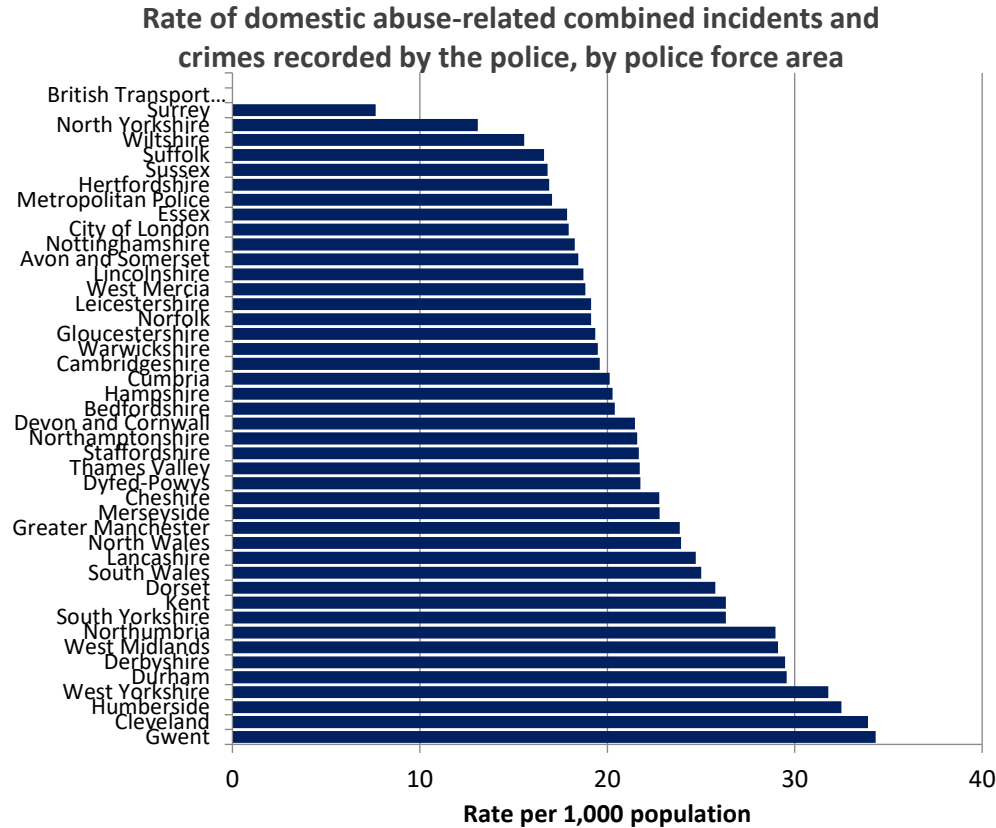


Figure 3: The rate of DA incidents by UK police force area year ending March 2025

2.19 We cannot, however, infer from this data that domestic abuse in any form is more prevalent across Gwent or Monmouthshire, as a significant proportion of such behaviour remains unreported. It is also possible that the increase reflects effective engagement efforts, with Gwent Police successfully encouraging and supporting victims to report incidents rather than an actual rise in occurrence.

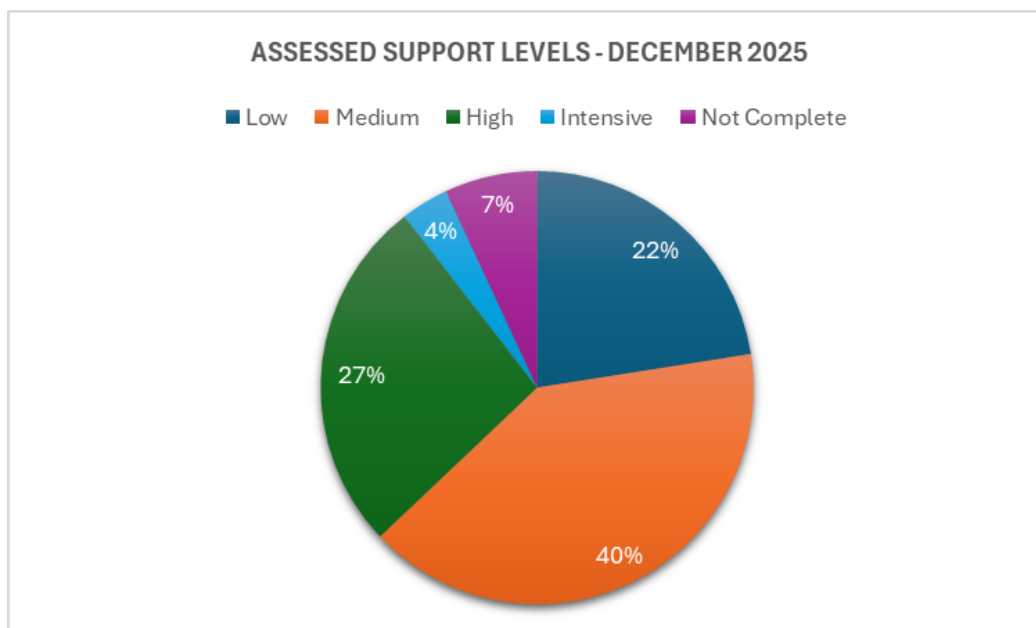
2.20 Whilst the two most frequently recorded support needs are specific- mental health and domestic abuse, the following most occurrent categories are all generic which demonstrates the demand for generic and holistic support services in Monmouthshire, particularly amongst the over 55s.

Level of support need

2.21 The level of support needs for each service user is captured by their support worker in line with the below guidelines. This assessment is under constant review and support workers are responsible for amending a client's support level as their needs may change. As such, the figures are 'live' meaning that they cannot be collected cumulatively, but on a specific date or time.

Level of Need	Definition
Low	People who have very low support requirements, who can be supported into settled accommodation with either a low level of support or just signposting.
Medium	People likely to need floating support but may also require support from other professional services to live independently in settled or temporary accommodation.
High	People who have persistent complex needs and/or a history of repeat rough sleeping
Intense	People who are unable to live independently, perhaps due to concerns around risk to self or others or perhaps even choice. Engagement from professionals such as Social Care and Health to be/or are involved.

2.22 The support needs of all clients in receipt of housing related support were taken in December 2025. At this point in time clients with high and intensive needs recorded made up just over 30% of all service users on housing related support.



2.23 The breakdown of support need levels has shifted quite considerably since those previously reported in June 2024. There has been a reported decrease in those with low level support needs of almost 20%, with an increase in those being supported who have high level support needs by just under 15%.

	Jun-24		Dec-25		
Level of need	Total	%	Total	%	% difference
Low	398	41.03	195	22.52	-18.51

Medium	431	44.43	350	40.42	-4.01
High	115	11.86	230	26.56	14.70
Intensive	21	2.16	31	3.58	1.42
TBC	5	0.52	60	6.93	6.41
Total	970		866		

2.24 The stark contrast in these figures could be due to initial under reporting, as the level of needs scale was still relatively new and not completely imbedded into Monmouthshire's routine data collection; or the number of those approaching support with high level support needs may be increasing rapidly. The answer is probably both. There had been a discrepancy with the anecdotal evidence supplied by support providers and front-line workers and the data in previous collections. Current anecdotal evidence from front line staff supports that the support needs of service users continue to become higher and more complex.

2.25 Individuals with high or intensive support needs often exceed the capacity and remit of housing support providers. Their circumstances typically require coordinated input from multiple agencies and professionals, sometimes involving other HSG-funded services but frequently extending to partners such as Health and Social Care, Probation, and others. Effective collaboration across these services is essential to addressing both the root causes of homelessness and the factors that sustain it.

2.26 Despite demand for housing related support and the proportion of individuals with high and complex needs increasing, Monmouthshire continues to receive one of the lowest allocations on Housing Support Grant in Wales. This restricts the authority's options to address the need in the county.

Temporary Accommodation needs analysis

2.27 All households placed in temporary accommodation are offered support through HSG. Whilst there are a handful of households receiving services from other providers, the majority of households in TA are supported by Pobl- now Codi.

2.28 For both 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 there were more males receiving support in TA than females. The ratio is an inversion of that for the overall HSG support data, with roughly 60% male to 40% female. When contrasted to the wider data set, this would imply that males are overrepresented in temporary accommodation.

2.29 The age profile of those receiving support in temporary accommodation differs from the wider HSG data. There are at least twice as many people under 40 receiving support compared to those aged 40 and over. The largest group is those aged 25–39, which is also the fastest growing. Numbers are also increasing among those aged 40–54. In contrast, the number of individuals aged 16–24 has decreased the most between 2024–2025 and 2025–2026.

2.30 The table below shows identified lead needs for 2024–2025 and 2025–2026. As the number of people in temporary accommodation differs between years, the percentage (%) provides the most meaningful comparison of changing needs.

Row Labels	2024-2025	%	2025-2026	%
Drug and Alcohol Misuse	8	5.19	8	7.34
Criminal Offending	10	6.49	12	11.01
Families	22	14.29	12	11.01
Generic	16	10.39	6	5.50
Mental Health	44	28.57	38	34.86
Over 55	4	2.60	1	0.92
Physical Health	6	3.90	11	10.09
Physical Disability	1	0.65		0.00
Women Experiencing DA	15	9.74	12	11.01
Men Experiencing DA	4	2.60		0.00
Young People	18	11.69	6	5.50
Learning Disabilities	1	0.65		0.00
Neurodiversity	1	0.65		0.00
Care Leaver	4	2.60	2	1.83
Grand Total	154		109	

2.31 Mental health remains the most significant support need and has increased further as a proportion of cases. There has also been a notable rise in physical health needs, which have more than tripled, and in needs linked to criminal offending, which have almost doubled. Both are more prevalent among those in temporary accommodation compared to the wider Housing Support Grant (HSG) population.

2.32 In contrast, while domestic abuse referrals have increased significantly across wider HSG services, this is not reflected to the same extent in temporary accommodation, where the proportion has risen only slightly.

2.33 There has been a reduction in categories such as Families, Generic, and Young People. This is likely to reflect improvements in data recording, with a move away from broad “catch-all” categories towards more specific identification of need.

2.34 The overall level of need within temporary accommodation has increased. There has been a clear rise in those assessed as having ‘high’ support needs, alongside a reduction in those with low or medium needs. This trend is consistent with wider patterns seen across HSG services.

Need Level	2024-2025	%	2025-2026	%
Intensive	6	4.08	6	5.66
High	45	30.61	61	57.55
Medium	52	35.37	26	24.53

Low	44	29.93	13	12.26
Total	147		106	

2.35 Looking more closely at those assessed as having ‘intensive’ support needs in 2025–2026, all individuals had mental health identified as either a primary or secondary need. Other needs present within this group include domestic abuse, physical health issues, and younger age-related vulnerabilities. Substance use is only recorded once as a formal support need; however, in practice, it is known that all individuals in this group are affected by drug and/or alcohol use.

2.36 In comparison, the ‘intensive’ group in 2024–2025 displayed a wider range of needs, with no single issue standing out as dominant.

Reviews

2.37 All services commissioned by HSG in Monmouthshire are reviewed by a dedicated commissioning and review officer. By December 2025 all external HSG funded services had been reviewed providing feedback on the compliance, efficacy and experience of providers.

2.38 The outcome of the reviews has been positive, services have been found to provide good quality support in line with HSG objectives. However, there are recurring themes around the challenges facing support providers and the wider HSG commissioning team.

Challenges

2.39 Recruitment and retention of staff

The reviews identified the difficulties facing support providers in staffing their services. Staff pay has not kept pace with the increase in workload, both in volume and complexity, particularly for frontline staff. This has significantly affected providers’ ability to recruit and retain skilled workers, especially where alternative employment opportunities offering higher pay and lower levels of responsibility are readily available. In Monmouthshire this has resulted in staff shortages amongst some projects, affecting service delivery and morale on teams. As the demand for HSG support services is increasing, the capacity to meet this demand is reducing.

2.40 Financial sustainability

Financial sustainability remains a significant challenge for housing related support services in Monmouthshire. The county has consistently received one of the lowest allocations of Housing Support Grant (HSG) funding across Wales. At the same time, both costs and demand have increased, placing sustained pressure on the commissioning team and service providers to deliver more with fewer resources in real terms. As funding continues to be constrained, a number of providers are now approaching, or operating within, financial deficit. This has limited the ability to expand services to meet rising demand, led to a reduction in overall capacity, and created a consequential impact on workforce stability.

2.41 In response, the Monmouthshire HSG commissioning team has embarked on a recommissioning programme aimed at developing a more financially sustainable programme of services that is better aligned with the county's housing related support needs. However, despite this proactive approach, insufficient funding means the HSG programme will continue to fall short of meeting all identified needs. Monmouthshire currently experiences, and is expected to continue to experience, the greatest gaps in provision for individuals with the highest and most complex support needs—a cohort that is increasing over time and whose support requirements are inherently the most costly. In light of this, the HSG Commissioner and Affordable Housing Strategy Officer are actively exploring the viability of delivering complex and high-needs supported accommodation through partnership arrangements, recognising that the HSG budget alone is insufficient to meet this level of need.

Service User Feedback

2.42 The reviewing officer met with service users from each project to gather meaningful feedback on their experiences. The feedback indicated that the support services had made a significant positive impact on the lives of the households involved. A recurring theme was the improvement in households' financial circumstances following access to specialist benefits advice and support. In one instance, the intervention of the support service contributed to children being able to return to the care of their parent(s).

2.43 A strong theme emerging from feedback across the programme was the fragmentation of services. Some households reported difficulties in navigating the HSG support offer and expressed confusion about which organisation was providing their support. There was also frustration regarding the perceived lack of continuity, particularly in relation to changes in support workers and, in some cases, service providers. While such changes may reflect positive progress in a service user's circumstances, they were nonetheless experienced as disruptive by some households.

Recommissioning

2.44 Indicative project proposals and planned activity to address the gaps in housing related support services in Monmouthshire include:

Service	Description of activity	Timeline
	<u>COMPLETED</u>	
Additional Housing First Project Support Worker	Following successful pilot of Housing First project, to meet demand an additional 1FTE Housing First Coordinator was commissioned	Started April 2022
Regional Offender Services	Review and tender of regional offender services (i.e. Pathways / PREP)- Torfaen HSG as the host LA	New project started April 2022
Training & Development	To provide training for HSG Sector: ➤ Money Guiders Wales	Ongoing

	➤ Renting Ready – Train the Trainer ➤ Renting Homes Act sessions ➤ Psychologically Informed Environments Trauma Informed Approaches ➤ Neurodiversity Training	March 2023 Feb/March 2023 2022 Feb 2023
HSG Planning Group	To establish a HSG Planning Group to work in Partnership with other services and organisations to prioritise the needs across Monmouthshire, look at duplication of services and any joint funded projects opportunities	Completed October 2024
Training & Development	Establish a core set of training expectations for HSG services Ensure regular training updates are carried out with new starters in HSG projects e.g. Outcomes, Locata	2024-25 ongoing
Generic Housing Support Services	Review and evaluate Generic Housing Support services including Family Intervention, Housing & Wellbeing Projects Look at needs <i>Completed</i>	Completed & Signed off July 2024
Rough Sleeper, Sofa Surfers, NFA and TA Services	Review and evaluate <i>Completed</i>	Completed & Signed off July 2024
Family Mediation – HSG	Agreed to HSG Pilot and a review but due to staffing issues and lack of referrals project was decommissioned at the end of March 2025. However, a contribution to Children's Services Mediation to support any young people who require family mediation	31 st March 2025
Mental Health	Review and evaluate	Completed & Signed off July 2024
VAWDASV	Review and evaluate	Completed & Signed off July 2024

Young Person's Service	Review and evaluate	Completed & signed off Feb 2025
Substance Misuse Services	Review and evaluate	Completed & signed off March 2025
Housing First	Review and evaluate	Completed & Signed off September 2025
Pricing Schedule	Due to rising costs for HSG commissioned services e.g. staff costs, cost of living and inflation a review of the Pricing Schedule to ensure projects continue to be sustainable	Completed and In place for 1 st April 2025
	TO BE COMPLETED 2025-26	
Re-model, Re-commission, Tender	Once all services are reviewed, look at all client needs, gaps, priorities and work with Procurement for new services	2024-26
Recommission & Tender	Recommission the following services: ➤ Generic ➤ Temporary Accommodation and Rough Sleeper ➤ VAWDASV ➤ Mental Health ➤ Young People	2025-26
Older Persons Services	Review and evaluate	2025-26
Housing Support Team	Review and evaluate services under the Housing Support Team: ➤ Gateway ➤ Benefits ➤ Housing Intervention Panel	2025-26
Inhouse Housing Support Workers	Severn View Temporary Supported Accommodation is a new project. 2 FTE posts have been recruited with a start date of 1 st June 2025. Handover of Severn View has expected start date after maintenance and handover to Housing of the 1 st June 2025	To be completed by June 2025

3 Achievements 2024 onwards

Headline achievements

- The percentage of homelessness successfully prevented remains consistently high; 71% for 2023-2024; 71% for 2024-2025 and 75% for April- December 2025.
- Homeless applications continue to reduce, though at a slower pace. 2024-2025 saw a 5.6% decrease on 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, which itself was a 17.22% decrease on 2022-2023.

- Households owed a S73 accommodation duty has declined- 294 in 2023-2024 to 281 during 2024-2025.
- Households placed in B & B has reduced again, standing at 163 for 2024-2025. This is less than half the number placed in 2021-2022 (389), and 59 households less than 2023-2024. As of December 2025, 52 households had been placed in B&B accommodation for the 2025-2026 financial year.
- Homeless households in Band 1 of the Housing Register have fallen from 303 (April 2024) to 216 (April 2025).

Reduction of B&B

3.1 As part of Monmouthshire's Rapid Rehousing implementation plan the local authority aims to reduce the time households spend in poor quality B&B accommodation that impedes positive wellbeing. The Housing teams have worked hard to make this a reality, with Monmouthshire Council significantly reducing its use of B&B accommodation as a form of temporary accommodation from 2024. This has particularly benefitted households with children, with only one family placed in B&B between April and December 2025. This is a position which seemed unthinkable when the HSP was initially composed in 2021/22.

Severn View

3.2 Monmouthshire experienced a significant rise in homelessness presentations from single-person households with medium plus support needs during the Covid-19 pandemic, and this trend has persisted. With limited alternative accommodation options available, the authority placed many of these households in unsuitable B&B settings, supported by 24-hour security to manage associated risks. In response, HSG-funded provision was restructured to deliver support to all individuals in temporary accommodation through a floating support model.

3.3 In 2024 the decision was made for the Housing department to take over and run a section of Severn View, a disused care home, for temporary accommodation. Housing Accommodation and Housing Support teams worked collaboratively to design a temporary accommodation unit that would better meet the needs of homeless single households with moderate to high support needs. The refurbished unit retains a 24/7 security presence who now work alongside a small team of in-house support workers onsite during office hours and a scheme co-ordinator. The layout of the building allows for partner agencies to deliver outreach services as well as the facilities to promote independent living (washing, kitchen and living rooms). Severn View opened in August 2025 and can accommodate 17 people.

Action plan

- 3.4 Updates have been given for the priorities and accompanying actions contained in the Action Plan (Appendix 1). Now that the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan has been adopted and embedded into Monmouthshire's strategic framework and is filtering into service delivery, the decision was taken to amend this priority to reflect maintaining. As the authority anticipates the phased implementation of the new Homelessness legislation (Homelessness & Social Housing Allocations (Wales) Bill) a new priority has been identified. This can be found in the updated action plan in Appendix 2 alongside additional actions for the 2026-2027 financial year.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 This report highlights a changing picture of homelessness and housing support in Monmouthshire, with demand becoming increasingly shaped by complexity, affordability pressures, and the limitations of existing provision.
- 4.2 Recent homelessness trends would indicate a picture of stabilising demand which has afforded the housing options team the space to work on reducing the reliance on B&B to meet MCC's housing duties and to secure alternative, more sustainable options.
- 4.3 One of the largest challenges to both preventing and relieving homelessness remains the availability of settled accommodation, both in the private market and through social housing. Despite a reduction in homelessness presentations, the average wait in Band 1 for social housing has increased. This is occurring alongside a decrease in the proportion of social housing allocations to homeless households (general needs), which has reduced from 57% in 2023–2024 to 41% in 2025–2026. Taken together, these factors indicate increasing pressure on access to settled accommodation and slower move-on from homelessness.
- 4.4 Housing-related support remains a critical component of Monmouthshire's response to homelessness, both in preventing housing loss and sustaining tenancies. Demand for support services remain steady, demonstrating a continuing need. However, data indicates a specific growing pressure on support services due to a rise in complexity of need. Anecdotally and empirically the evidence points to a system shift, rather than a temporary spike towards a rising demographic whose needs exceed standard housing support models not available in Monmouthshire. The ability to fund appropriate services to effectively meet this growing complexity remains a challenge in Monmouthshire due to the allocation of HSG funding, which is comparatively low and limits the authority's capacity to respond to increasing demand.

- 4.5 The lack of suitable housing options for those whose needs surpass traditional housing options has resulted in an increase of high and complex needs clients being managed in temporary accommodation. Severn View has been designed to more effectively meet the needs and challenges of this cohort but is not a replacement for a purpose built complex needs provision. Severn View remains, first and foremost, a temporary accommodation unit designed for short term placements for those with a housing duty. There remains a clear gap in provision for services equipped to respond to multiple and overlapping needs, particularly within longer-term, higher-support accommodation settings.
- 4.6 Overall, the evidence presented in this interim strategy demonstrates a system under increasing pressure, with rising complexity of need and constrained housing options. Addressing these challenges will require a shift towards more integrated, higher-support, and longer-term solutions, alongside continued investment in prevention. This strategy provides a clear foundation for shaping future commissioning and partnership working to ensure homelessness in Monmouthshire remains rare, brief, and non-recurrent.

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Housing Support Provision & Homelessness Strategy Action Plan 2022 - 2026

Priority One: To identify those at risk of homelessness earlier and provide timely interventions to prevent homelessness occurring.					
Action required to deliver the priority	Lead Person	Timescales / By When	Outcome/Outputs	Update 2024	Update 2026
1.1 To investigate how to increase the number of households accessing the service at an earlier stage thereby reducing the number of households presenting in a crisis.	Strategy & Policy Officer	On-going to 31/03/26	To move to a more proactive service rather than a reactive service and reducing the number of people presenting in crisis. To distinguish between primary prevention, secondary prevention and tertiary prevention. To be a consideration for Rapid Re-Housing		Homelessness prevention at any stage continues to be a priority for Monmouthshire. The Housing Options Team took the decision to apply the Prevention duty (S66) to households who are at risk of homelessness within 6 months rather than 56 days. It is hoped that access to specific prevention support earlier and for a longer period will result in better outcomes. In the next 12 months: There are a number of pending actions and proposals to take forward into the 2026-2027 financial year regarding prevention at all levels.

					These include: • LIFT mailshot: Use of the LIFT system to write to identified households at risk. • GP resource packs: Conversations with Public Health and ABUHB around publicising homeless support in GP surgeries. • Assessing the viability of remodelling the Prevention Team: Assigning a prevention officer to households even when HSG support is already in place. • Redirecting CAS 3 funding: Allocating this to prevention officers to assist prevention for those leaving custody rather than B&B.
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1.2 To review homelessness services information to ensure there is clear and easily accessible information to help prevent homelessness at the earliest possible stage.	Strategy & Policy Officer - Homelessness	31/03/23	Increase awareness of housing options and accessibility of information. Updated web pages Establish bespoke information for young people.	A review of homelessness information provided by MCC has been completed. As a result the following actions have been taken/ are ongoing: • Updating the Homelessness pages on the MCC website. • The development of explanatory 'videos' to accompany duty letters. • Development of online Homelessness training for partner agencies to strengthen partnership working and ensure greater understanding of the process. • Bespoke youth homelessness training currently being explored. Discussions around Youth	How MCC communicates its housing services is under constant review. Web pages have been updated and are amended as and when required. Housing duty videos were filmed and uploaded onto MCC webpages and YouTube. A link to these videos has been included on duty letters and emails. Housing and Homelessness training continues to be a priority and several drafts of a training module have been completed. Consideration for 2026+ is the delivery of training in person and the inclusion of this training on Social Care training rota. Youth homelessness training has not been
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				Comms with Youth Friendly.	developed further but remains on the agenda. Colleagues attended a Monmouthshire Citizen's Advice team meeting to provide some training and advice on housing related issues. Tai Pawb delivered an in-house workshop on renters rights. This workshop is designed to go on the road to the public.
To ensure the Monmouthshire's Protocol for Care Leavers and Young People is up-to-date and that all parties that have signed up to it are complying with it eg ensure it is operating effectively	Housing Options Team Manager	31/03/23	To provide care leavers and young people with a managed pathway into appropriate accommodation.	Protocol is currently being reviewed with a view to refresh.	Protocol has not been refreshed but conversations have moved on to preparation for the impending legislation change. Plans and preparations are being made for the introduction of the Bill which will include a new Care Leavers and YP protocol.
1.4 To work alongside colleagues to promote services available to those	Strategy & Policy Officer - Homelessness	31/03/23	To provide a planned approach to homelessness prevention and housing options.	Homelessness awareness and support has been advertised as part of the council's Tackling Poverty	Housing presence on the Tackling Poverty Network which has been restarted this year.

who are at risk of homelessness through the Council's emerging Tackling Poverty Campaign.				Campaign, currently focussing on the cost-of-living crisis.	There have been no further developments of the Cost of Living Crisis campaign- has become dormant.
1.5 To continue to invest to deliver upstream homelessness prevention in places of education including wider family networks	HS Commissioning Operational Manager.	Ongoing to 31/03/2026	To reduce causes of homelessness for the future by increasing awareness of housing options and accessibility of information. And to have clear housing pathways in place.	Compass continue to deliver upstream homelessness prevention through their work in schools and use of the 'Early Identification Tool'.	Ongoing from 2024
1.6 To review exclusion practices from social housing.	Strategy & Policy Officer – Affordable Housing	31/03/2023	To aid “move on” options by ensuring that those most in need of social housing are not unreasonably excluded: and support is available to address the causes of exclusion (Suspension).	The policies of Suspension Panel have been reviewed. A new rent procedure has been adopted to allow households facing exclusion time to come to an arrangement with arrears. The council is also utilising the DHPF grant where possible to prevent households from becoming excluded from moving on to social housing.	The Housing Policy (Affordable Housing) officers and HOTS managers continue to monitor suspensions from the Housing register in liaison with Homesearch. Any concerns are addressed through the Sub-Ops group. No longer have the DHPF due to changes in funding allocation- now have through the Prevention Fund.

1.7 To seek to identify funds and invest in resources to engage directly with households considered high-risk groups such as: ○ Mental Health. ○ Young Persons. ○ Substance misuse	Housing & Communities Manager	On-going to 13/03/2026	To avoid unsuitable placements and minimise placement break-down	HSG funded projects are currently undergoing review as part of a recommissioning process to ensure that provisions align with the needs of those with housing related issues in Monmouthshire.	The HS Commissioning Operational Manager and Housing Policy (Affordable Housing) officers are exploring opportunities to better support those with high and complex needs with partner agencies such as Social Care. The HSG portfolio is currently in the process of being recommissioned.
1.8 Make better use of information technology to capture and analyse data to identify opportunities and improve planning.	Housing & Communities Manager	Ongoing to 31/03/23	To provide the Housing Support and Homelessness Group with regular reports on homelessness trends and the main causes of homelessness	Monthly monitoring data capture has been introduced across HOTs, Accommodation, Housing Register and HSG to provide real time data on trends and to support future planning. Additional data is being collected by HSG to ensure a constant view of support need and levels in Monmouthshire.	MCC has been involved with the WG pilot of LIFT. This software has been used to identify households who may be at risk of homelessness and in need of support. A mailshot to promote support and advice available is planned.
1.9 To develop better use of technology and the sharing of	Housing & Communities Manager	31/03/23	Full utilisation of the functionality of Locata to improve efficiency and generate regular monitoring reports.	Amendments have been made to Locata for both HPA and HRS. There is ongoing	As above.

data for analysis and planning.			Acquire and develop a rents system for Monmouthshire Lettings To evolve services to ensure it is structured to meet the needs of those that are threatened with homelessness eg use of TEAMS; WhatsApp etc	conversations with Locata around additional changes required, a new systems admin is now in place. Staff training is being planned. Procurement is ongoing for rent account system. Households have the option to have assessments taken over Teams at a community hub.	
1.10 To consider the co-location of services to provide a holistic needs assessment and support planning process and a single point of access for all households threatened with homelessness.	Housing Options Team Manager		To provide an environment whereby there is a better sharing of expertise that will provide a more efficient and effective service and offers a better experience to households threatened with homelessness.	Monmouthshire Council does not currently have any suitable premises for co- location of homelessness services, however this is being considered when appraising any potential acquisition. Housing Options Team now has a First Contact Officer who deals with direct referrals and acts as a point of contact rather than the Contact Centre.	MCC is encouraging co-location of teams to the new Severn View site. Although this is not a public access building, having staff from teams across the department in a shared working space has started to have a positive impact on case outcomes. Still intending to procure a DV screening officer and housing social worker.

				Plans to introduce a DV screening officer alongside HOTs.	
1.11 To incorporate Psychologically Informed Environment (PIE) approach to the homeless service.	Housing & Communities Manager	31/03/26	To achieve high levels of client user satisfaction and to have a better understanding of the needs of those affected by homelessness. Provide support for staff. Reflect in service specifications for future commissioning.	PIE training was delivered to HOT and Gateway staff February 2022.	
1.12 To develop a Youth Homeless Action Plan to ensure that young people's specific needs are addressed	Housing & Communities Manager; Housing Options Manager & HS Commissioning Operational Manager.	31/03/23	To evolve services to ensure it is structured to meet the needs of young people threatened with and actually homeless.	Youth Homeless Action Plan was created in September 2023.	Department is currently looking to transform its processes in relation to 16-17 year olds and young people in correlation to impending legislation changes. Plans to create a new YP homelessness group.

Priority Two: To provide timely and effective support for vulnerable residents particularly for those with high and complex needs.

Action required to deliver the priority	Lead Person	Timescales / By When	Outcome/Outputs	Update 2024	Update 2026
2.1 To seek to engage with Welsh Government and other partners to	HS Commissioning Operational Manager.	On-going to 31/03/26	Ability to meet the need identified in the Statement of Need.	YP Supported living now receives contribution from Children's Services.	Tender for the service due 26/27

identify additional resources to increase the capacity of the housing support programme and support availability to meet local need.			Collaborative partnerships facilitating blended funding packages	Remodelled criminal offending service collaborating with neighbouring local authority.	Criminal offending service has gone/ decommissioned; DA prevention. Mediation decommissioned and resource pooled with Children's Services. A recommissioning process has begun for the entire HSG programme, and tenders are scheduled to be released from Winter/Spring 2026 onwards.
2.2 To seek to expand the existing Housing First service to meet unmet demand. Page 35	HS Commissioning Operational Manager.	Ongoing to 31/03/26	To improve people's journey into permanent suitable accommodation	Ongoing. Supply of accommodation remains a barrier.	Barriers addressed through service review and a quota is now in place with RSLs to ease accommodation concerns. An additional two support workers have been added to the service. The Housing First panel has been expanded to include additional partner agencies.
2.3 To seek to expand the Young Persons floating support service and remodel existing shared housing to increase the availability of dedicated young person's accommodation.	HS Commissioning Operational Manager.	31/03/23	To improve a young person's journey into permanent suitable accommodation	A shared housing unit has been repurposed and is now a Young Person's only provision of temporary accommodation. A specialist Young Persons floating support service has been created (MOYO).	A recommissioning process has begun for the entire HSG programme, and tenders are scheduled to be released from Winter/Spring 2026 onwards.

				Young Person's Supported provision was remodelled to create step down accommodation and increase the capacity to accept those with higher support needs.	
2.4 To review and evaluate the newly re-modelled Young Persons accommodation in relation to outcomes achieved for those with higher needs and consider whether there is a need for Young Persons Housing Fund model.	HS Commissioning Operational Manager.	31/03/23	To improve a young person's journey into permanent suitable accommodation	Review to be completed. Services have been remodelled to accept some YP with high needs, but the capacity of placements for these YP is still low.	Reviews completed (Feb 2025)- YP services up for tender 2026 as part of the HSG recommissioning process.
2.5 To increase the supply of accommodation in the County for people with complex needs around substance misuse and mental health.	Strategy & Policy Officer – Affordable Housing & HS Commissioning Operational Manager.	31/03/23	Identify revenue funding to establish multiple needs supported housing north and south	There is not the funding to pursue this currently.	Options for complex needs provisions are being explored- but funding remains an issue. Looking to secure funding outside of HSG (e.g Social Care and Health).
2.6 Seek to engage with Social Care to improve services for those who are neurodiverse	Strategy & Policy Officer – Affordable Housing & HS Commissioning Operational Manager.	31/03/2023	Homeless services that meet people's needs which helps to improve homeless prevention and reduce placement failure.	Contact has been made with the Autism Lead Officer who now sits on the HIP.	Ongoing outstanding action. Training for current staff/ providers to be explored.

			To be factored into Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan development		
2.7 To review, evaluate and recommission Housing Support Grant services by April 2023.	HS Commissioning Operational Manager.	31/3/23	To ensure service meets the needs and demands of the most vulnerable members of our community	Currently ongoing- services to be recommissioned from 2025.	Reviews of the HSG services have been completed. A recommissioning process has begun for the entire HSG programme, and tenders are scheduled to be released from Winter/Spring 2026 onwards.
2.8 To review Place Based Teams with a view to re-commissioning services from 1/4/23	HS Commissioning Operational Manager.	31/3/23	Ensure service meets the needs and demands of the most vulnerable members of our community	This team has been reviewed as part of the ongoing recommissioning process.	Tenders for the HSG recommissioning process are due to be released winter/spring 2026. The tender for Generic Services includes a requirement for some place based services in the form of drop-ins.
2.9 To review Young Persons in TA with a view to development of a bespoke YP contract for TA from 1/4/23	HS Commissioning Operational Manager.	31/3/23	Ensure service meets the needs and demands of the most vulnerable members of our community	MOYO contracted to provide YP specific support. This project will be reviewed as part of the recommissioning process for 2025.	Reviews completed (Feb 2025)- YP services up for tender 2026 as part of the HSG recommissioning process.
2.10 To review TA/ Resettlement Scheme with a view to either remodelling or re-commissioning services from 1/4/23	HS Commissioning Operational Manager.	31/3/23	Ensure service meets the needs and demands of the most vulnerable members of our community	This team has been reviewed as part of the ongoing recommissioning process.	Temporary accommodation support services and assertive outreach will be placed in the same tender for recommissioning in 2026.
2.11 To review Assertive Outreach with a view to either remodelling or re-	HS Commissioning Operational Manager.	31/3/23	Ensure service meets the needs and demands of the most vulnerable members of our community	This team has been reviewed as part of the ongoing recommissioning process.	Temporary accommodation support services and assertive outreach will be

commissioning services from 1/4/23					placed in the same tender for recommissioning in 2026.
2.12 Review and evaluate the outcomes of the re-modelled young persons accommodation for those with low to high needs	HS Commissioning Operational Manager.	31/3/23	Ensure service meets the needs and demands of the most vulnerable members of our community	This project will be reviewed as part of the recommissioning process for 2025.	Reviews completed (Feb 2025)- YP services up for tender 2026 as part of the HSG recommissioning process.
2.13 Re-model an existing shared housing property to provide dedicated provision for young people with lower needs	Housing Options Team Manager	30/09/22	Increase dedicated accommodation provision for young people	A unit of shared housing has been repurposed as YP specialist shared temporary accommodation and support is provided by the YP floating support service MOYO.	This did not work effectively due to: - The support did not meet the level required by the needs of the client group; - Insufficient demand to fill voids.

Priority Three: To Increase access to a range of affordable and suitable housing solutions for homeless households, both temporary and permanent,					
Action required to deliver the priority	Lead Person	Timescales/ By When	Outcome/Outputs	Update 2024	Update 2026
3.1 To review the use of all forms of temporary accommodation and reduce our reliance on it over the length of the strategy.	Housing & Communities Manager	On-going to 31/03/26	To mitigate against unsustainable expenditure and reliance on WG Hardship funding in relation to B & B and concierge use and B & B focused Accommodation Officers Procurement of security service	MCC has managed to reduce the use of B&B for homeless households since the implementation of this strategy. The expansion of PSL properties through MLS has supported this achievement.	MCC now has minimal use of B&B, with no children having been placed in B&B for some time (1 year +). The number of PSL properties has remained consistent since the previous review. The

			Identify alternative funding for Temporary Accommodation Officers based in B & B	Options to repurpose council assets for TA to reduce costs are currently being explored. Security services for some B&B provisions have been re-tendered	senior Housing Options Team are now looking to focus on increasing the standard of temporary accommodation across the portfolio. MCC repurposed a former care facility to create a new TA unit with 24-hour security. The unit has 17 bed spaces, onsite support (office hours) and cooking, washing facilities. This has allowed MCC to close a B&B provision.
3.2 To continue to co-ordinate a newly established Strategic Housing Forum with housing association partners to help identify opportunities to develop new affordable housing.	Housing Communities Manager	On-going to 31/03/26	To maximise the number of affordable homes built and Social Housing Grant spend.	Strategic Housing Forums have been held. Increased spending of SHG. £9.7 mill 2023-2024, currently have a good pipeline of schemes for 2024-2027.	The Strategic Housing Forum is held quarterly but would benefit from a review of the Terms of Reference to optimise its effectiveness. SHG is currently overallocated 25-26, and provisionally fully allocated for 26-27.
3.3 To work with Homesearch partners to operate flexible Housing Register quotas to maximise the number of lettings of social housing vacancies to homeless households.	Affordable Housing Strategy Officer	On-going to 31/03/26	To increase move-on into permanent accommodation	Do not operate quotas but the lets to homelessness have increased over time. Currently sitting around 60%.	Housing Register quotas are not currently in operation in Monmouthshire. Although there has been a decline in lets of general needs vacancies to homelessness in the past year, in other years post covid there had been a steady increase. Moving forward it would be useful to assess the impact of

					TACP acquisitions on social housing allocations and further explore why the % general needs lets to homelessness decreased.
3.4 To work with Homesearch partners to implement actions to make the 'best use' and maximise occupancy of the stock to facilitate more people to move-on from temporary accommodation. Page 40	Affordable Housing Strategy Officer	On-going to 31/03/26	To provide more options for those who are at risk of homelessness Target households/transfer applicants occupying overcrowded one bedroom accommodation to facilitate one bedroomed vacancies Utilise existing housing stock for shared accommodation Re-designation of existing accommodation	Additional preferences are awarded to those who are overcrowded. Some two bed properties are prioritised to transfers. A shared housing protocol is in place whereby single person households can join homeless applications to share a two-bedroom property.	There have been conversations relating to the use of TACP funding to assist in reducing overcrowding in smaller properties for which there is greatest current demand. This conversation has included Welsh Government and remains current.
3.5 To consider alternative housing options such as converted commercial units and modular housing	Affordable Housing Strategy Officer	On-going to 31/03/26	To increase the supply, particularly for single people.	Ongoing work on modular housing.	No further progress due to additional stock becoming available in key locations.
3.6 To appraise the opportunities for the Council to utilise Council owned assets for homeless purposes and explore options with other public bodies.	Affordable Housing Strategy Officer & Development Manager	31/03/26	To maximise the development of new affordable housing	A cottage in Llanvair Discoed has been approved for homelessness accommodation. The council are currently considering a proposal to repurpose a care home. The proposal would provide units of temporary accommodation	The council passed the proposal to convert part of a disused care home into temporary accommodation. The new TA unit has 24-hour security for 17 bed spaces, with onsite support (office hours) and cooking, washing facilities and opened in Summer 2025.

				as well as the co-location of other services.	
3.7 To appraise the option of purchasing properties from the open market for use as homeless accommodation and consider partnership option in respect of management.	Affordable Housing Strategy Officer	31/03/26	To maximise options for delivering affordable housing	There is now a procedure in place for purchasing property and work is ongoing on an acquisition strategy. MCC has purchased three properties to date. MCC has been able to keep management in house due to the resolution of HB concerns.	Acquiring open market properties for TACP.
3.8 To increase the provision of other forms of temporary accommodation Working with a range of landlords, both PSL and private sector and to secure additional units of temporary accommodation, direct access and supported housing.	Affordable Housing Strategy Officer	On-going to 31/03/26	To minimise the use of expensive nightly paid accommodation Establish a dedicated emergency self-contained family accommodation in the North. Re-model an existing shared housing property to provide dedicated provision for young people To ensure temporary accommodations costs to the Council are contained and to provide better quality accommodation Identify opportunities to re-designate existing social housing	MLS has been successful in attracting a number of PL to increase its portfolio as an alternative to costly B&B. Still being explored. A shared housing property has been repurposed for young person's temporary accommodation. Young Persons Supported Accommodation scheme has also been remodelled. Private Sector Leasing through MLS is providing an increase in good quality self-contained TA which are a cheaper option than B&B. There has not been the opportunity to redesignate	The use of B&B accommodation across Monmouthshire has vastly decreased over the last ... years. The number of PSL properties in MCC's portfolio has remained largely consistent. The focus over the previous financial year and going forward, is to ensure that the properties across the portfolio continue to align to need, and to raise the standard and quality of accommodation we offer. MCC repurposed a former care facility into a 17 bed temporary accommodation unit with onsite support which allowed the authority to reduce its dependence on B&B and provide a higher

				Social Housing for TA at to date.	standard of accommodation with additional facilities. The Young Persons' TA was did not work effectively due to: • The support did not meet the level required by the needs of the client group; • Insufficient demand to fill voids. Self-contained TA in North Monmouthshire remains a need.
319 To develop effective pathways to and from temporary accommodation ensuring move on is timely.	Housing Options Team Manager	On-going to 31/03/26	To gain a better understanding of why length of stay can vary and barriers for move on.	The limited availability of settled accommodation limits the viability of pathways but the following work has been done: • 'Matching' is now done at the point of signing a PSL lease. This means that when a property is taken on a suitable household either in B&B or who is due to come into B&B are identified which creates more of a planned pathway. • The exclusion panel have reviewed their procedures to allow more flexibility on households in rent	

				arrears to give households the opportunity to move on from TA quicker. A shared housing protocol is in place whereby single person households can join homeless applications to share a two-bedroom property that is harder to let to families (i.e above ground floor flats).	
3.10 To review and evaluate Monmouthshire Lettings to identify opportunities to improve the service and encourage further private landlords to make available their properties to the Council.	Housing Options Team Manager	On-going to 31/03/26	Sign up to Welsh Government National Leasing Scheme	MCC signed up to the National Leasing Scheme/ Leasing Scheme Wales in February 2022. Despite promoting the scheme MCC has not yet had a landlord sign up to the scheme. An MLS campaign was designed and launched Summer 2023 (also encompassing LSW). The campaign consisted of pixel marketing, an eBook and enticing graphics and was launched at the Usk Show.	MCC has secured 7 properties (as of Feb 2026) on the National Leasing Scheme since 2024.
3.11 To establish self-contained emergency family accommodation in the North of the County	Housing & Communities Manager	31/03/24	To improve provision for families meet WG accommodation standards		No longer relevant.

3.12 To seek to establish links with local voluntary organisations and local churches/faith groups to develop new services	Housing & Communities Manager	Ongoing to 31/03/26	To provide additional private sector accommodation	The Affordable Housing Strategy Officer has met with local community groups, charities and religious groups regarding the potential access of S106 funding for homeless accommodation.	Plans to realign to SHG/TACP are awaiting sign off.
3.13 To implement the Empty Property Action Plan to target empty homes and town centre opportunities.	Strategy & Policy Officer - Homelessness	Ongoing to 31/03/26	To provide additional private sector accommodation Where possible align with Social Housing Grant	Action plan has been updated	
3.14 To develop innovative use of S106 affordable housing contributions to create additional affordable housing	Strategy & Policy Officer - Homelessness	Ongoing to 31/03/2026	To provide additional homeless accommodation facilitated by making use of S106 contributions as an additional resource.	Proposal currently being considered by DMT.	
3.15 To consider and evaluate the business case to identify potential scope to support RSL's where there are viability issues impacting on the ability to develop or retain affordable housing	Strategy & Policy Officer – Affordable Housing	31/03/23	Maximise options for affordable housing delivery	Not at this time.	
3.16 To consider and evaluate the potential for using the housing co-operative model as an additional	Strategy & Policy Officer – Affordable Housing	31/03/24	Maximise options for affordable housing delivery	RHE, local member and Cwmpas arranging an info session in Abergavenny to raise awareness of Co-op housing models.	Co-operative housing to go through Homesearch. Cwmpas doing video explainer what Co-Op housing.

vehicle for the provision of affordable housing.					
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Priority Four: To establish a Rapid Re-Housing Transition Plan

Action required to deliver the priority	Lead Person	Timescales / By When	Outcome/Outputs
4.1 There is a need to implement Welsh Government policy direction and establish and implement a Rapid Re-Housing Transition Plan .	Housing & Communities Manager	Sept 2022	MCC's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and Action Plan were formally adopted in March 2023.

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Priority Five: To maximise and increase the availability and effectiveness of financial, staffing/workforce and collaborative resources available for tackling homelessness.

Action required to deliver the priority	Lead Person	Times cales/ By When	Outcome/Outputs	Updates 2024	Updates 2026
5.1 To review and evaluate existing staff structures of teams delivering homeless services to ensure they continue to provide sufficient capacity and continue to be fit for purpose.	Housing & Communities Manager	31/03/23	To support staff, maximise capacity, improve efficiency and maximise flexibility.	Additional capacity has been built into the HOTs team in the form of a First Contact Officer, Systems Administrator, and an additional Senior Accommodation Officer. A departmental restructure took place in March 2023	Gateway review?

				which has resulted in the HOTS and Gateway teams being aligned under the same management. Youth homelessness team Compass has now joined the Housing Support/ Gateway team.	
5.2 To improve procedures to enable partners to work together successfully e.g. information sharing, referral mechanisms	Housing & Communities Manager	Ongoing to 31/03/26	To streamline the processes so that multi-agency working is easier and more efficient and therefore a better experience for those threatened with homelessness.	HOTS and the Gateway teams have been aligned under the same management which will allow for greater partnership working. A first contact officer within HOTS is streamlining the referral procedure into HOTS. Work is ongoing with Locata to allow for better communication of cases held by HOTS and the Gateway. The HIP is facilitating multi agency discussions for those with high and complex needs. A Young Person's Homelessness Information Panel was created which allowed for a range of services to come together to discuss youth homelessness.	Housing teams, including housing support now sit under the Social Care directorate in a council-wide restructure. This movement has increased opportunities for closer partnership working and a joint Young Persons' Housing Group.
5.3 Identify funding for those aims and objectives where funding	Housing & Communi	Ongoing to	Address the need identified in the Statement of Need		The Strategy & Policy Officer – Affordable Housing &

currently hasn't been allocated.	ties Manager	31/03/26			HS Commissioning Operational Manager have been exploring alternative funding options to support those with complex needs.
5.4 Transition from short-term arrangements established quickly due to the Covid Pandemic and in response to Welsh Government guidance to more sustainable long-term solutions.	Housing & Communities Manager	31/03/23	To mitigate against the use of B & B use and concierge services in lieu of supported housing		Over the last few years MCC have looked to transform accommodation options into a more sustainable model with longevity. The actions taken have included: • Acquiring accommodation on the open market; • Repurposed council property for TA and restructured support to provide static support to residents. • Restructure temporary accommodation to reduce the use of B&B accommodation; • Addressed RSL concerns around Housing First to remove barriers to rehousing; • Reviewed stock under PSL to improve the standard and quality of temporary accommodation offered.
5.5 We will work collaboratively both internally and externally with organisations that	Housing & Communities Manager;	On-going to	Maximise the availability of internal and external resources with particular emphasis on increasing		

offer a broad range of skill sets and knowledge, expertise and experience to address homelessness successfully.	HS Commissioning Operational Manager. & Housing Options Manager	31/03/26	homeless prevention and increasing accommodation opportunities.		
5.6 We will develop further the Housing Support & Homelessness Forum.	HS Commissioning Operational Manager.	31/03/26	To positively and proactively engage with housing support providers in order to maximise housing support provision as an available resource		The Housing Provider and Housing Support Worker forums have – how often?
5.7 We will evaluate the effectiveness and cost efficiency of using data analytics for the prevention of homelessness.	Strategy & Policy Officer – Homelessness	31/03/23	Determine whether an automated approach would deliver cost benefits		LIFT has been trialled by MCC as part of a WG pilot. The pilot was for 12 months, and the housing team had very limited access (only through revs and bens) due to data protection issues. A targeted mailshot is being planned- any increase in engagement from this exercise will inform the efficiency of such a software package.
5.8 Undertake a training needs audit and establish a programme of training to support staff to deliver and transform services, in particular substance misuse and violence against women, domestic	Housing & Communities Manager	31/12/22	To increase staff awareness, enhance staff professional development and embed best practice		

abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV)					
5.9 Work collaboratively both internally and externally with organisations that offer a broad range of skill sets and knowledge, expertise and experience to address homelessness successfully.	Housing & Communities Manager & Flexible Funding Strategic Manager	Ongoing to 31/03/26	To maximise capacity, improve efficiency and maximise flexibility.		
5.10 Support and develop staff in respect of adopting and maintain a Psychologically Informed Environment/Trauma informed approach.	Housing & Communities Manager	31/03/23	Staff training will be undertaken. Action plans will be established to take forward the implementation.	HOTs and Gateway staff received PIE/ Trauma informed training in February 2022.	
5.11 Identify opportunities for increasing collaborative arrangements with Aneurin Bevan Health Board	Housing & Communities Manager & Flexible Funding Strategic Manager	31/03/23	Additional accommodation and/or support for those who have both a homeless need and a health need, particularly mental health		Working with Public Health Wales to develop a health inclusion training module. Developing a GP resource pack to be shared across surgeries in Monmouthshire.
5.12 Engage with Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association in respect of future funding arrangements in order to	Housing & Communities Manager & Flexible Funding	Ongoing to 31/03/26	Address the need identified in the Statement of Need		

align with homeless need in Monmouthshire	Strategic Manager				
5.13 Identify opportunities for homeless services and solutions to support wider strategic priorities. For example, Social Care needs, tackling empty properties, Town Centre regeneration and decarbonisation.	Housing & Communities Manager	Ongoing to 31/03/26	Implement that meet homeless needs and contribute added value (eg cost benefits) in respect of other strategic priorities		Participation in the Tackling Poverty Network, Public Health Wales. Work with Children's Social Care to commence joint protocol/ process development.
5.14 Implement the Strategic Housing Partnership to increase opportunities that support and contribute to the priorities of this Strategy	Chief Officer – Communities & Place	On-going	Increasing opportunities to facilitate and develop additional homeless accommodation		Strategic Housing Forums are held quarterly.

Housing Support Programme Strategy – Interim Action Plan 2026–2027

This Action Plan reflects the updated priorities and actions for the 2026–2027 interim year, incorporating the introduction of a new Priority Six, alongside specific amendments and additions across existing priorities.

Priority One: Identify Those at Risk of Homelessness Earlier and Provide Timely Interventions

Actions

- **1.1** Continue work to increase early access to homelessness prevention services, shifting from crisis response to proactive intervention.
- **1.2** Maintain ongoing review and refinement of homelessness information to ensure clarity, accessibility, and improved public understanding.
- **1.3** Continue preparation for legislative changes relating to young people and care leavers, with a refreshed protocol to follow once the new legislation is introduced.
- **1.4** Continue engagement with the Tackling Poverty Network to promote awareness of housing services.
- **1.5** Continue investment in upstream youth homelessness prevention within education settings.
- **1.6** Ongoing review of social housing exclusion practices. **Additional 2026–27 Action:** Reassess the operation of the *three-step test* when considering suspensions from the Housing Register.
- **1.7** Continue identifying resources to support households considered high- risk.
- **1.8** Continue improvements in data capture and analysis, including the use of LIFT and monitoring trends.
- **1.9** Continue to enhance use of technology and data sharing to support planning and improved service delivery.
- **1.10** Support co-location of teams at new MCC sites to improve case outcomes and encourage multi-disciplinary working.
- **1.11** Continue embedding a Psychologically Informed Environment (PIE) within homelessness services.

- **1.12** Deliver ongoing improvements to youth homelessness services, aligned with upcoming legislative changes.

New Action for 2026–2027

- **1.A** Assess the viability of restructuring the Prevention Team to accept referrals from households *already receiving support*, aiming to increase early intervention outcomes and streamline prevention pathways.
-

Priority Two: Provide Timely and Effective Support for Vulnerable Residents, Particularly Those with High and Complex Needs

Actions

- **2.1** Continue engagement with Welsh Government and partners to identify resources to increase capacity within the Housing Support Programme.
- **2.2** Continue expanding Housing First and strengthening partnerships to support accommodation supply.
- **2.3 – 2.4** Continue improvements to Young Persons' accommodation and floating support services.
- **2.5 – 2.6** Continue to explore accommodation solutions for those with complex needs, including neurodiverse individuals.
- **2.7 – 2.12** Continue implementation of the full HSG recommissioning process.
- **2.13** Continue assessment of dedicated provision for young people.

New Actions for 2026–2027

- **2.A** Deliver full service recommissioning in line with the Housing Support Grant recommissioning timeline for 2026–2027, ensuring services align with identified needs and strategic priorities.
 - **2.B** Work closely with the Affordable Housing Strategy Officer to explore options for a complex needs support accommodation provision.
-

Priority Three: Increase Access to Affordable and Suitable Temporary and Permanent Housing Solutions

Actions

- **3.1** Continue to reduce reliance on B&B and improve standards of temporary accommodation.
 - **Additional 2026–27 Action:** Reassess whether the current temporary accommodation portfolio aligns with homeless presentation trends and continue phasing out low- quality units.
 - **3.2** Continue co- ordination of the Strategic Housing Forum to maximise affordable housing development.
 - **Additional 2026–27 Action:** Review and update the Forum's Terms of Reference to ensure alignment with council priorities.
 - **3.3** Continue collaboration with Homesearch partners to maximise move- on opportunities into permanent housing.
 - **Additional 2026–27 Action:** Explore reasons for the decline in general- needs social housing allocations to homeless households; review whether high support needs remain a barrier to allocation.
 - **3.4** Continue promoting best use of social housing stock to facilitate move- on from temporary accommodation.
 - **3.5 – 3.16** Continue work on modular housing, utilisation of council assets, acquisitions, PSL schemes, and strategic alignment of funding and housing solutions.
-
-

Priority Four: To maintain the Rapid Re-Housing Transition Plan

Actions

- **4.1** There is a need to implement Welsh Government policy direction and establish and implement a Rapid Re-Housing Transition Plan.
 - **Additional 2026–27 Action:** To continue to follow MCC's RRHTP and embed the principles in operational work.
-

Priority Five: Maximise Financial, Staffing and Collaborative Resources to Address Homelessness

Actions

- **6.1** Continue reviewing staff structures to ensure capacity and flexibility.
 - **6.2** Continue improving partnership procedures including information sharing and referral mechanisms.
 - **6.3** Continue identifying funding for unallocated priorities.
 - **6.4** Continue transitioning from short- term arrangements adopted during Covid- 19 toward sustainable long- term models.
 - **6.5** Continue collaborative working internally and externally to maximise homelessness prevention and accommodation outcomes.
 - **6.6** Continue development of the Housing Support & Homelessness Forum.
 - **6.7** Evaluate the effectiveness of data analytics for homelessness prevention.
 - **6.8** Deliver training needs assessments relating to substance misuse, VAWDASV, and other specialist areas.
 - **6.9 – 6.14** Continue strategic alignment with health, social care, Welsh Government, and wider priorities including regeneration and decarbonisation.
-

Priority Six: Prepare for Implementation of the Homelessness & Social Housing Allocations (Wales) Bill

New Priority – Introduced for 2026–2027

Actions

- **5.1** Recruit and appoint two fixed- term legislation officers to support implementation and organisational readiness.
- **5.2** Work closely with Welsh Government to shape guidance and support implementation planning.
- **5.3** Establish working relationships with secure premises in Monmouthshire to facilitate improved access to housing advice and guidance for prisoners.

- **5.4** Engage partner agencies and internal teams to ensure comprehensive understanding of legislative changes and their operational impacts.
 - **5.5** Undertake detailed analysis of legislative changes to identify strategic, operational, and procedural implications, ensuring MCC is fully prepared for transition.
-

Completion Statement

This clean Action Plan incorporates all required updates for the interim year 2026–2027, ensuring alignment with legislative change, service requirements, and Monmouthshire’s strategic approach to homelessness prevention, support, and accommodation.

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Overview of Homeless & Social Housing Allocations (Wales) Bill

Legislation change	Additional Details	Who it will impact	Indicated timeline
Amends the definition of 'threatened with homelessness' and extends the prevention period from 56 days, to six months.	Already practised in Monmouthshire	HOTs	Implementation: 2027-2028
Introduces Prevention, Support and Accommodation Plans (PSAP)	- Includes the wants and wishes of the applicant. - Includes an assessment of support needs. - No recourse if applicant refuses any of the PSAP To be reviewed every 8 weeks or when there is a change of circs. - Must include steps by other agencies where this is known.	HOTs, HSG, Partner agencies (where applicable)	Training: 2026-2027 Implementation: 2027-2028

	• Communication must be accessible.		
Introduces new rights to request a review for applicants, in relation to decisions taken regarding their case.	• Review of a PSAP can be requested at any point where a PSAP is required. • Review of the suitability of accommodation can be made at any time a duty applies or within 6 months of the offer being accepted. • Review of support needs: an assessment by a local housing authority of the support needed for the applicant and any member of the applicant's household— (i) to retain accommodation which is or may become available;	HOTs, HSG	Implementation 2027-2028

	(ii) to overcome any barrier to living independently;		
Specifies additional circumstances in which duties can be brought to an end.	• Largely refers to the addition of 'settled' accommodation options that can allow for a discharge of housing duty. There are ongoing discussions as to what these options will be but should include returning to family and supported lodgings. • The use of the additional means to discharge duty will invoke a duty to make reasonable attempts to contact a household within 7 months of the homeless duty coming to an end to check if there is a	HOTs	2027-2028

	risk of homelessness.		
Widens the accommodation options to be considered as a means of relieving homelessness.	• S73 removed and application of LC test at S75. • Means TA for anyone believed to be homeless (and eligible). • S68 will become shorter as only LC test applied before S75 duty. • Those not entitled to S75 will be given reasonable time to make other accommodation arrangements.	HOTs	
Abolishes the priority need and intentionality tests.	• Duty to accommodate all believed to be homeless (and eligible) in Monmouthshire at least until S75.	HOTs	2030-2031

Introduces a local connection test for the main homelessness duty	• As is already in use at MCC. • No additional exemptions. • Welsh ministers to be given new powers to determine where a person is to be treated as meeting the local connection test.	HOTs	
Referral of cases to another local housing authority	• No longer need to be in PN or non-intentional for referral. • Can refer to another LA <i>before</i> acceptance of a S66 for those in custody. • LC only applied at S75.	HOTs	
Introduces a new duty to provide help to retain suitable accommodation.	• Applies to households who have been supported to secure accommodation	HSG, HOTs	2027-2028

	under a homeless duty. • Applies “to those whom the local housing authority identifies as requiring support to retain their accommodation”. • End of the duty would be 12 months, where homelessness has occurred, where there is no longer a threat of homelessness or the applicant does not want the support.		
Further circumstances in which the duties to help applicants end	• Narrowing of the unreasonable failure to co-operate test to failure to respond to repeated attempts at contact. • A warning must be issued if applying this with a reasonable period of time given	HOTs	2027-2028

	for the applicant to respond. • Duties can also be ended if: - o The applicant displays violent or threatening behaviour. - o Applicants destroy or seriously damage property (TA)		
Introduces a new duty on specified public authorities to “ask and act” in relation to persons in Wales.	• Specified public bodies will have a duty to “ask and act”. • Identify those at risk of homelessness and refer to the LA.		Training development 2027-2028 Training delivery 2028-2029
Places new duties on local authorities to take reasonable steps to secure suitable accommodation is available for occupation	• Amendment to the SS and W Act. • Applies to certain categories of young people. •	Children’s Social Care, HOTs	

for certain young people leaving care.			
Introduces a new duty for local authorities' co-operation arrangements to include a joint protocol between social services and local housing authorities.	• Statutory duty for protocol between housing functions and social care. • For 16–17-year-olds. • Will set out how the teams will work together to prevent homelessness.	Children's social care, HOTs	2027-2028
Requires local housing authorities to make arrangements to promote co-operation between itself and certain other bodies through development of protocols and case co-ordination models.	• LAs required to promote co-operation with other public bodies and third sector organisations. • Protocol for those who are or may become homeless and have other support needs. • Effective case co-ordination	HOTs, HSG (already something similar in HIP)	2027-2028
Clarifies homelessness duties for those	• Those subjected to custody will have the LC test applied at or	HOTs	

entering and leaving the secure estate.	before S66 (and referral if needed). • An applicant with a S75 duty who enters custody and is expected to be detained for longer than 6 months the LA can end duty. • A S66 duty will remain open regardless of sentence length. • If accommodation is lost under S66 whilst applicant is in custody the LA do not issue a S75 if they are not likely to be released within 6 months.		
Protection of property: prisoners	• Due to a change in the duties awarded to those in custody, those incarcerated may not be entitled to a housing duty but	HOTs (Accom)	

	would still need their possessions protected.		
Duty to provide information, advice and assistance: detained persons	• Duty to provide housing information and advice to those detained. • this duty includes persons detained in the authority's area or who have a local connection with its area • the service is designed to meet the needs of people in prison	HOTs	
Broadens the definition of domestic abuse, bringing it into line with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.	• Updates previous legislation to align with Domestic Abuse Act 2021. • It includes other kinds of abuse which give rise to harm, including modern slavery and stalking and harassment.	HOTs	

Ensures ongoing engagement with people with lived experience of homelessness.	• Duty to seek views of homeless persons in exercise of homelessness functions. • LAs must consult with those who have lived experience when adopting or developing homeless strategy. • Welsh Ministers must also consult when amending guidance.	Housing Strategy	2027-2028
Requires local housing authorities to have regard to Part 4 of the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 (condition of dwelling) when determining suitability.	•	HOTs	
Requires Welsh Ministers to report periodically on the use and condition of interim	• Welsh ministers to publish a report on the use and condition of interim accommodation and	HOTs, WG	First report due Dec 2030

accommodation across Wales.	put before the Senedd every 5 years.		
Cooperation	• Expands the duty to apply to a wider range of specified public bodies listed in section 95(5). • Specified public bodies will be required to comply with a request unless it is incompatible with their own duties or otherwise has an adverse effect on the exercise of their own functions.	HOTs, public bodies specified.	
Enables local authorities to request registered social landlords and private registered providers of social housing (“social landlords”) to make an offer of suitable accommodation in their	• LA’s can request an RSL provide accommodation to applicants owed a homeless duty in a ‘reasonable [time] period unless they have a ‘good reason’ (not yet defined).	RSLs, HOTs, Strategy	2027-2028

area for a specific applicant owed the final homelessness duty.	• RSLs must also comply with reasonable requests for information. • LAs can take disputes to Welsh Ministers.		
Requires local housing authorities to take 'reasonable steps' to provide an applicant with an opportunity to view the accommodation being offered, before a duty can be ended.	• Must take reasonable steps for an applicant to view a property if the accommodation is due to bring a duty (s66 or 75) to an end.		
Provides local authorities with the discretion to decide which classes of person are or are not qualifying persons for social housing in their area, provided they are not ineligible for allocation, and subject to certain	• The Bill will provide a power for local housing authorities to determine the eligibility criteria for social housing in their local area, (provided they are a qualifying person) subject to specified	RSLs, Housing strategy	

constraints on qualification.	parameters and conditions. the Bill will also ensure that when assessing unacceptable behaviour, greater consideration is made of the risk of that behaviour occurring at the time of application.		
Introduces a test for those who have engaged in 'deliberate manipulation' of the homelessness system in order to gain advantage when applying for social housing.	- LA can remove preference for social housing if applicant has been found trying to 'manipulate the system'. - Failing this test will not result in the ending of any homelessness duties. - Applied at the allocation stage.	HOTs, RSLs	
Creates a sixth category of 'reasonable	Care leavers to be given additional	RSLs, Children's Social Care.	

preference' for those to whom local authorities owe duties under section 108A of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.	preference in social housing allocation. Care leavers do not need to be experiencing homelessness for this preference (should not be going down homeless route).		
Requires local housing authorities in Wales to establish and maintain a Common Housing Register and an Accessible Housing Register for their local area.	- MCC already has a CHR (Homesearch) - Local housing authority must provide and maintain a register of properties with accessible or adapted characteristics within their local area.	Homesearch, RSLs, Housing strategy	2027-2028

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Integrated Impact Assessment document (incorporating Equalities, Future Generations, Welsh Language and Socio-Economic Duty)

Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Ian Bakewell Phone no: 07774 972014 Email: ianbakewell@monmouthshire.gov.uk	Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal Update of Housing Support Programme Strategy
Name of Service area Housing & Communities	Date 1 st June 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.

Protected Characteristics	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	The HSP positively affects people of all ages threatened with homelessness or homeless from 16+. It will also benefit children of families who may be assisted. The priority focus is to help prevent homelessness of people falling within all protected characteristics groups. This includes older persons. It will increase the amount homeless accommodation available, the type of accommodation available and the quality of accommodation available. Similarly, it will increase the type of housing support available.	None	No negative impacts will arise because it maintains existing on homeless actions already delivered over the last year and will include: The addition of new accommodation • Self-contained units for single households. • Shared emergency family accommodation. • Reduction in use of B&B Housing Support • Support services aligned with the needs of service users • Temporary accommodation housing support • Assertive Outreach • Drug & Alcohol Assertive Outreach • Housing First • High need Young Persons Supported Housing Identifying additional resources

Protected Characteristics	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	A priority focus of is to help prevent homelessness of people falling within all protected characteristics groups. The RRTP positively affects people of disability that may threatened with homelessness or homeless.	No negative impacts	There is specific mitigation against a lack of accessible homeless accommodation. The aim is to increase the availability of accessible accommodation. It is not restrictive but recognises those households with physical and mental health disabilities as groups who require tailored responses to tackle homelessness more effectively.
Gender reassignment	Neutral	No negative impacts	Consideration will be given to the level of information available, where it is available and how it is presented.
Marriage or civil partnership	As above	As above	As above

Protected Characteristics	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	A focus of the is to help prevent homelessness of people falling within all protected characteristics groups, which positively affects pregnant women through its preventative initiatives and sourcing good quality stable accommodation as an alternative to the use of B & B accommodation.	No negative impacts	The Council's approach positively impacts pregnant women. Such services include: • To continue to increase the number of new affordable home delivered. • To continue to increase the number of households assisted into the private rented sector. • Provision of support services to meet identified needs. Where preventative measures have failed, the Council will continue to adhere to Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (Wales) Order 2015 .
Race	A focus is to help prevent homelessness of people falling within all protected characteristics groups.	As above	Consideration will be given to the level of information available, where it is available and how it is presented.
Religion or Belief	A focus is to help prevent homelessness of people falling within all protected characteristics groups.	As above	Consideration will be given to the level of information available, where it is available and how it is presented.

Protected Characteristics	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	A focus is to help prevent homelessness of people falling within all protected characteristics groups.	As above	The Council has some accommodation designated for single sex Consideration will be given to the level of information available, where it is available and how it is presented.
Sexual Orientation	A focus is to help prevent homelessness of people falling within all protected characteristics groups.	As above	Consideration will be given to the level of information available, where it is available and how it is presented.

2. The Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice

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 This duty aligns with our commitment as an authority to Social Justice.

	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 socio economic disadvantage.	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
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Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice	Homelessness applications for housing advice are most common from households on low incomes. Coupled with a lack of access to affordable social housing and affordable private rented properties in the County it makes it difficult for many households to find a home to live in. The RRTP will positively impact on households suffering socio economic disadvantage by working with our partners to ensure access to such help as: • Accessing Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP), including those who have been affected by welfare reforms such as the Benefit Cap and Universal Credit. • Signposting and referring into support services, especially for those household in crisis - (This includes financial inclusion, eg income maximisation, budgeting support, digital inclusion support, minimisation of outgoings, financial assistance). • Delivery of further affordable homes. • Accessing the private rented properties in the County through the Council's in-house letting service – Monmouthshire Letting Service (MLS). • Through MLS the Council employs a Private Sector Negotiator, to engage with private sector landlords who may be willing to offer tenancies to	There are no negative impacts	The Council will continue to build on existing schemes available through the Council that mitigate against socio economic disadvantage. We will: • Continue to increase the number of new affordable home delivered. • Continue to increase the number of households assisted into the private rented sector through Monmouthshire Letting Service (MLS). • Continue to work with the benefits section to ensure access to Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP). • Continue to work with our partners to deliver timely support.
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	households that approach as homeless. • Assistance through the Council's rent in advance and deposit guarantee (MLS).		
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3. Policy making and the Welsh 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 Effects on the use of the Welsh language, Promoting Welsh language Treating the Welsh language, no less favourably	Welsh Language will be factored into those areas of services where there is written information.	None	The Action Plan will consider what level of information is available, where it is available and how it is presented
Operational Recruitment & Training of workforce	Neutral impact. There are staff specifically employed for this service but this isn't due to change.	None	N/A
Service delivery Use of Welsh language in service delivery Promoting use of the language	There is no requirement for Welsh speakers in respect of operational delivery and, therefore, recruitment and training. Welsh speakers are however, positively encouraged to apply for vacancies. Existing staff are encouraged through the Council's training unit to access Welsh lessons.	None	N/A

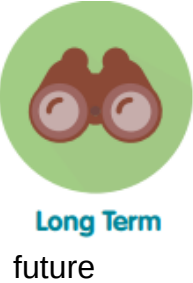
4. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	Positive: The Housing Service is focused on delivering sustainable solutions that make efficient and best use of available resources. Negative: There are no negative impacts	The proposal will build on existing schemes available through the Council that contribute positively to the well-being goals.
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g., climate change)	Positive: Neutral Negative: N/A	N/A
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized, and health impacts are understood	Positive: Homeless services positively contribute to positive health outcomes for the people of Monmouthshire. The Council supports people's physical and mental wellbeing because it is well understood the effects of homelessness and poor housing has on individual's health and well-being. Negative: None.	The Council will build on existing schemes available through the Council that mitigate against socio economic disadvantage. We will: • Continue to increase the number of new affordable home delivered. • Continue to increase the number of households assisted into the private rented sector through Monmouthshire Letting Service (MLS). • Continue to work with the benefits section to ensure access to Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP)

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
		• The Council has recently established an arrangement to work with the Health Inclusion Service. • Discussions are pending with a Homeless 'friendly' GP surgery about a possible joint approach. • Continue to work with housing support partners
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	Positive: Neutral Negative: None	Ensure that those in temporary accommodation are allocated a support worker and offered support to prevent or resolve and reduce any potential negative impacts on the community. Employ security measures to ensure that temporary accommodation provisions are safe and secure and foster cohesion in the wider community.
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	Positive: Neutral Negative: N/A	N/A.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	Positive: N/A Negative: N/A	N/A

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation		
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	Positive: The RRTP positively contribute to positive health outcomes and poor housing conditions for the people of Monmouthshire. This proposal supports people's physical and mental wellbeing because it is well understood the effects of homelessness and poor housing has on individual's health and well-being. Addressing households' wellbeing health and poor housing conditions will allow those households to fulfil their potential and improve lifestyle outcomes. Negative: None.	The proposal will build on existing schemes available through the Council that mitigate against socio economic disadvantage. We will: • Continue to increase the number of new affordable home delivered. • Continue to increase the number of households assisted into the private rented sector through Monmouthshire Letting Service (MLS). • Continue to work with the benefits section to ensure access to Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP). • Continue to work with our housing support partners

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

Sustainable Development Principle	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?
 Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future	The Council seeks to provide both a short to long-term intervention. It will address those household that are currently experiencing a housing crisis (the “here” and “now”) with a long-term planning for the future through its preventative work (going further upstream) in identifying trigger issues of homelessness.	The Council will continue to operate a pro-active and positive approach to tackling homelessness in the County. We will: • Continue to increase the number of new affordable home delivered. • Continue to increase the number of households assisted into the private rented sector through Monmouthshire Letting Service (MLS). • Continue to work with the benefits section to ensure access to Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP). • Continue to work with our housing support partners

Sustainable Development Principle	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?
 Working together with other partners to deliver objectives Collaboration	This proposal is based on a partnership approach through the following parties: • Housing & Communities and Housing Support Grant Commissioning • Welsh Government • Housing Associations • Housing Support Providers • Private property owners and letting agencies • Environmental Health • Planning • Aneurin Bevan Health Board • Social Care • Police • Probation	The Council is keen to continue to identify new partners to improve prevention and strengthen all aspects of delivery, particularly individual Health Services
 Involving those with an interest and seeking their views Involvement	There are established arrangements where the Housing Support Grant Team engage with service users as part of service reviews and contract monitoring. Systems are in place to collate service user feedback for those using the homeless and accommodation services. Resident meetings take place at Severn View	It has been identified there will be benefits of strengthen existing arrangements to both improve monitoring and engagement with service users

Sustainable Development Principle	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	The underlying ethos of the delivery of homeless services is to move away from crisis management to a more focused approach of preventing homelessness occurring in the first instance and where homelessness is not prevented to make it 'rare, brief and unrepeated'.	A Young Persons Homeless Group is to be established with Children's Services. The Council has started preparing for the implementation of the Homeless & Social Housing Allocation legislation from September 2027.
 Integration Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies	The proposal positively impacts on well-being eg health, financial etc by helping people retain accommodation or access good quality alternative accommodation Services have the potential to support wider priorities and services, particularly Social Care and Health.	N/A

6. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Corporate Parenting 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?
Safeguarding	None.	None.	N/A
Corporate Parenting	N/A	N/A	N/A

7. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

Evidence has been gathered in the following ways:

- Homelessness data
- Housing support data
- Housing Register data
- Temporary Accommodation data

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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

Positive -

The positive impacts of homeless and housing support services and the HSP include

- Strengthen prevention
- Additional permanent and temporary accommodation
- Improved quality of accommodation
- Identifying additional resources and not necessarily financial resources
- Improved financial sustainability
- Greater partnership working

Negative

- The current arrangement focuses on self-funding which may impact on take-up and wider benefits,

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
Establish a new Homeless & Housing Support Programme Strategy	2027	Ian Bakewell, Strategic Housing Manager

10. VERSION CONTROL: The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation 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	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1.		18 th March 2026	
2.			

Committee / Decision Maker	Meeting date / Decision due	Report Title	Cabinet member	Purpose	Author	Date item added to the planner
Cabinet	Deferred	Pavement Café Policy	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the pavement café policy as the basis for making decisions on applications for licences	Carl Touhig	4-Oct-22
Cabinet	07-Mar-28	Strategic Equality Plan	Angela Sandles - Engagement	To To seek Council approval of the Strategic Equality Plan 2028-2033 in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty	Pennie Walker	
Council	31-Mar-27	Welsh Language Strategy	Angela Sandles - Engagement	To approve the publication of the Welsh Language Strategy 2027 - 2032 in line with the Welsh Language Standards.	Pennie Walker	19-Feb-26
Council	05-Mar-27	COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION AND REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR 2027/28	Ben Callard - Resources	To agree the Council tax resolution and Revenue and Capital budgets for 2027/28	Jon Davies	15-Jun-26
Council	04-Mar-27	COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION AND REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR 2027/28	Ben Callard - Resources	To agree the Council tax resolution and Revenue a	Jon Davies	15-Jun-26
Council	04-Mar-27	2027/28 Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy	Ben Callard - Resources	To approve the Council's 2027/28 Capital and Treasury Management Strategies, including the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy'	Jon Davies	15-Jun-26
Council	04-Mar-27	Adoption of Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP)2018-2033	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To consider adoption of RLDP following the public examination by PEDW	Craig O Connor	19-Feb-26
Cabinet	03-Mar-27	2027/28 Welsh Church Fund / Monmouthshire Farm treasury strategy & funding allocations	Ben Callard - Resources	To approve the 2027/28 Investment and Fund strategy for Trust Funds for which the Authority acts as sole or custodian trustee. To approve the 2027/28 grant allocation to Local Authority beneficiaries of the Welsh Church Fund.	Jon Davies	15-Jun-26
Cabinet	03-Mar-27	2027/28 Final Revenue & Capital budget proposals	Ben Callard - Resources	To update Cabinet with the consultation responses to the draft budget proposals issued by them in January 2027 in respect of the Capital and Revenue budgets for 2027/28. To make recommendations to Council on the Capital and Revenue budgets including the level of Council Tax for 2027/28. To receive the statutory report of the Responsible Financial Officer on the budget process and the adequacy of reserves. To receive the Responsible Financial Officer's Prudential Indicator calculations for capital financing.	Jon Davies	15-Jun-26
Cabinet	03-Mar-27	'Financial update report	Ben Callard - Resources	To provide Cabinet with an update of the progress against the Councils revenue and capital budgets for the 2026/27 financial year	Jon Davies	15-Jun-26
Council	21-Jan-27	COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2027/28	Ben Callard - Resources	Present arrangements for the implementation of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and approve it for 2027/28.	Jon Davies	15-Jun-26
Cabinet	20-Jan-27	2027/28 Draft Revenue & Capital budget proposals	Ben Callard - Resources	To set out draft revenue and capital budget proposals for financial year 2027/28. To commence a period of consultation on draft budget proposals for a four-week period.	Jon Davies	15-Jun-26
Cabinet	20-Jan-27	Caldicot Placemaking Plan	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To consider adoption of the Caldicot Place making Plan	Craig O Connor	19-Feb-26

ICMD	13-Jan-27	LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) ACT 1994 THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (PRECEPTS) (WALES) REGULATIONS 1995 – Determination of Payment Schedule'	Ben Callard - Resources	To determine the schedule of precept payments to precepting authorities for 2027/28 as required by statute and following the results of the consultation process.'	Jon Davies	15-Jun-26
ICMD	16-Dec-26	COUNCIL TAX BASE 2027/28 AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS	Ben Callard - Resources	To agree the Council Tax base figure for submission to Welsh Government, together with the collection rate to be applied for 2027/28 and to make other necessary related statutory decisions.	Jon Davies	15-Jun-26
Cabinet	09-Dec-26	Financial update report	Ben Callard - Resources	To provide Cabinet with an update of the progress against the Councils revenue and capital budgets for the 2026/27 financial year	Jon Davies	15-Jun-26
Cabinet	09-Dec-26	Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) Annual letter	Angela Sandles - Engagement	To fulfil the expectation of the PSOW that their report is brought to the attention of Cabinet.	Annette Evans	2-Mar-26
Cabinet	09-Dec-26	Strategic Risk Assessment	Ben Callard - Resources	To provide Cabinet with an overview of the current strategic risks facing the authority.	Hannah Carter	19-Feb-26
ICMD	18-Nov-26	LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) ACT 1994 THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (PRECEPTS) (WALES) REGULATIONS 1995 – Proposed Payment Schedule	Ben Callard - Resources	To seek approval of the proposals for consultation purposes regarding payments to precepting authorities during the 2027/28 financial year as required by statute.	Jon Davies	15-Jun-26
Council	12-Nov-26	Annual Director's Report for Social Care	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding	Present the annual report to Council	Jane Rodgers	3-Mar-26
Council	12-Nov-26	Safeguarding Annual Evaluation Report	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding	Present the annual evaluation of safeguarding across Council services	Jane Rodgers	3-Mar-26
Cabinet	11-Nov-26	2027/28 Revenue & Capital MTFP update and process	Ben Callard - Resources	To provide the latest six-monthly update of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), reflecting updated assumptions, risks, and strategic context	Jon Davies	15-Jun-26
Cabinet	14-Oct-26	Financial update report	Ben Callard - Resources	To provide Cabinet with an update of the progress against the Councils revenue budget for the 2026/27 financial year.	Jon Davies	15-Jun-26
Council	24-Sep-26	Highways Reactive Maintenance	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	To respond to a motion from Cllr Kear to consider opportunities to improve existing highways reactive repairs methodology	Deb Hill Howells	25-Jun-26
Council	24-Sep-26	Self-Assessment Report 2025/26	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy	To seek Council approval of the self-assessment report 2025/26 to ensure that members have a clear and transparent assessment of the authority's performance during the year ending 31 March 2026 in line with requirements outlined in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.	Hannah Carter	10-Feb-26
Cabinet	16-Sep-26	Monmouth Wye AT Bridge Land	Ben Callard - Resources	To seek Cabinet permission to purchase land for the proposed Monmouth Wye Active Travel Bridge.	Nick Tulp	3-Jun-26
Cabinet	16-Sep-26	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	To seek Cabinet approval of the new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.	Ross Price	2-Jun-26
Cabinet	08-Jul-26	Disposal of land to rear of 40 Leechpool Holdings	Ben Callard - Resources	To seek approval for the disposal of land adjacent to number 40 Leechpool Holdings, Portskewett.	Nick Keyse	22-Jun-26
Cabinet	08-Jul-26	Adoption of the Charter for the Rights of the Rivers	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	To seek Cabinet approval for the adoption of the Charter for the Rights of Rivers in Monmouthshire, following the motion agreed by Council on 25 June 2026.	Craig O Connor	29-Jun-26

Cabinet	08-Jul-26	Development of Supported Accommodation Provision (Updated Business Case)	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding	To acquire and refurbish a property in Monmouth for the purposes of developing a supported accommodation provision for care experienced young people.	Jane Rodgers	19-Jun-26
Cabinet	08-Jul-26	Financial update report	Ben Callard - Resources	To provide Cabinet with information on the Authority's final financial results for the 2025/26 financial year in respect of the revenue budget, capital programme, and associated reserves position. To update Cabinet on the early indicative progress against the 2026/27 revenue budget.	Jon Davies	15-Jun-26
Cabinet	08-Jul-26	Statutory consultation regarding Durand Nursery	Laura Wright - Education	Following the Statutory Objection Period, this report seeks to provide Cabinet with final feedback on the Statutory consultation process concerning the nursery at Durand Primary School, and asks Cabinet Members for a decision on whether proposals should proceed to implementation	Matthew Jones	5-May-26
Cabinet	08-Jul-26	Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023: Monmouthshire County Council's Annual Report	Ben Callard - Resources	To seek approval of the Social Partnership Duty Report 2026, setting out how the authority will build on existing practice and work collaboratively with trade unions to ensure compliance with the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023.	Philippa Green	9-Feb-26
Cabinet	08-Jul-26	Chief Officer decision for acquisition of plots of land for the Undy to Rogiet Severn Tunnel Junction (STJ) Links active travel route'	Ben Callard - Resources	To seek authorisation to proceed with the purchase of a defined number of parcels of land for provision for an active travel (walking, wheeling and cycling) path alongside the B4245 between Undy and Rogiet, and to request authority to agree terms to be delegated to the Chief Officer for Infrastructure and the Cabinet Member for Resources, in liaison with the Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Housing and Tourism. '	Madeleine Boase	
Council	25-Jun-26	Chepstow Transport Update		Cllr Pavia submitted a motion to Council requesting: 1. An update on the current status of previous commitments made by the Council in the Chepstow Transport Study 2. Available options for progressing WeITAG Stage 3 3. A clear timetable for engagement and decision-making with Gloucestershire County Council, Welsh Government and UK Government Partners. This report seeks to respond to the motion by providing the requested information.	Deb Hill Howells	5-Jun-26
Council	25-Jun-26	Code of Corporate Governance	Ben Callard - Resources	For Full Council to approve the revised Code of Corporate Governance and it's inclusion into the Councils Constitution following it's endorsement by the Governance & Audit Committee on 16/04/26.	Jan Furtek	7-May-26
Council	25-Jun-26	Re:fit Phase 2	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	To seek approval to submit a Salix loan application to enable MCC to progress with the next programme of energy efficiency works.	Deb Hill Howells	9-Apr-26

Council	25-Jun-26	Panel Performance Assessment	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy	To receive the Panel Performance Assessment report and the authority's response to the recommendations.	Matt Gatehouse	17-Mar-26
Cabinet	10-Jun-26	Llanfoist to Abergavenny Active Travel Bridge	Sara Burch - Rural, Tourism & Housing	To update cabinet on the progress of the Llanfoist to Abergavenny active travel bridge project and to seek approval to enter into the stage 2 contract with updated cost figures	Nick Tulp	10-May-26
Cabinet	10-Jun-26	Building the Foundations for Data and AI Enabled Public Services	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy	To present the business case for foundational investment in data and AI infrastructure necessary to secure programme funding and deliver sustainable service benefits and outcomes.	Peter Davies	27-Apr-26
Cabinet	10-Jun-26	Investment Package for Caldicot Leisure Centre	Angela Sandles - Engagement	Consideration of proposed investment to improve facilities at Caldicot Leisure Centre	Craig O Connor	19-Feb-26
Cabinet	10-Jun-26	Strategic Risk Assessment	Ben Callard - Resources	To provide Cabinet with an overview of the current strategic risks facing the authority.	Hannah Carter	19-Feb-26
Cabinet	10-Jun-26	Allocation of Crick Road S106 Offsite Recreation Funding - Portskewett Recreation Hall and Caldicot Skatepark	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To seek Cabinet approval for the allocation of Section 106 offsite recreation funding received from the Crick Road development towards Portskewett Recreation Hall and Caldicot Skatepark	Mike Moran	
Cabinet	20-May-26	S106 Affordbale Housing Contributions	Sara Burch	To recommend options to commit and spend some of the contributions	Louise Corbett	#
Cabinet	20-May-26	Self Assessment	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy	To enable Cabinet to input to the development of the authority's Self Assessment at an early stage. The assessment will subsequently be considered by scrutiny committees before being subject to a decision of full Council in September	Matt Gatehouse	20-Apr-26
Cabinet	20-May-26	Panel Performance Assessment	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy	To consider the Panel Performance Assessment report and the council's response to the recommendations	Matt Gatehouse	20-Apr-26
ICMD	20-May-26	REVOKING THE USK AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA ORDER 2005	Angela Sandles - Engagement	To request the Cabinet Member (Cllr Angela Sandles) to agree to the revocation of the Usk Air Quality Management Area Order 2005.	Huw Owen	9-Apr-26
Council	14/05/26	Local Resolution Protocol	Angela Sandles - Engagement	To seek Council's approval and adoption of a new Local Resolution Protocol to deal with low level member on member complaints in accordance with the guidance of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales'	James Williams	15-Apr-26
Council	14/05/26	Appointments to Outside Bodies	Angela Sandles - Engagement	To appoint representatives to serve on outside bodies.'	John Pearson	15-Apr-26
Council	14/05/26	Appointment of Committees	Angela Sandles - Engagement	To appoint representatives to serve on outside bodies.'	John Pearson	15-Apr-26
Council	14-May-26	Representation of Political Groups	Angela Sandles - Engagement	To review the representation of different political groups on the bodies to which the Council makes appointments pursuant to Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.	James Williams	15-Apr-26
Cabinet	15-Apr-26	Consultation concerning the provision of Early Education at Durand Primary School	Laura Wright - Education	To provide Members with feedback following the statutory consultation process concerning proposals to replace the Local Authority Nursery with a non maintained setting at Durand Primary School	Matthew Jones	4-Mar-26

ICMD	08-Apr-26	Goldwire Lane ICMD - Prohibition of Driving Except for Access, Goldwire Lane, Monmouth	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	To seek Cabinet Member approval to proceed to make permanent the MCC Goldwire Lane prohibition of driving (except for access) traffic order	Graham Kinsella	26-Mar-26
ICMD	08-Apr-26	Welsh Church Fund Working Group	Ben Callard - Resources	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications for the Welsh Church Fund Working Group Meeting 4 held on Thursday 05th March 2026.	Dave Jarrett	6-Mar-26
Cabinet	30-Mar-26	Proposed acquisition of land to construct a road diversion at Llanthony Valley	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	To seek Cabinet approval to the acquisition of land to enable the Highway Authority to construct a road realignment away from the land slip at Llanthony Valley.	Deb Hill Howells	19-Feb-26
Council	05-Mar-26	PUBLICATION OF PAY POLICY STATEMENT AS REQUIRED BY THE LOCALISM ACT	Ben Callard - Resources	To approve the publication of Monmouthshire County Council's Pay Policy, in compliance with the Localism Act.	Philippa Green	14-Jan-26
Council	05-Mar-26	2026/27 Capital Strategy and 2026/27 Treasury	Ben Callard - Resources	To approve the Council's 2026/27 Capital and	Jon Davies	3-Dec-25
Council	05-Mar-26	COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION and REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR 2026/27	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	3-Dec-25
Council	05-Mar-26	Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025 - 2028	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding	Reason is to endorse a new Corporate Parenting Strategy for 2025 - 2028	Jane Rodgers	24-Oct-25
Cabinet	04-Mar-26	To agree funding options for additional work at the former Deri View Primary School Site	Ben Callard - Resources	To review and agree funding options for additional work at the former Deri View Primary school site, this needs to be completed prior to the relocation of Ysgol Y Fenni to the site.	Nikki Wellington	16-Feb-26
Cabinet	04-Mar-26	Monmouthshire Draft Local Growth Fund Investment Plan	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To present to elected members UK Government's new Local Growth Fund and Monmouthshire Draft Fund Investment Plan.	Hannah Jones	12-Feb-26
Cabinet	04-Mar-26	Property Acquisition for use as Temporary Accommodation - withdrawn 11/02/26	Sara Burch	To seek authorisation to proceed with the purchase of a residential 3 bed property and continue to use it as a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) to support pressures linked to the availability of temporary accommodation.	Louise Corbett	2-Feb-26
Cabinet	04-Mar-26	To consider the purchase of a Low Cost Home Ownership (LCHO) property Castlewood	Sara Burch	To consider the purchase of a Low Cost Home Ownership (LCHO) property Castlewood, Usk following receipt of the owner's intent to sell	Louise Corbett	2-Feb-26
Cabinet	04-Mar-26	Revenue and Capital Budget 2026-27 – Final proposals following scrutiny and public consultation	Ben Callard - Resources	To update Cabinet with the consultation responses to the draft budget proposals issued in respect of the Capital and Revenue budgets for 2026/27. To make recommendations to Council on the Capital and Revenue budgets including the level of Council Tax for 2026/27. To receive the statutory report of the Responsible Financial Officer on the budget process and the adequacy of reserves. To receive the Responsible Financial Officer's Prudential Indicator calculations for capital financing.	Jon Davies	3-Dec-25

Cabinet	04-Mar-26	2026-27 WCF/Mon Farm treasury strategy	Ben Callard - Resources	To present to Cabinet for approval the 2026/27 Investment and Fund strategy for Trust Funds for which the Authority acts as sole or custodian trustee. To approve the 2026/27 grant allocation to Local Authority beneficiaries of the Welsh Church Fund.	Jon Davies	12-Jun-25
ICMD	25-Feb-26	Submission of Section 6 Biodiversity duty report to WG	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	To submit report outlining how the Council maintains and enhances biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems	Craig O Connor	7-Jan-26
Cabinet	11-Feb-26	Development of a Supported Accommodation Provision for Care Experienced Young People	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding	To provide details and seek approval for the acquisition and refurbishing of a residential property in Monmouth for the purpose of developing a supported accommodation provision for care experienced children.	Jane Rodgers	16-Jan-26
Cabinet	11-Feb-26	26/27 Placemaking Delivery	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To agree funding allocations for Welsh Government Transforming Towns and Pride in Place. Impact Fund.	Craig O Connor	19-Dec-25
Cabinet	11-Feb-26	2025/26 Budget - Financial update 3	Ben Callard - Resources	To provide the third update of the financial year of the Councils progress against the 2025/26 revenue and capita budget	Jon Davies	12-Jun-25
Cabinet	11-Feb-26	Cultural Strategy	Sara Burch		Tracey Thomas	20-May-25
ICMD	28-Jan-26	Local Government (Wales) Act 1994 The Local Authorities (PRECEPTS) (WALES) Regulations 1995 - Determination of Payment Schedule	Ben Callard - Resources	To determine the schedule of precept payments to precepting authorities for 2026/27 as required by statute and following the results of the consultation process.	Ruth Donovan	28-Jan-26
Council	22-Jan-26	Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2026/27	Ben Callard - Resources	The purpose of this report is to: • present arrangements for the implementation of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and to approve it for 2026/27. • agree to adopt the amendments to the Regulations, proposed by Welsh Government, • affirm that annual uprating amendments will be carried out each year without a requirement to adopt the whole Council Tax Reduction Scheme.	Ruth Donovan	28-Nov-25
Cabinet	21-Jan-26	Review of Nursery provision at Durand Primary School	Laura Wright - Education	To seek permission to enter into statutory consultation processes regarding proposals to replace the Local Authority Nursery at Durand Primary School with a non maintained setting.	Matthew Jones	23/12/25
Cabinet	21-Jan-26	Disposal of two farm cottages at Leechpool Holdings	Ben Callard - Resources	To seek approval for the disposal of two vacant farm cottages located in Leechpool Holdings, Portskewett, identified as surplus to requirements following internal review with services that no longer have an identified need.	Nick Keyse	26-Nov-25
Cabinet	21-Jan-26	Agree S106 Funding for Caldicot Multi-User Route that connects the newly constructed Caldicot Links/Greenway Active Travel route with the Country Park	Sara Burch	To agree additional funding for the Caldicot Multi-User Route	Colette Bosley	15-Oct-25
Cabinet	21-Jan-26	2026/27 Draft Revenue & Capital budget proposals	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	12-Jun-25

ICMD	14-Jan-26	Annual Health and Safety Report 2024/25	Ben Callard - Resources	To seek the cabinet members approval of the 2024/25 Annual Health and Safety Report including priorities for 2025/26	Kate Thompson	19-Dec-25
ICMD	14-Jan-26	Revoking the Usk Air Quality Management Area Order 2005	Angela Sandles - Engagement	To inform the Cabinet Member (Cllr Angela Sandles) of the need to revoke the Usk Air Quality Management Area Order 2005 and agree the principal steps for doing so.	Huw Owen	17-Dec-25
ICMD	14-Jan-26	Welsh Church Fund Working Group	Ben Callard - Resources	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications for the Welsh Church Fund Working Group Meeting 3 held on Thursday 04th December 2025	Dave Jarrett	10-Dec-25
ICMD	14-Jan-26	Museum Service - Collections Rationalisation	Sara Burch - Rural Affairs, Housing and Tourism	To agree the removal of 2 collections - one of newspapers and one of books from the museum collections, to offer to more appropriate homes. (This is part of a series of similar decisions)	Rachael Rogers	2-Dec-25
ICMD	17-Dec-25	Council TaxBase 2026/27 and associated matters	Ben Callard - Resources	To agree the Council Tax base figure for submission to Welsh Government, together with the collection rate to be applied for 2026/27 and to make other necessary related statutory decisions.	Ruth Donovan	28-Nov-25
ICMD	17-Dec-25	Various Traffic Regulation Orders - Amendment Order No 18	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	The report seeks Cabinet Member approval to proceed with the making and implementation of the MCC Traffic Regulation, speed limit and parking regulations Consolidation Order 2019 (Amendment Order No.18) 2025	Gareth Freeman	26-Nov-25
ICMD	17-Dec-25	Annual Performance Report - Planning	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	Report the Annual Performance Report to Welsh Government	Andrew Jones	15-Oct-25
ICMD	17-Dec-25	Section 6 Report to Welsh Government on Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Report of Councils actions taken to help maintain and enhance biodiversity	Kate Stinchcombe/Colette Bosley	15-Oct-25
Cabinet	10-Dec-25	Approval of Placemaking Plans - Monmouth, Abergavenny, Magor and Undy	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	Approval of Placemaking Plans - Monmouth, Abergavenny, Magor and Undy	Craig O Connor	17-Nov-25
Cabinet	10-Dec-25	Strategic Risk Assessment	Ben Callard - Resources	To provide Cabinet with an overview of the current strategic risks facing the authority.	Hannah Carter	29-Oct-25
Cabinet	10-Dec-25	Community and Corporate Plan - Q2 Progress Update	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy	To provide Cabinet with an update on the progress that has been made to deliver the commitments set out in the Community and	Hannah Carter	29-Oct-25
Cabinet	10-Dec-25	Joint Committee of the National Adoption Service and Foster Wales	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding	Joint Committee of the National Adoption Service and Foster Wales - to consider a Deed of Variation to the current Joint Committee	Jane Rogers	24-Oct-25
Cabinet	10-Dec-25	Socially Responsible Procurement Policy	Ben Callard - Resources	1. To approve the adoption of the Socially Responsible Procurement Policy. 2. To delegate authority to approve any subsequent updates to reflect national Guidance and/ or meet new legislative requirements, to the Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer for Resources, in liaison with the Cabinet Member for Resources.	Cath Fallon	20-Oct-25

Cabinet	10-Dec-25	Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual letter 2024-25	Angela Sandles - Engagement	1) To consider the data in this letter, to understand MCC's performance on complaints, including any patterns or trends and our compliance with recommendations made by the PSOW's office. 2) To inform the PSOW of the outcome of MCC's considerations and any proposed actions on the above matters.	Annette Evans	
Council	04-Dec-25	Appointment of Paul Matthews to the board of CCR Energy Ltd			James Williams	27-Oct-25
Council	04-Dec-25	Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2024/25	Angela Sandles - Engagement		James Williams	27-Oct-25
Council	04-Dec-25	Regional Partnership Board Annual Report 2024/2025	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Natasha Harris (Torfaen)	24-Oct-25
Council	04-Dec-25	Annual Safeguarding Report	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Diane Corrister	18-Jul-25
Council	04-Dec-25	Director's Annual Report	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Jane Rogers	18-Jul-25
ICMD	26-Nov-25		Ben Callard - Resources	To seek Member approval of the proposals for consultation purposes regarding payments to precepting authorities during the 2026/27 financial year as required by statute	Peter Davies	7-Nov-25
Cabinet	19-Nov-25	Medium Term Financial Plan update - November 2025	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Nov-25
Cabinet	19-Nov-25	Inclusion Strategy and Additional Learning Needs Policy	Laura Wright - Education	The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with an opportunity to consider the Inclusion Strategy and the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Policy to ensure that they are fit for purpose and meet the local priorities as outlined in the Learning Place section of the Community and Corporate Plan.	Morganna Wagstaff	13-Oct-25
Cabinet	19-Nov-25	Car Parking Review	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	That Cabinet endorses the following recommendations 1.That Cabinet agrees the strategic objectives for the Council's parking strategy 2.That Cabinet agrees the proposed MCC actions in response to the recommendations made in the Monmouthshire car parking review	Craig O Connor	9-Oct-25
Cabinet	19-Nov-25	Panel Performance Assessment	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy	To provide an update on the proposed approach for the Council's Panel Performance Assessment which is a requirement under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.	Matt Gatehouse	28-Aug-25
Cabinet	19-Nov-25	2025/26 Revenue & Capital Monitoring Update 2	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	12-Jun-25
Cabinet	19-Nov-25	Destination Management Plan	Sara Burch & Paul Griffiths		Collette Bosley	17-Apr-25
Council	23-Oct-25	RLDP for Adoption	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Rachel Lewis	17-Apr-25
Cabinet	15-Oct-25	2025/26 Revenue Monitoring Update 1	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	12/76/25
Cabinet	15-Oct-25	Connect to Work and Future Focus programmes	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Hannah Jones / Rory Clifford	21-Jul-25
Cabinet	15-Oct-25	A strategy to take forward a whole authority approach to wellbeing and prevention	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Jane Rogers	19-Jun-25

ICMD	08-Oct-25	WELSH CHURCH FUND WORKING GROUP	Ben Callard - Resources	1.1 The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications for the Welsh Church Fund Working Group Meeting 2 held on Thursday 18th September 2025.	Dave Jarrett	
ICMD	24-Sep-25	Health & Safety Annual Report	ben Callard - Resources		Kate Thompson	5-Aug-25
Council	18-Sep-25	Self-assessment 2024/25		To seek Council approval of the self-assessment report 2024/25 in line with requirements outlined in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.	richard Jones	10-Jun-25
Cabinet	17-Sep-25	Proposed endorsement of the Monmouthshire Local Area Energy Plan	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Welsh Government commissioned the production of Local Area Energy Plans for Local Authority areas which will be used to develop a regional and national Energy Plan. The Local Area Energy Plan for Monmouthshire provides data on the energy requirements of the county and the transition that will be required to support carbon neutrality of the energy demands. The report seeks Cabinets endorsement of the Local Area Energy Plan to enable the development of the regional Area Energy Plan and a supporting Investment Prospectus.	Deb Hill Howells	28-Jul-25
Cabinet	17-Sep-25	Real Living Wage Employer Accreditation	ben Callard - Resources	Further to Cabinet's decision on Wednesday 6th November 2024, and an evaluation of the authority's supply chain, to bring forward a further report detailing the plan to pay the real living wage rate to employees of third parties contracted to work at the authority's sites, and to seek approval to pursue accreditation as a Real Living Wage employer.	Philippa Green	13-Jun-25
Cabinet	17-Sep-25	County of Sanctuary Strategy	Angela Sandles - Engagement	To approve a county of sanctuary strategy which establishes clear principles which will run through all council services and which promotes inclusion and welcome across the wider community.	Sharran Lloyd and Jane Harvey	27-May-25
Cabinet	17-Sep-25	Review of Housing Support Grant Programme.	Sara Burch		Ian Bakewell	23-May-25
ICMD	20-Aug-25	Highway Traffic Regulation Amendment Order No 17	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Gareth Freeman	4-Aug-25
ICMD	23-Jul-25	Lloyds tour of Britain Stage 5 Pontypool to Tumble	Angela Sandles - Engagement		Nick John	2-Jul-25
ICMD	23-Jul-25	Welsh Church Fund Working Group	Ben Callard - Resources		Dave Jarrett	2-Jul-25
Council	17-Jul-25	Chepstow Integrated Transport LUF project			Deb Hill Howells	24-Jun-25
Council	17-Jul-25	Strategic Director's Report, Children, Learning, Skills and the Economy'	Laura Wright - Education		Will Mclean	18-Jun-25
Cabinet	16-Jul-25	2024/25 Revenue & Capital monitoring Outturn (incl early update on 2025/26)	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	12-Jun-25
Cabinet	16-Jul-25	2026/27 Revenue & Capital MTFP update and process	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	12-Jun-25

Cabinet	16-Jul-25	ADD AS FIRST ITEM Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023: Monmouthshire County Council's Annual Report	Ben Callard - Resources	To seek approval of the Social Partnership Duty Report 2025, setting out how the Council will build on existing practice, and work collaboratively with trade unions, to ensure compliance with the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023.	Philippa Green	6-Jun-25
Cabinet	16-Jul-25	Play Sufficiency Update	Angela Sandles - Engagement	Play sufficiency assessment update.	Nick John	28-Mar-25
Cabinet	16-Jul-25	Shire Hall Delivery Stage - Financial Approval	Ben Callard - Resources		Tracey Thomas	25-Mar-25
Council	26-Jun-25	Strategic OfficerLeadership and Organisation Structure changes	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy		Paul Matthews	5-Jun-25
Council	26-Jun-25	Separation of Licensing Functions	Angela Sandles - Engagement		Linda O Gorman	28-May-25
Council	26-Jun-25	Appointments to Outside Bodies	Angela Sandles - Engagement		John Pearson	23-May-25
Council	26-Jun-25	Licensing Act Policy 2025	Angela Sandles - Engagement	Policy has to be approved by Full Council and it needs to be in place by 1 st July 2025	Linda O Gorman	10-Jan-25
Cabinet	25-Jun-25	Strategic Risk Assessment	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy	To provide Cabinet with an overview of the current strategic risks facing the authority.	richard Jones	10-Jun-25
Cabinet	25-Jun-25	Nature Recovery Action Plan & Green Infrastructure Strategy	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Collette Bosley	17-Apr-25
Cabinet	21-May-25	Placemaking Grant 25/26 & 26/27	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Craig O Connor	29-Apr-25
Cabinet	21-May-25	Marches Forward Partnership	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy		Peter Davies / Cath Fallon	1-Apr-25
Cabinet	21-May-25	Active Gwent Sports Partnership	Angela Sandles - Engagement	For Monmouthshire County Council to formally enter into the Active Gwent sport partnership.	Nick John	28-Mar-25
Cabinet	21-May-25	Digital, Data and Technology Collaboration	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy	To develop proposals to build on existing collaborative arrangements in place for the provision of technology services through the Shared Resource Service. Expanding on these to include digital and data services will generate economies of scale enabling the authority to access expertise to accelerate progress against delivery of priorities set in the Community and Corporate Plan.	Peter Davies & Matt Gatehouse & Sian Hayward	14-Mar-25
Cabinet	21-May-25	Y Prentis Update	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Hannah Jones	26-Feb-25
Council	15-May-25	SAC Membership Report	Martyn Groucutt - Education	To inform Council of SAC recommendations to appoint members of SAC	Sharon Randall-Smith	16-Apr-25
Council	10-Apr-25	Constitution Review	Angela Sandles - Engagement		James Williams	25-Mar-25
Council	10-Apr-25	Senior Pay Review	Ben Callard - Resources		Julie Anthony	3-Mar-25
ICMD	09-Apr-25	PSPO Lane Closure to prevent fly tipping & off roading	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Mark Cleaver	13-Mar-25
ICMD	09-Apr-25	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 4	Ben Callard - Resources			
Cabinet	02-Apr-25	Marches Forward Partnership	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy		Peter Davies - Lead (Cath Fallon)	3-Mar-25
Cabinet	02-Apr-25	Reponse to Boundary Commission Electoral Review Consultation	Angela Sandles - Engagement		John Pearson	12-Feb-25
ICMD	26-Mar-25	Proposal to increase the fee payments to Monmouthshire Foster Carers	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Charlotte Drury	4-Feb-25
ICMD	12-Mar-25	Highway Traffic Regulation Amendment Order No 16	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment			
Council	06-Mar-25	Appointment of Chief Officer - Head of Transport - Exempt info	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Deb Hill Howells	21-Jan-25

Council	06-Mar-25	Publication of the Councils Pay Policy	Ben Callard - Resources	To approve the publication of Monmouthshire County Council's Pay Policy, in compliance with the Localism Act.	Matt Gatehouse / Pip Green	17-Jan-25
Council	06-Mar-25	Contract Procedure Rules	Ben Callard - Resources		Scott James	9-Jan-25
Council	06-Mar-25	2025/26 Final Budget sign off including CT resolution	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	13-Jun-24
Council	06-Mar-25	2025/26 Capital Strategy & Treasury Strategy	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	13-Jun-24
Cabinet	05-Mar-25	Approval of a Discretionary Policy for Council Tax Premiums	Ben Callard - Resources		Ruth Donovan	27-Jan-25
Cabinet	05-Mar-25	2025/26 Final Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Jun-24
Cabinet	05-Mar-25	2025/26 WCF/Mon Farm Strategy	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Jun-24
ICMD	26-Feb-25	County of Sanctuary: Homes for Ukraine	Angela Sandles - Engagement	To confirm future support arrangements for Ukrainian's living in Monmouthshire as part of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme following changes to the national arrangement for both funding & visas	Richard Drinkwater/Matt Gatehouse	7-Feb-25
ICMD	26-Feb-25	Housing Allocations Policy				
Cabinet	19-Feb-25	UK Shared Prosperity Fund post March 2025 – financial implications and impact	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Hannah Jones	10-Jul-24
Cabinet	19-Feb-25	2024/25 Revenue and Capital Monitoring Month 9	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Jun-24
ICMD	29-Jan-25	2025/26 Community Council and Police Precepts final	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	17-Dec-24
Council	23-Jan-25	Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2025/26	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	13-Jun-24
Council	23-Jan-25	Council Diary 2025/26	Angela Sandles - Engagement		John Pearson	
Council	23-Jan-25	GWENT REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD (RPB) AREA PLAN AND RPB ANNUAL REPORT 23/24	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Natasha Harris (Torfaen)	
Cabinet	22-Jan-25	Business case for the purchase of a property in Abergavenny to develop supported accommodation for care experienced young people	Ben Callard - Resources		Jane Rogers	7-Jan-25
Cabinet	22-Jan-25	Education Middle Tier	Martyn Groucutt - Education		Will McLean	20-Nov-24
Cabinet	22-Jan-25	2025/26 Draft Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Jun-24
ICMD	15-Jan-25	Decision to transfer Dixton Archive from Monmouth Museum to Herefordshire Record Office			Rachael Rogers	9-Dec-24
ICMD	15-Jan-25	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 3	Ben Callard - Resources		Dave Jarrett	13-Jun-24
ICMD	18-Dec-24	2025/26 Community Council and Police Precepts draft	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	13-Jun-24
ICMD	16-Dec-20	COUNCIL TAX BASE 2027/28 AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS'	Ben Callard - Resources	To agree the Council Tax base figure for submission to Welsh Government, together with the collection rate to be applied for 2027/28 and to make other necessary related statutory decisions.'	Jon Davies	15-Jun-26

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Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2025-26

People Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
14 th July 2026	Homelessness Update	To scrutinise the progress in preventing homelessness.	Ian Bakewell Rebecca Cresswell	Policy Development
22 nd September 2026	Youth Service	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny on the 5-year for strategic plan for Youth Work the service.	Josh Klein	Service Review
Possible Special Meeting early November ~ Date TBC	Disabled Adaptions	To scrutinise progress update following a recent external audit.	Ian Bakewell	Service Review
	Assistive Technology Update	To scrutinise a progress update on service performance.	Ian Bakewell	Service Review
	WHO Age Friendly Communities update	Progress update on Age Friendly Monmouthshire.	Councillor Angela Sandles Councillor Ian Chandler	Update Requested
17 th November 2026	Domiciliary Care Update for North of the county	To scrutinise an update on service provision.	Jane Rodgers Jenny Jenkins Councillor Chandler	Service Review
	Day Opportunities Service	Scrutiny of proposed services.	Jane Rodgers Jenny Jenkins Councillor Chandler	Pre-decision Scrutiny

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2025-26

People Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
December Special Meeting ~ To be confirmed	Possible update on homelessness ~ To be confirmed.			
*Date To be confirmed *	Housing Allocations Policy and Rural Allocations Policy		Ian Bakewell Councillor Burch	
9 th February 2027	Homelessness and Housing Support Strategy	To conduct Pre-decision Scrutiny.	Rebecca Cresswell Ian Bakewell	Pre-decision Scrutiny
16 th March 2027				
27 th April 2027 (consider date change due to pre-election period)				

People Scrutiny Committee

Action List

18th June 2026

Minute Item:	Subject	Officer / Member	Outcome
Strategic Equality Plan	Provide a written response to the public open forum question on the Strategic Equality Plan and single-sex services.	Pennie Walker	
	Provide a written response confirming whether the trauma-informed approach to reducing school absence includes social and emotional learning for all pupils.	Morwenna Wagstaff/Jacquelyn Elias	
	Provide a written response with examples of grant-funded rural business diversification projects, including farming communities.	To be confirmed.	
	Provide a response to the member on potential funding or alternative routes to support upgrading public conveniences in Goytre.	Matt Gatehouse	
	Arrange the Tudor Street, Abergavenny site visit over the summer.	Nick Keyse/Hazel Ilett	

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Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

**Meeting of People Scrutiny Committee held at Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr USK
on Thursday, 18th June, 2026 at 10.00 am**

Councillors Present

County Councillor Jackie Strong (Chair)
County Councillor John Crook (Vice Chair)

County Councillors: Jan Butler,
Christopher Edwards, Martyn Groucutt,
Simon Howarth, Penny Jones, Maureen Powell,
Maria Stevens, Jill Bond, Alistair Neill,
Peter Strong, Angela Sandles and Laura Wright

Officers in Attendance

Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager
Robert McGowan, Policy and Scrutiny Officer
Sharon Randall-Smith, Head of Achievement and
Attainment
Pennie Walker, Equality & Welsh Language
Manager
Nia Roberts, Welsh Language Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Rachel Buckler and Clare Werrett.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Public Open Forum

A written question from a member of the public was received and read:

"I am a Monmouthshire resident and am writing ahead of the Strategic Equality Plan meeting on 18th June. The report boasts about the success of the Let's Talk Monmouthshire digital platform launched in January 2025. However, the council's Strategic Equality Plan 2024–28 explicitly noted in its appendix that during initial consultations, residents did express clear concerns regarding gender identity and stressed the importance of *differentiating between sex and gender*. These concerns appear to have been sidelined in the final implementation.

I have a question arising as a result of this. The committee report highlights that 14,165 contributions were received to the Let's Talk Monmouthshire portal. During the foundational consultation for this plan, constituents raised clear objections to the blurring of sex and gender. Where in this annual monitoring report can women see that their feedback regarding the preservation of single-sex services has been listened to and acted upon?" – **ACTION: to provide a written response.**

4. WESP (Welsh in Education Strategic Plan) - To scrutinise performance against the plans

Sharon Randall-Smith introduced the report and answered the members' questions with Cabinet Member Laura Wright:

- *Is it compulsory for all ALN children, including those in specialist resource base (SRB) areas, to learn Welsh?*

It depends on the individual pupil. For children with additional learning needs, their Individual Development Plan sets out whether they should learn Welsh, as the curriculum is tailored to their needs. The authority must consider provision for all learners, but participation in Welsh language learning is determined by what is appropriate for each child.

- *Is there sufficient appropriate support for Welsh medium learners with additional learning needs, and are they more likely to leave Welsh medium education at transition?*

There is sufficient and appropriate support available within Welsh medium schools, identified through regular reviews under the ALN framework. A Welsh-speaking member of the inclusion team supports these schools, and additional specialist support can be sourced from other authorities if needed, although this has not been required to date. While transition rates from primary to secondary Welsh medium education have been lower than desired in some areas, targeted work – such as strengthened links between schools, increased engagement, and additional support for pupils – has been undertaken to improve these rates, and there is optimism that they will increase over time.

- *What role does Coleg Gwent play in supporting Welsh medium education?*

Coleg Gwent is a partner represented on the Welsh in Education Forum and supports post-16 learners, particularly those who do not remain in local sixth forms. It offers a range of courses and helps track pupil progress, ensuring learners can continue developing their Welsh language skills and maintain opportunities as they enter the workforce.

- *Without a dedicated Welsh medium secondary school, will transition rates ever align with primary numbers, and how effective is current secondary provision?*

Transition rates are variable and have not always matched primary uptake, though there are improvements in some areas. Current provision, including collaborative arrangements and pilot initiatives, has enabled increased participation at AS and A level and allowed pupils to access expertise across schools. This approach has shown early success and is helping to sustain Welsh language learning beyond GCSE.

- *What progress has been made towards establishing full-time Welsh medium secondary provision?*

There is currently sufficient capacity in existing secondary provision for the short to medium term. However, discussions are ongoing with neighbouring authorities to

explore partnership models, as pupil numbers within the county alone may not yet justify a standalone Welsh medium secondary school.

- *Will the planned restoration of 'Ti a Fi' provision at the Deri View site proceed?*

Work is ongoing with relevant partners to restore TFE provision at the site, and while there is no specific update provided, there is confidence that it will be delivered as it is important for supporting the growth of Welsh medium education.

- *How feasible is it to maintain surplus places in Welsh medium schools given wider budget pressures?*

Some surplus places are expected when expanding Welsh medium provision, as new or growing schools take time to fill. Overall trends show increasing enrolment in Welsh medium education, with younger year groups filling more quickly. These places are expected to be taken up over time, and the situation differs from English medium schools where pupil numbers are declining.

- *What provision exists for educational psychology support through the medium of Welsh?*

There is currently limited need for Welsh-medium educational psychology support. Where required, the authority can access Welsh-speaking educational psychologists from other authorities, but this has not been necessary so far.

- *What are the financial implications of late immersion provision, given it is grant-dependent and may create additional revenue pressures, and when does the current grant expire?*

The Welsh grant funding for late immersion has been in place for a number of years but has remained largely static. Previously, it was sufficient to cover the full cost when provision was limited to one class, but as provision has expanded across multiple schools, additional funding has been required. The grant is now part of a wider funding arrangement, still ring-fenced for this purpose, but the local authority is supplementing it to sustain and grow the provision. Future delivery models – such as sharing resources, transport arrangements, or peripatetic provision – are currently under discussion with school leaders to ensure the service remains viable as more schools come on board.

- *How does the authority engage home educated children with the Welsh language, and is there any monitoring or encouragement of Welsh learning for these pupils?*

Elective home education is not classified as school provision, so the authority cannot dictate the curriculum or require Welsh language learning. Responsibility for the curriculum sits with parents, although the authority ensures that the education provided is appropriate. There is an officer who works closely with families, and where parents express interest, they are signposted to Welsh language resources such as online courses. Additionally, during engagement days with families, opportunities are taken to promote the Welsh language, although participation remains voluntary and cannot be mandated.

- *How many bilingual teachers are there in Monmouthshire primary schools, and what support is available for staff who want to learn Welsh?*

There is no definitive figure for fully bilingual teachers, as not all staff formally report this. However, data in the WESP report shows increasing confidence levels in Welsh among teachers year on year. A wide range of professional learning opportunities is available, including Welsh Government-funded sabbatical schemes that cover training and staff backfill costs. Additional free courses and training are also available, and schools benefit from staff who return from training and share their expertise, meaning there is no financial burden on schools for staff development in Welsh.

- *Would it be possible to receive data in the future to monitor Welsh medium numbers and trends, so that progress and funding risks can be kept under review?*

The data is already reported annually through the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) report, which is presented each year. This allows the committee to monitor trends over time. It was also noted that current data shows progress against targets, with measurable increases in uptake, and this information will continue to be updated in future annual reports.

Chair's Summary:

Thank you to the Cabinet Member and officers. The committee will schedule future updates on this in its work programme.

5. Welsh Language - To scrutinise the Council's progress in delivery of the Welsh Language objectives 2025-2026

Cabinet Member Angela Sandles and Nia Roberts introduced the report and answered the members' questions:

- *What challenges are faced in promoting the Welsh language in a county like Monmouthshire, particularly given its older demographic, and is it harder to engage older generations compared to younger ones?*

It can present challenges, particularly as traditional promotion methods such as social media and online platforms may be less effective for older generations. However, it is emphasised that it is never too late to learn Welsh, and there are many opportunities available. To address this, the Council is increasingly focusing on community-based activities and events – such as inviting residents into County Hall for St David's Day celebrations – to engage a wider range of people and make Welsh language learning and use more accessible across all age groups.

- *What are the key challenges anticipated in progressing the Welsh Language objectives over the next year?*

One of the main challenges is increasing the number of staff able to speak Welsh, as higher capacity is needed both to meet demand for services and ensure compliance

with Welsh language standards. While there has been a significant increase in staff learning Welsh since the start of the strategy, there has been a slight decrease in participation this year, and further growth is needed. Another key challenge is managing translation services, where rising demand and budget pressures are prompting a review of delivery models, including exploring collaboration with other authorities and improving internal processes to ensure efficiency while maintaining quality.

- *Is there any specific provision of Welsh language courses for councillors, and will councillors be informed about these opportunities?*

Welsh language courses available to staff are also available to councillors, fully funded and typically starting around September. Councillors will be contacted directly with details about these courses. In addition, guidance materials and practical resources – such as commonly used Welsh phrases for meetings and supporting recordings – are being developed to help councillors use Welsh more confidently in the chamber.

- *Is artificial intelligence being used to support translation, and how effective is it?*

AI can be a useful tool for translation, but only where the user has sufficient Welsh language skills to check and verify the accuracy of the output. At present, the authority continues to rely on external translators, as AI is not yet considered reliable enough to be used independently without human oversight.

- *How is Welsh language promoted and perceived within schools, particularly in areas with historically low usage, and what progress has been made?*

There are clear signs of progress, with increased promotion and integration of Welsh language and culture even in English-medium schools and areas with historically low usage. Examples include participation in national events such as the Eisteddfod, increased visibility of Welsh within school environments, and the regular use of incidental Welsh. These developments demonstrate growing engagement among pupils and parents and reflect wider improvements in the promotion and uptake of Welsh language across the county.

Chair's Summary:

The chair thanked the Cabinet Member and officers for their work and advised that future reports would be added to the committee's work programme. There were no outstanding queries.

6. Strategic Equality Plan 2025-26 - To scrutinise the council's progress in delivering the Strategic Equality Objectives for the year 2025-2026

Cabinet Member Angela Sandles and Pennie Walker introduced the report and answered the members' questions with Matthew Gatehouse:

- *Is the trauma-informed approach to reducing school absence being extended to include social and emotional learning for all pupils, not just those already identified as having issues?*

A written response will be provided to confirm this. It is understood that the data may already cover all pupils, but this will be checked and clarified. – **ACTION: to receive a written response**

- *What more can be done to improve apprenticeships, work experience opportunities, and support for young people aged 16–24 who are not in employment, education, or training (NEET)?*

There is significant work underway to expand opportunities, including a new work experience programme bringing pupils into the Council, support with CV writing and interview skills, and a stronger focus on apprenticeships. All relevant roles are now reviewed to assess whether they can be offered as apprenticeships, with oversight at senior level. Broader workforce planning and new initiatives – such as digital career exploration tools – are also being developed to promote career pathways and address the wider national challenge.

- *What further action can be taken to address the gender pay gap, particularly where it relates to differences between job roles (for example, valuing care roles compared to other occupations)?*

Work is ongoing to address structural and cultural factors contributing to the gender pay gap, including encouraging women into higher-paid and senior roles through training and development. A formal job evaluation scheme is in place to ensure that roles of equal value are paid equally, with independent assessment and trade union involvement to maintain transparency. While progress has been made, further work is needed through workforce planning, skills development, and broader societal change.

- *What is meant by SMEs, and how will the Council rebuild and grow the number of disability confident employers, particularly among local businesses?*

SMEs refers to small and medium-sized enterprises, classified by the number of employees. The Council's employability team is working with the Department for Work and Pensions on a new programme that actively engages local businesses, particularly smaller ones, by meeting them directly, explaining the disability confident scheme, and encouraging them to join at entry level. This targeted engagement is intended to increase the number of participating organisations over time.

- *How are larger businesses being engaged in the disability confident scheme, and how is business size categorised?*

Business size is generally determined by the number of employees. Larger organisations are already more represented within the scheme, including the Council itself, which is the largest local employer. The current focus is on expanding participation among smaller businesses, although engagement with larger employers continues. The scheme is not primarily about cost but about creating supportive workplaces for people with disabilities – whether physical or mental – by promoting inclusive practices such as flexible working and a supportive environment, helping make organisations more accessible and attractive to potential employees.

- *Do grant funding opportunities to support the diversification of rural businesses apply to farming communities, and can examples be provided?*

The diversification of rural businesses is intended to include the farming community and support them in adapting and sustaining their operations in different ways. However, specific examples of supported projects were not available during the meeting, and a written response will be provided with further detail. – **ACTION: to receive a written response**

- *Is the timetable for the RLDP (Replacement Local Development Plan) examination up to date?*

It was acknowledged that the timetable referenced in the report was no longer accurate, as the examination had been postponed. This will need to be corrected in the report.

- *Is it correct that the council is required to provide additional facilities such as fully enclosed, gender-neutral toilets following the Supreme Court ruling and EHRC guidance?*

It was clarified that this is not a legal requirement. While the guidance suggests that providing facilities such as fully enclosed, gender-neutral toilets may be a sensible and proportionate approach to ensure access and avoid discrimination, it is not mandated by law. There is no expectation being placed on businesses or organisations to make such changes, and decisions should be based on what is appropriate in each individual context.

- *What efforts are being made to ensure that people who are not digitally included can participate in consultations such as “Let’s Talk Monmouthshire”?*

In addition to the online platform, the Council provides alternative ways for people to engage, including an in-person “Let’s Talk Monmouthshire” forum held at different locations across the county. Paper copies of consultations are available in libraries, and residents can receive assistance via contact centres to complete forms. The Council is also open to further suggestions to improve accessibility and inclusion.

- *Is there an opportunity for councillors to receive training on the social model of disability?*

Training on the social model of disability is already available through the Council’s online learning platform, although it can be difficult to locate due to the volume of content. Work is underway to improve accessibility for members by creating a more tailored portal highlighting relevant training, including this topic.

- *Can the Council require or encourage its contractors to adopt inclusive practices, such as becoming disability confident employers?*

The Council can include certain requirements or expectations within contracts, subject to advice from procurement colleagues to ensure they are proportionate and do not deter competition. In practice, the Council seeks to encourage inclusive practices

through socially responsible procurement, including requiring social benefits – such as training opportunities or community support – as part of larger contracts.

- *Is there any funding available to support upgrading public conveniences in Goytre, including improving accessibility and provision?*

There is no identified specific funding pot dedicated to public conveniences. However, the Council is currently reviewing its toilet strategy, and while a direct funding source is not confirmed, officers will explore whether there are alternative funding routes or ways to link the request to relevant funding streams. The importance of such facilities for communities and visitors was acknowledged, and further advice will be sought from the appropriate teams. **Action: to provide a response to the member.**

Chair's Summary:

The chair thanked the Members for their questions and the Cabinet Member and officers for their report and responses and confirmed that responses would be sought outside the meeting for the actions highlighted.

7. People Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme and Action List

The committee discussed and agreed a number of updates and additions to its forward work programme.

A site visit to Tudor Street, Abergavenny, previously agreed at an earlier meeting, would be arranged over the summer outside the formal committee schedule.

The next meeting on 14th July would focus on homelessness.

Councillor Howarth requested that a future report be tabled on Domiciliary Care services in the north of the county. He also requested the Housing Allocations Policy and the Rural Allocations Policy be added to the work programme.

Members requested an update on age-friendly communities, reflecting the following themes discussed earlier in the meeting:

- **Digital inclusion and access to consultation** – ensuring residents who are not digitally included can still take part through in-person forums, paper copies in libraries, and contact centre support.
- **Engaging older residents in Welsh language promotion** – recognising that online/social media approaches may be less effective for older generations, with more emphasis on community-based activities and accessible events.
- **Accessible public conveniences** – discussion about upgrading facilities in Goytre, including accessibility and provision, and the wider review of the toilet strategy.

- **Accessible and inclusive services** – wider discussion of disability confident employers, social model of disability training, and inclusive procurement, all relevant to creating supportive communities for people as they age.

8. Council and Cabinet Forward Work Planner

Noted.

9. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were approved, proposed by Councillor Crook and seconded by Councillor Stevens.

10. Next Meeting

14th July 2026 at 10.00am.

The meeting ended at 11.58 am.

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