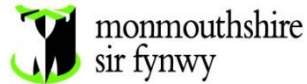


Public Document Pack



County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Friday, 29 May 2026

All County Council Members are invited to attend the meeting

Notice of meeting

Public Services Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 8th June, 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.	Election of Chair.	
2.	Appointment of Vice-Chair.	
3.	Apologies for Absence.	
4.	Declarations of Interest.	
5.	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

- | | | |
|------------|---|---------|
| 6. | National Highways: Update on the Severn Bridge Heavy Goods Vehicles Restrictions - Presentation by National Highways to provide a 6 monthly progress update. | |
| 7. | Minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th April 2026. | 1 - 14 |
| 8. | Public Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme. | 15 - 18 |
| 9. | Council and Cabinet Work Planner. | 19 - 28 |
| 10. | Next Meeting: 27th July 2026 at 10.00am. | |

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Jill Bond	West End;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Steven Garratt	Overmonnow;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Meirion Howells	Llanbadoc & Usk;	Independent
County Councillor Penny Jones	Raglan;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Tony Kear	Llanbadoc & Usk;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Malcolm Lane	Mardy;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Dale Rooke	Chepstow Castle & Larkfield;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Frances Taylor	Magor West;	Independent Group
County Councillor Armand Watts	Bulwark and Thornwell;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor John Crook	Magor East with Undy;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru

Public Information

Please note that Monmouthshire County Council will film this meeting and it will be made available to view in live and archive form online. It is possible that the public seating areas could be filmed and by entering the Chamber you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting purposes. If you make a representation to the meeting you will be deemed to have consented to being filmed.

Recordings of the meeting will be stored in accordance with the Council's data retention policy. Archived webcasts or parts of webcasts shall only be removed from the Council's website if the Monitoring Officer considers that it is necessary because all or part of the content of the webcast is or is likely to be in breach of any statutory provision or common law doctrine, for example Data Protection and Human Rights legislation or provisions relating to confidential or exempt information.

Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

A copy of this agenda and relevant reports can be made available to members of the public attending a meeting by requesting a copy from Democratic Services on 01633 644219. Please note that we must receive 24 hours notice prior to the meeting in order to provide you with a hard copy of this agenda.

Welsh Language

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English. We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.

Public Speaking

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](#)

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Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Our purpose

To become a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life.

Objectives we are working towards

- Fair place to live where the effects of inequality and poverty have been reduced.
- Green place to live and work with reduced carbon emissions and making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency.
- Thriving and ambitious place, where there are vibrant town centres and where businesses can grow and develop.
- Safe place to live where people have a home where they feel secure in.
- Connected place where people feel part of a community and are valued.
- Learning place where everybody has the opportunity to reach their potential.

Our Values

Openness. We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

Fairness. We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.

Flexibility. We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

Teamwork. We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

Kindness: We will show kindness to all those we work with putting the importance of relationships and the connections we have with one another at the heart of all interactions.

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

Scrutinising Performance

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?

Scrutinising Policy

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

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...

Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

Meeting of Public Services Scrutiny Committee held at Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr USK on Monday, 20th April, 2026 at 10.00 am

Councillors Present

County Councillor Armand Watts (Chair)
County Councillors: Jill Bond, Steven Garratt, Meirion Howells, Penny Jones, Malcolm Lane, Emma Bryn, Tudor Thomas, Jan Butler, Ian Chandler and Alistair Neill

Officers in Attendance

Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager
Robert McGowan, Policy and Scrutiny Officer
Sharran Lloyd, Community and Partner Development Manager

APOLOGIES: Councillors Tony Kear and Dale Rooke

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Dale Rooke, and Tony Kear, with Councillor Alistair Neill as a substitute for Councillor Kear.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Penny Jones declared a personal but non-prejudicial independent member of ABUHB and Chair of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Committee.

Councillor Bond declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest as a psychotherapist and a volunteer for Base Camp in Chepstow.

Alistair Neill a personal but non-prejudicial interest as an independent board member of Digital and Healthcare Wales.

3. Public Open Forum

None.

4. Adult Suicide:

PART 1: To hear from MIND on how Mental Health Services in Monmouthshire are impacting both positively negatively on the individuals they support

Megan Escott introduced the report and answered the members' questions:

Megan explained that Mind Monmouthshire had submitted a letter and report to the Putting Things Right department after Christmas, highlighting serious concerns arising from their work with clients, supported by case studies. She described a follow-up meeting on 27th January with the local Community Mental Health Team (CMHT), where

the team acknowledged the issues raised and were apologetic. A key problem identified was persistent difficulty contacting CMHT, including unanswered calls, voicemails, and emails, which she stressed was due to lack of resources rather than the commitment of staff. She noted high sickness levels within CMHT, leading to missed opportunities to intervene when clients were reporting suicidal thoughts. Megan highlighted recent improvements following the meeting, including direct escalation contacts, the recruitment of two new Community Psychiatric Nurses, better communication, and CMHT inviting Mind to attend ward rounds to strengthen joint working.

- *Are Mind Monmouthshire's services free to clients, how are they funded, and is there a waiting list? I am also interested in whether earlier or broader provision could help prevent people reaching crisis point.*

The service is free to clients and is funded through the Welsh Government's Housing Support Grant, specifically to support people experiencing both mental health challenges and housing difficulties. There is a waiting list, but it is actively managed so that individuals waiting for full support receive weekly phone calls to monitor risk and ensure any emerging crisis is identified quickly. A strong emphasis is placed on early intervention, with clients being signposted to counselling or therapy wherever possible, as this can often prevent escalation to more serious crisis situations.

- *Do you signpost people to alternative or additional community-based providers, such as Base Camp, to reduce pressure on statutory services and support people earlier?*

Yes, signposting to other providers is a routine part of the approach. Clients are regularly referred to community-based and lower-level support services where appropriate, including Base Camp, and the Pathways scheme is also used extensively. This wider, preventative approach helps meet people's needs earlier and can reduce the likelihood of individuals reaching a crisis point that requires intensive statutory mental health intervention.

- *What impact are staff shortages and high sickness levels within the Community Mental Health Team having on service users and on the wellbeing of the staff themselves?*

Informal discussions with Community Mental Health Team staff indicate that the pressures they are working under are having a significant impact on their wellbeing. There have been situations where staff acknowledge that an individual urgently needs assessment but there is nowhere suitable to refer them. Spending prolonged periods responding to people in acute crisis, while knowing there are insufficient services available, is extremely distressing and helps explain the high levels of sickness within the team.

- *Given that funding and capacity pressures across public services are unlikely to improve significantly in the near future, what more can be done within communities themselves to help support people with mental health needs and intervene earlier, particularly through town and community councils?*

Communities have an important role to play in supporting mental health and that there is considerable goodwill and informal capacity within them. Strengthening awareness, training, and community-based support could help people identify symptoms earlier and provide help before individuals reach crisis point. While Mind does not currently run a specific community-training programme of this kind, the importance of community-level involvement and preventative approaches was acknowledged.

- *Are there particular groups within the county that should be prioritised for early intervention because they are at higher risk, specifically farmers and rural communities, where suicide rates are known to be significantly higher?*

The farming community is a key area of concern. Mind previously ran a Rural Relief Project which involved outreach at livestock markets and built strong relationships with farmers, recognising that mental health issues in farming are often hidden and difficult to address due to the nature of rural life. That project ended due to loss of funding, but one rural relief worker still maintains a presence at livestock markets and works alongside other organisations. Mind remains keen to revive the project and regularly applies for funding to do so.

- *Is there more that can be done to support young people and intervene earlier, given increasing mental health challenges among students and young adults, and the fact that many individuals are presenting in crisis as soon as they reach adulthood?*

Mind Monmouthshire currently works only with adults aged 18 and over and is increasingly seeing people referred immediately after turning 18 who are already at crisis point. This suggests that opportunities for earlier intervention have been missed. While there is no dedicated youth project locally at present, Newport Mind, with whom Monmouthshire Mind has recently merged, operates youth wellbeing and counselling programmes within schools. There is interest in extending similar provision locally, but this would require additional funding.

- *Following a suicide, what forms of post-suicide support have the greatest impact in reducing long-term psychological harm for those affected, including families, friends, witnesses, emergency responders, and professionals such as train drivers, and where are the main gaps in current provision?*

People who are close to someone who has taken their own life are statistically at increased risk themselves, despite common assumptions to the contrary. While support services do exist for those affected by suicide, a significant challenge lies in ensuring people access that help at the right time. Specific agencies provide post-bereavement support following unexpected deaths. Recent improvements were also noted in how police notify families, with mandatory training introduced to improve sensitivity and support at the point of first contact.

- *Given limited resources and long waiting times for clinical services, how can low-cost, rapid, and coordinated forms of support – such as early contact, clear guidance on grief after suicide, and a single point of coordination – be strengthened to prevent longer-term harm?*

Timely, coordinated responses can be particularly effective, especially in the period immediately following a death. Voluntary and third-sector organisations play an important role in filling gaps where statutory services are overstretched. However, waiting times – particularly for children and young people – remain a serious concern. An example was given of a young person who discovered a parent after suicide and waited a prolonged period for counselling, highlighting both service delays and the need for alternatives such as mentoring or more informal support, which may be more appropriate and less intimidating than formal counselling.

- *Where can the greatest benefit be achieved by making better use of existing resources, including community, faith, and voluntary groups, and how can these be better coordinated with clinical services to support people after suicide?*

Community-based and pastoral support can add significant value, particularly through simply “sitting alongside” individuals and families in distress. Community and faith groups already provide informal but meaningful early support and can help reduce isolation. Better coordination between clinical services, voluntary organisations, and community support is essential, ensuring people are supported consistently rather than being passed between services during periods of acute vulnerability.

- *If Mind has specific projects that need financial support, would it be helpful to approach town and community councils with a clear funding proposal, including the possibility of bidding for earmarked reserves?*

Yes, we welcome that approach. Having clearly defined projects with identified funding needs makes it much easier to have constructive conversations with town and community councils. If proposals are specific and well-scoped, there is greater potential for councils to consider supporting them, including through earmarked reserves where those are available.

- *How are people in crisis supported if they cannot get through to statutory mental health services, and are they being clearly signposted to alternatives such as the Samaritans so they are not left feeling abandoned?*

We are seeing improvements, with more calls to the Community Mental Health Team now being answered directly rather than diverted to voicemail. We also provide clients with small safety-plan cards that list practical coping strategies alongside key crisis contact numbers, including the Samaritans and other helplines. This means people have support details readily available and do not have to search for help while they are distressed.

- *What more can be done to ensure support is available for people who struggle with telephone-based services, particularly when 111 waiting times are long and face-to-face reassurance may be needed?*

We recognise that telephone services work well for some people but not for everyone. There are situations where individuals in serious mental health crisis have waited a long time on 111 or been disconnected, which is extremely difficult for someone who is feeling suicidal. We raise these concerns with the Community Mental Health Team and

continue to look for alternative responses, particularly for those who need in-person reassurance to feel safe.

- *Is there more that can be done to strengthen support for children and young people, including bereavement services such as Cruse, staff training in schools, or approaches similar to Nightline for younger age groups?*

We recognise the value of these approaches. Text-based services are widely used by younger people, who often find it easier to communicate in writing rather than speak, especially when distressed. Increasing awareness and access to these services is a practical way of improving support for young people.

- *What longer-term support is available for people affected by traumatic events such as flooding, where individuals may still be experiencing distress well after the immediate incident has passed?*

We recognise that the emotional impact of flooding can be long-lasting and that many people remain traumatised well beyond the initial response period. Continuing engagement, outreach, and access to mental health and wellbeing support are important to help people move forward from both the immediate crisis and the longer-term emotional effects.

- *When I refer to people being directed to 111 for mental health support, am I correct that this means using 111 option 2, and can I clarify how effective this service is in practice?*

Yes, I am referring to 111 option 2. For the majority of people, this is an effective and valuable service that provides advice, arranges assessments where appropriate, and offers practical suggestions that people may not have considered. However, there are occasions where the service does not work well, particularly when individuals experience long waiting times or are disconnected, which can be very difficult for someone who is already in mental health crisis.

- *What happens in situations where someone presents in acute crisis, is told not to attend A&E, and is then unable to get through to 111 'Option 2' in a timely way?*

We have encountered cases where individuals who feel unable to keep themselves safe have been advised to contact 111 Option 2 and then experienced waits of up to 40 minutes or have been cut off. In those situations, the service is not effective, particularly for people who need immediate reassurance or face-to-face contact rather than telephone support. This remains a significant concern and is something I continue to raise through ongoing discussions with the Community Mental Health Team.

- *Do the seriousness of the situations you describe, and the wider systemic pressures, have an impact on the wellbeing and sickness levels of your own staff?*

Yes, this work does take a toll on staff. Although we manage this by working closely together, debriefing regularly, and not working in isolation, some sickness has occurred because staff feel that it should not be this difficult to help people in crisis. That said,

staff retention is high, with long-serving team members, which helps maintain continuity for clients and provides a strong support network within the team.

- Has there been a positive difference since the recruitment of two additional Community Psychiatric Nurses within the Community Mental Health Team?

Yes, we are seeing a positive difference. Communication has improved, more calls are being answered, and there is greater capacity for staff to engage with clients. While the system remains under pressure, the addition of the two new CPNs has helped to ease some of the immediate difficulties and has improved responsiveness overall.

- *Councillor Bond highlighted that there is already a range of community-based mental health support available, including Andy's Man Club in Chepstow and mindfulness and wellbeing groups delivered through Together Works. She noted that schools do provide counselling and support, but that some interventions, such as ELSA, are only accessed once a problem has been identified. She expressed hope that a stronger focus on social and emotional learning for all pupils could help address issues earlier and improve outcomes in the longer term, and she closed by thanking Megan and her colleagues for their work.*
- *Councillor Thomas commented on the increasing mental health pressures faced by young people and students. Drawing on his background in teaching and education, he highlighted the combined impact of adolescence, exam pressures, social media, peer relationships, and the growing emphasis on performance and outcomes. He expressed concern that these pressures are greater than in the past and questioned whether sufficient resources are available to support young people through these challenges.*

We see these pressures increasingly in our work. Young people are dealing not only with academic expectations, exams, and peer pressure, but also with constant exposure to social media and to wider political and global issues that are difficult to escape. Alongside the internal pressure to succeed, there is a growing sense of anxiety about the state of the world, which can feel overwhelming. We believe it is important that young people have safe spaces where they can express these worries without being dismissed or told there is nothing they can do. We recognise that it is valid for them to feel anxious, and we see a real need for reassurance and appropriate emotional support to help them manage these pressures.

- *Cabinet Member Councillor Chandler explained that his comments were given from a council and partnership perspective and that detailed operational responses would be more appropriate from officers and the Health Board. He emphasised that mental health support in Monmouthshire is delivered through partnership structures, including Integrated Service Partnership Boards and Neighbourhood Care Networks, which bring together the council, health services, and third-sector organisations. These networks focus heavily on signposting, wellbeing support, and linking people to community-based provision such as Mind, Men's Sheds, and other voluntary services.*

They stated that while a wide range of activity is already taking place, it will never be sufficient on its own and that mental health support needs to be better targeted. He argued for a clearer focus on specific cohorts rather than a broad, one-size-fits-all approach, particularly by age and gender. In relation to young people, he noted that Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services tend to engage individuals only once they reach crisis point and that earlier intervention remains a major challenge, largely due to resource constraints.

Councillor Chandler also highlighted particular risk groups, including post-natal women and middle-aged men, and stressed the importance of community-based responses for men, such as peer support groups, sports clubs, and reducing stigma around mental health. He raised concerns about the impact of social issues, including body image, eating disorders, toxic masculinity, and misogyny, and their effects on both young people and adults. He concluded by emphasising that community involvement, partnership working, and open discussion are essential to tackling suicide and mental health challenges, while acknowledging the limitations imposed by current service capacity and resources.

- Do we have sufficient data locally to understand the causes and drivers of suicide, given that national trends suggest a significant gender imbalance and growing concern about outcomes, but local intelligence appears limited?*

Data at a local level is limited and does not always clearly show cause-and-effect. While national statistics indicate that around two-thirds of suicides are men, it is harder to draw firm conclusions locally because outcomes, pathways, and contributory factors are not consistently captured or shared. This lack of detailed local data makes it more difficult to design targeted, evidence-based responses.

- Is the higher prevalence of suicide among men reflected locally, and what are the key factors driving this, particularly in relation to family breakdown, housing insecurity, and prolonged involvement in systems such as family courts?*

Locally, many men presenting with suicidal ideation are experiencing complex and interlinked issues, including separation from family, housing problems, substance misuse, and long periods of stress linked to legal or statutory processes. It is often unclear whether mental health issues lead to family breakdown or whether separation and isolation exacerbate mental health difficulties, but these factors frequently coexist and reinforce one another.

- Are men becoming trapped between traditional expectations around providing and emotional strength and more modern expectations to be open about their mental health, and does this create an additional barrier to seeking help?*

Yes, many men are caught between competing expectations. There remains a strong sense for some men that they must be the provider, remain resilient, and not express vulnerability, while at the same time being told it is acceptable to talk about mental health. This conflict can discourage engagement with support services and delay help-seeking until individuals reach crisis point.

- *Do housing processes and the way housing associations operate risk compounding mental health problems, particularly where cases shift quickly from a human-centred approach to a rigid, process-driven response?*

Relationships with housing associations are generally positive, and there is good engagement at officer level, particularly where individuals are known to support services. However, once behaviour is categorised as antisocial, responses can become heavily process-led, with limited scope for understanding underlying mental health concerns. There is scope for more specialised mental-health-focused training within housing services to ensure responses remain proportionate and preventative.

- *Is there room to strengthen collaboration further with housing providers so that early warning signs are acted on before situations escalate to crisis or homelessness?*

Yes, closer collaboration and shared understanding can help prevent escalation. When housing officers recognise mental health concerns early and work alongside support services, outcomes are better. Strengthening training and communication can improve consistency and ensure issues are addressed before they reach a crisis point.

Chair's Summary:

The committee thanked Megan and her team for their work. The Committee agreed to explore with the Council's Communications Team whether the website could signpost people to support services (Action).

PART 2: To receive a presentation from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) to provide a progress update

Dr Emily Clark delivered a presentation, delivered opening remarks with Liz Andrew and Jackie Williams, and they answered the members' questions with Megan Escott:

Questions from Members:

- *Do we have sufficient and meaningful local data to understand suicide trends in Monmouthshire, particularly causes and drivers, and how confident can we be in comparisons between areas?*

Local data is limited in its ability to show clear cause-and-effect relationships. Much of the real-time suspected suicide surveillance data is provisional and can overestimate final figures, while confirmed Office for National Statistics data arrives with significant delay. Suicide remains a relatively rare event, meaning that small changes in numbers can create apparently large differences in rates. At present, Monmouthshire's figures fall within normal statistical variation, and ongoing monitoring rather than firm conclusions is required.

- *If Monmouthshire appears relatively high in headline rates compared to places like Newport, why are pilot interventions not being targeted there first?*

The suicide prevention service being referred to has not yet launched and is being introduced on a Gwent-wide basis rather than targeted to one local authority. The pilot

is designed to operate across the whole health board area so that access is consistent and learning can be shared, rather than concentrating resources in a single locality based on early surveillance figures.

- *Are the national patterns showing higher suicide rates among men reflected locally, and what factors appear to be contributing to this?*

Men presenting locally with suicidal ideation often face multiple, overlapping pressures such as family breakdown, housing insecurity, substance misuse, isolation, and prolonged stress linked to legal or statutory systems. It is often difficult to separate cause from consequence, as mental health issues and social problems frequently reinforce one another. These complex patterns align with national observations, even if precise local causation is hard to quantify.

- *How are people who are digitally excluded, particularly older residents or those with limited access to technology, able to access mental health and suicide-prevention support when so much information is provided online through platforms such as the Melo website?*

Digital exclusion is recognised as a real issue. All content on the Melo website can be printed and shared in paper form, and partners are encouraged to do this through frontline services such as GP practices and community settings. Libraries are also used through national schemes such as Reading Well. Training and support are available face-to-face as well as online, and efforts are ongoing to ensure information is accessible to people who cannot use digital services.

- *Is additional practical support available to help people who are digitally excluded to engage with services, for example through devices, data provision, or technical assistance?*

Additional support is available at higher levels of need. Device-loan schemes, data provision, and technical support sessions are used to help people access online therapy or support where digital barriers would otherwise prevent engagement, particularly for those living in rural areas, experiencing poverty, or unable to attend services in person.

- *Are there specific trends or issues emerging in Monmouthshire that councillors should be aware of when engaging with residents, particularly when conducting door-to-door work?*

Suicide remains a relatively rare event and caution is required when interpreting small local data sets, as minor numerical changes can appear significant. At present, Monmouthshire's figures fall within expected statistical variation. The Health Board and Public Health teams continue to monitor data closely and review intelligence with partners, rather than drawing firm conclusions from short-term trends.

- *Do we have the right balance between online and face-to-face support services, and are we confident that increasing reliance on digital provision is appropriate given both resource pressures and the needs of people experiencing mental distress?*

Services are designed to be person-centred and are offered both online and face-to-face wherever possible. Patient choice is central, particularly within specialist mental health services, and people are able to choose how they engage. While online provision has expanded significantly and is often preferred because it is quicker and easier to access, face-to-face support remains available and is actively encouraged where it is more appropriate or beneficial.

- *Are face-to-face services at risk of being crowded out by online provision simply because online options are easier to deliver and fill more quickly?*

Online services are often more popular and fill faster, largely because they remove travel and time barriers. However, there is recognition that face-to-face provision offers additional value, particularly for deeper discussion and relationship-building. Efforts continue to ensure that in-person training and support remain available, especially for frontline staff and individuals with higher levels of need.

- *How effective is online training and support compared to in-person engagement, and are people receiving sufficient benefit from digital formats alone?*

Online training and support are widely used and effective for many people, particularly since the shift that followed Covid-19. However, in-person engagement is often more impactful for sensitive or complex issues. For that reason, training and services continue to be offered in both formats, with encouragement for face-to-face participation where appropriate, rather than relying exclusively on digital delivery.

- *Can additional clarity be provided on how resources such as the Padlet and the Melo platform are used to support professionals and communities?*

The Padlet acts as a shared information hub for professionals and includes data, training resources, service updates, and suicide-prevention information. Melo provides broad public-facing mental health and wellbeing resources and is widely used by both the public and professionals. Both tools are intended to complement, rather than replace, direct services and face-to-face support.

- *Have the recruitment of two additional Community Psychiatric Nurses helped address the previously reported problems with unanswered phone calls, unreturned emails, and lack of communication from the Community Mental Health Team duty desk?*

The recruitment of additional Community Psychiatric Nurses has helped improve capacity, but the main issue identified previously was operational rather than purely staffing-related. A problem with an incorrect or ineffective contact number has been resolved, and communication has improved as a result. In addition, greater emphasis is now placed on the 111 option 2 service, including its use by professionals, to ensure people have a reliable and immediate route to mental health support.

- *Given that Monmouthshire appears higher than some other areas in headline suicide-rate data, are there examples of different or better practice in places such as Newport that could explain this variation?*

Direct comparisons between areas should be treated with caution. Suicide remains a relatively rare event, and small numerical changes can produce large apparent differences in rates. Different areas also face different social pressures and population characteristics, which shape how services are designed and commissioned. Newport, for example, has a different demographic profile and different partnership arrangements, which influence how resources are targeted. There is no single model identified as clearly “better”, but learning is shared across the Health Board footprint.

- *As elected members working within communities, what practical actions can councillors take to help reduce risk and support people who may be struggling with mental health or suicidal distress?*

Councillors can play an important role by helping reduce stigma, listening compassionately, and encouraging people to seek help. Being approachable, signposting residents to appropriate services, and reinforcing messages that support is available can help interrupt moments of crisis. Kind, timely intervention by trusted community figures can make a significant difference, particularly when someone feels isolated or overwhelmed.

- *Can third-sector organisations such as Mind refer directly into Community Mental Health Services, or formally contribute to referrals, given that they often hold detailed background information about individuals and have established relationships with them?*

Mental health teams are moving toward a more open and streamlined access model, including use of the single point of access through 111 option 2. In principle, referrals can be received from a wide range of sources, not solely GPs. However, how third-sector agencies contribute to referrals can vary in practice, and this is tied to how interfaces between services operate locally. It was agreed that this specific issue would be followed up by Mind and ABUHB outside the meeting to clarify referral pathways and ensure that the information held by trusted third-sector partners is used effectively.

- *Megan emphasised that third-sector workers often possess far more contextual and historical information about individuals than is captured in brief or minimal referrals, and that being able to pass this information on meaningfully could improve assessment and outcomes.*

This point was acknowledged, with recognition that good outcomes depend on effective information-sharing and clear communication between services. Improving interfaces between statutory and third-sector services, including how referrals are handled and supplemented with contextual detail, was identified as an important area for continued work.

Chair’s Summary:

The Chair thanked representatives from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and the Public Health team for their detailed and informative presentation, acknowledging the complexity and sensitivity of the issues discussed. He noted that the session had

highlighted both the scale of mental health and suicide-prevention challenges and the significant amount of partnership work already underway across Gwent.

He emphasised the importance of improved visibility and understanding of data, particularly at a local level, while recognising the limitations inherent in suicide statistics and the need for caution when interpreting small numbers. The Chair stressed that scrutiny should continue to focus on outcomes, prevention, and effective targeting of resources rather than headline figures alone.

The Chair underlined the value of community-based and preventative approaches, including training, early intervention, and strong links between statutory services, third-sector organisations, and local authorities. He welcomed the development of new initiatives, including the suicide-prevention pilot and improved access routes such as 111 option 2, while making clear that ongoing scrutiny of service accessibility and responsiveness would remain important.

He concluded by confirming that suicide prevention and mental health would remain a priority area for the Committee during the remainder of the Council term, and that further scrutiny would involve continued engagement with both the Health Board and Mental Health and Learning Disability services. He formally closed the item by thanking all contributors for their openness, professionalism, and commitment to improving outcomes for residents. **Action:** to place leaflets in Member's mail trays.

5. To receive the following minutes:

Public Services Scrutiny Committee dated 13th October 2025

The minutes were agreed, proposed by Councillor Howells and seconded by Councillor Garratt.

Public Services Scrutiny Committee dated 15th December 2025

The minutes were agreed, proposed by Councillor Howells and seconded by Councillor Garratt.

6. Public Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme

The Scrutiny Manager informed members that the Committee meeting scheduled for 28th April had to be rearranged. This was because the item planned for that meeting, involving the Chief Constable of Gwent Police to discuss community safety, police resources, and outstanding scrutiny issues from December, could not proceed as intended. She advised that this meeting would be rescheduled for after the election, and members would be informed of a new date in due course.

She confirmed that the next diary-planned meeting would now be on 8th June, and that this meeting would focus on an update from National Highways, with Johnny Hill due to attend. She noted that the Committee typically schedules one substantive agenda item per meeting, as demonstrated by the current session, to allow sufficient time for in-depth scrutiny and detailed discussion.

7. Council and Cabinet Work Planner

There was a request to scrutinise the Public Services Ombudsman's Report (**Action**: to timetable this for members to highlight any areas for future scrutiny).

Strategic Risk Assessment – for us to look at that for the Public Services element? (**Action**: to be invited to P&O meeting on it and/or for PS to invite separately after that)

8. Next Meeting

Monday 8th June 2026 at 10.00am.

The meeting ended at **12.36 pm**.

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Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2025-26

Public Services Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
TO BE REARRANGED	Invite the Chief Constable	Invitation to the Chief Constable of Gwent Police to discuss outstanding issues raised by the Committee and to discuss the White Paper proposing changes to force structures.	Chief Constable, Gwent Police	External Scrutiny
8th June 2026	National Highways: Update on the Severn Bridge Heavy Goods Vehicles Restrictions	Invite to National Highways to provide a 6 monthly progress update.	Jonny Hill National Highways	External Scrutiny
27th July 2026				
12th October 2026				

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2025-26

Public Services Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
7 th December 2026				
<i>To be confirmed</i>	Youth Offending Service	To consider the latest progress report on the Youth Offending Service, particularly how partners contribute and what it delivers for Monmouthshire.	Chesney Chick	Performance Monitoring
<i>To be confirmed</i>	<i>Changes to Ambulance Performance Framework</i>	<i>Discussion on changes to the Ambulance Performance Framework which take effect on Tuesday 1 July 2025.</i>	<i>Ambulance Service</i>	<i>External Scrutiny</i>
<i>To be confirmed</i>	<i>Pre-decision Scrutiny of the Public Service Board Annual Report</i>	<i>To undertake pre-decision scrutiny of the report and to draw agree any items for future scrutiny.</i>		<i>Pre-decision Scrutiny/Performance Monitoring</i>
<i>To be confirmed</i>	<i>Integrated Services Partnership Board</i>	<i>To discuss the role and remit of the Integrated Services Partnership Board and how it delivers services in Monmouthshire.</i>		<i>Performance Review</i>
Items to consider for Inclusion: (Arising from Corporate and Community Plan)				

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2025-26

Public Services Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
Progress the development of the new Magor and Undy Community Hub				
Invest in better bus infrastructure				
Work with the police, partners and communities to tackle anti-social behaviour				
To explore streams: Housing Social Grant, Substance Misuse Grants, to assess what they are delivering for Monmouthshire				

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2025-26

- Violence and Women ~ Scrutinize the delivery of the Gwent perpetrator assessment and the impact of inappropriate sexual behaviour among 10-17 year-olds. Address the increase in misogyny in schools, including the influence of figures like Andrew Tate.
- Flood Risk Management ~ Jointly with Place Scrutiny Committee, inviting National Resources Wales
- Public Transport and Accessibility: Assess the impact of dental service relocations on public transport accessibility for residents.
- Update on the flying start ~ Update on the collaboration between health visitors and Sure Start, including changes in reporting structures and service provision.
- Request a comprehensive health update from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) (**in progress**), covering:
 - Holistic approach to supporting older people.
 - Primary and secondary care integration.
 - Resource, nurses, doctors, sustainability and retention.
 - Communication with the public on service provision.
 - Preventative services, colon tests, jabs.
 - Updates on specific projects like the Neville Hall Velindre satellite.
 - The uptake of preventative measures like vaccinations, especially among children.
 - Adult Mental Health Services ~ adult suicide
 - Care for people in the community with dementia, family support services.
- Community Policing ~ invite Police and Crime Commissioner ~ **in progress**
- Invite the Integrated Strategic Partnership Board to discuss dentistry and the flow of funds.

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	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	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
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
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
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
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	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	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
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	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	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	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	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	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
Cabinet	20-May-26	S106 Affordbale Housing Contributions	Sara Burch	To recommend options to commit and spend some of the contributions	Louise Corbett	#
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	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	Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025 - 2028	Ian Chandler - Social Care &	Reason is to endorse a new Corporate Parenting	Jane Rodgers	24-Oct-25
Council	05-Mar-26	2026/27 Capital Strategy and 2026/27 Treasury Management Strategy	Ben Callard - Resources	To approve the Council's 2026/27 Capital and Treasury Management Strategies, including the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy.	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	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
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
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	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	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	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
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	Cultural Strategy	Sara Burch		Tracey Thomas	20-May-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	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	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
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	2026/27 Draft Revenue & Capital budget proposals	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	12-Jun-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	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	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
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	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	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	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	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
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	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
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	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	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 Corporate Plan 2022-28.	Hannah Carter	29-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	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	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
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	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
ICMD	26-Nov-25	LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) ACT 1994 THE LOCAL AUTHO	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	Destination Management Plan	Sara Burch & Paul Griffiths		Collette Bosley	17-Apr-25
Cabinet	19-Nov-25	2025/26 Revenue & Capital Monitoring Update 2	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	12-Jun-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	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	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	Medium Term Financial Plan update - November 2025	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Nov-25
Council	23-Oct-25	RLDP for Adoption	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Rachel Lewis	17-Apr-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
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	2025/26 Revenue Monitoring Update 1	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	12/76/25
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	Review of Housing Support Grant Programme. County of Sanctuary Strategy	Sara Burch 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.	Ian Bakewell	23-May-25
Cabinet	17-Sep-25				Sharran Lloyd and Jane Harvey	27-May-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	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
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	Strategic Director's Report, Children, Learning, Skills and the Economy'	Laura Wright - Education		Will Mclean	18-Jun-25
Council	17-Jul-25	Chepstow Integrated Transport LUF project			Deb Hill Howells	24-Jun-25
Cabinet	16-Jul-25	Shire Hall Delivery Stage - Financial Approval	Ben Callard - Resources		Tracey Thomas	25-Mar-25
Cabinet	16-Jul-25	Play Sufficiency Update	Angela Sandles - Engagement	Play sufficiency assessment update.	Nick John	28-Mar-25
Cabinet	16-Jul-25	ADD AS FIRST ITEM Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023: Monmouthshire County Council's Annual Report 2024/25 Revenue & Capital monitoring Outturn (incl early update on 2025/26) 2026/27 Revenue & Capital MTFP update and process	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		Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	12-Jun-25
Cabinet	16-Jul-25		Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	12-Jun-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
Council	26-Jun-25	Appointments to Outside Bodies	Angela Sandles - Engagement		John Pearson	23-May-25
Council	26-Jun-25	Separation of Licensing Functions	Angela Sandles - Engagement		Linda O Gorman	28-May-25
Council	26-Jun-25	Strategic Officer Leadership and Organisation Structure changes	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy		Paul Matthews	5-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	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	21-May-25	Y Prentis Update	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Hannah Jones	26-Feb-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	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	Marches Forward Partnership	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy		Peter Davies / Cath Fallon	1-Apr-25
Cabinet	21-May-25	Placemaking Grant 25/26 & 26/27	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Craig O Connor	29-Apr-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	Senior Pay Review	Ben Callard - Resources		Julie Anthony	3-Mar-25
Council	10-Apr-25	Constitution Review	Angela Sandles - Engagement		James Williams	25-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	Reponse to Boundary Commission Electoral Review Consultation	Angela Sandles - Engagement		John Pearson	12-Feb-25
Cabinet	02-Apr-25	Marches Forward Partnership	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy		Peter Davies - Lead (Cath Fallon)	3-Mar-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	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
Council	06-Mar-25	Contract Procedure Rules	Ben Callard - Resources		Scott James	9-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	Appointment of Chief Officer - Head of Transport - Exempt info	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Deb Hill Howells	21-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
Cabinet	05-Mar-25	Approval of a Discretionary Policy for Council Tax Premiums	Ben Callard - Resources		Ruth Donovan	27-Jan-25

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	2024/25 Revenue and Capital Monitoring Month 9	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Jun-24
Cabinet	19-Feb-25	UK Shared Prosperity Fund post March 2025 – financial implications and impact	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Hannah Jones	10-Jul-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	2025/26 Draft Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Jun-24
Cabinet	22-Jan-25	Education Middle Tier	Martyn Groucutt - Education		Will McLean	20-Nov-24
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
ICMD	15-Jan-25	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 3	Ben Callard - Resources		Dave Jarrett	13-Jun-24
ICMD	15-Jan-25	Decision to transfer Dixton Archive from Monmouth Museum to Herefordshire Record Office			Rachael Rogers	9-Dec-24
ICMD	18-Dec-24	2025/26 Community Council and Police Precepts draft	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	13-Jun-24

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