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Neuadd y Sir
Y Rhadyr
Brynbuga
NP15 1GA

Dydd Mercher, 23 Tachwedd 2016

Hysbysiad o gyfarfod:

Cyngor Sir

**Dydd Iau, 1af Rhagfyr, 2016 at 2.00 pm,
Neuadd Y Sir, Y Rhadyr, Brynbuga, NP15 1GA**

AGENDA

Prayers will be said prior to the Council meeting at 4.55pm. All members are welcome to join the Chairman for prayers should they wish to do.

Eitem No	Eitem	Tudalennau
1.	Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb	
2.	Adroddiad y Cadeirydd ac unrhyw ddeisebau sydd wedi eu derbyn	1 - 2
3.	Datganiadau o Fuddiant	
4.	Fforwm Agored i'r Cyhoedd	
4.1.	Cwestiwn gan Mr. J. Thurston i'r Cynghorydd Sir P. Fox "A fydd yn cefnogi cwblhad y llwybr cerdded a beicio ar hyd yr hen reilffordd yng Nghwm Clydach; a fydd yn defnyddio ei swydd i gychwyn deialog rhwng Cyngor Sir Fynwy, Llywodraeth Cymru a thirfeddianwyr i geisio cael datrysiad cyflym yn ymwneud â'r 700 metr o'r llwybr sy'n weddill; ac adrodd yn ôl i'r aelodau?"	
4.2.	Canolfan Cyngor ar Bopeth Cyngor Sir Fynwy – Diweddariad ar yr Adroddiad Blynnyddol	3 - 24
5.	Cadarnhau cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd ar yr 20fed o Hydref 2016	25 - 32
6.	Nodi rhestr camau gweithredu'r cyfarfod diwethaf	33 - 34
7.	Derbyn cofnodion y Pwyllgor Gwasanaethau Democratig ar y 17eg o Hydref 2016	35 - 40

8. Rhestr o Gynigion

8.1. Cynnig gan y Cynghorydd Sir R.J.W. Greenland

Mae'r ailbrisiad diweddar a gynigiwyd ar gyfer cyfraddau annomestig (NNDR – cyfraddau busnes) wedi arwain at gynnydd brawychus i fusnesau yn Sir Fynwy.

Mae 65% o fusnesau yn y Sir wedi gweld cynnydd yn eu cyfraddau drafft gyda nifer yn cynyddu mwy na 200%. Yn ymarferol, golyga hyn, os caiff y cynigion eu cadarnhau, bod rhai busnesau yn wynebu cynnydd o ddegau o filoedd o bunnoedd y flwyddyn nesaf. Ymddengys bod patrwm o siroedd gwledig yn wynebu cynnydd tra bod cyfraddau'r trefi a dinasoedd mwy yn gostwng. Gan fod y system yn seiliedig ar werthoedd rhentu tybiannol, ymddengys yn annhebygol bod y newid yng ngwerthoedd rhentu adeiladau busnes rhwng 2010 a 2015 yn adlewyrchu'r cynnydd yng ngwerthoedd trethiannol a gynigir ar gyfer rhai o fusnesau Sir Fynwy.

Os nad ydym am herio'r ailbrisiad hwn, gallai olygu bod rhai o'n prif fasnachwyr a busnesau lletygarwch yn benodol yn methu parhau i fasnachu.

Os yw busnesau yn cael eu gorfodi i dalu cynnydd mawr yn seiliedig ar yr ailbrisiad hwn, wrth iddynt ddisgwyl am ganlyniadau apeliadau, gallai problemau llif arian difrifol peryglu dyfodol rhai ohonynt. Ar y lleiaf, anogwn Lywodraeth Cymru i beidio â gorfodi'r cynnydd cyn derbyn canlyniadau apeliadau.

Mae hefyd yn bryder i'r Cyngor hwn, tra bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cyhoeddi cynllun ponti ar gyfer busnesau bychain wedi'u heffeithio gan y cynnydd, nid yw wedi gwneud yr un fath ar gyfer busnesau mwy, a fydd yn teimlo'r effaith yn fwy. Rydym yn galw am drefniadau pontio cydymdeimladol ar gyfer yr holl fusnesau.

Mae gan Lywodraeth Cymru y pŵer i osod neu ohirio'r cynigion hyn. Gan ystyried y pryder a fynegwyd gan y Cyngor hwn a nifer o fusnesau yn Sir Fynwy, fe anogwn Lywodraeth Cymru i ohirio'r cynigion drafft hyn i ganiatáu amser i adolygu'r fethodoleg yn drylwyr ac ystyried canlyniadau'r ailbrisiad hwn.

8.2. Cynnig gan y Cynghorydd Sir A. Easson

Fy nghanfyddiad yw bod Sir Fynwy yn cael ei ystyried yn Awdurdod Sinderela mewn perthynas â chynlluniau ar gyfer y System Metro o fewn Rhanbarth y Ddinas. Cynigaf felly bod mwy o bwyslais yn cael ei roi ar y ffaith bod Sir Fynwy yn bodoli ac yn fwy na dim ond smotyn ar fap De Ddwyrain Cymru. Ar ben hynny, bod ein Harweinydd, ac aelodau perthnasol o'r Cabinet sy'n rhan o'r Awdurdod Cyfunol ehangach sy'n rhoi llais cryfach i gryfhau ein presenoldeb – ymddengys bod hyn ar goll.

9. Adroddiad gan y Pennaeth Cyllid

9.1. Cynnig i adolygu'r polisi ar Ddarpariaeth Refeniw Isafswm (MRP) mewn perthynas â Benthycu a Gefnogir o 2016/17 ymlaen

10.	Adroddiad y Pennaeth Cynllunio, Tai a Llunio Lleoedd	
10.1.	Cymdeithas Tai Sir Fynwy – Cais i Wahanu Costau Gwasanaethau	67 - 78
11.	Adroddiad y Pennaeth Democratiaeth, Ymrwymiad a Gwella	
11.1.	Adroddiad Blynyddol y Prif Swyddog Plant a Phobl Ifanc	79 - 130
12.	Cwestiynau gan Aelodau	
12.1.	O'r Cynghorydd Sir A. Easson i'r Cynghorydd Sir E. J. Hacket Pain	
	Mae dwy ysgol yn Sir Fynwy wedi cofrestru i dderbyn cefnogaeth Adnoddau Dynol annibynnol. A ydych chi, fel yr Aelod o'r Cabinet dros addysg, yn cefnogi'r gweithrediadau hyn ac a oes gennych chi farn bendant am unrhyw ysgolion eraill y gallai fod yn bwriadu cyflogi darparwyr Adnoddau Dynol allanol?	

Paul Matthews

Prif Weithredwr

CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

MAE CYFANSODDIAD Y PWYLLGOR FEL SY'N DILYN:

Cynghorwyr Sir:

D. Batrouni
J. Prosser
D. Blakebrough
M. Powell
V. Smith
G. Burrows
R. Chapman
P. Clarke
J. Crook
D. Dovey
G. Down
A. Easson
D. Edwards
R. Edwards
D. Evans
P. Farley
P.A. Fox
J. George
R.J.W. Greenland
L. Guppy
E. Hackett Pain
R. Harris
B. Hayward
M. Hickman
J. Higginson
P.A.D. Hobson
G. Howard
S. Howarth
D. Jones
P. Jones
S. Jones
S.B. Jones
P. Jordan
J. Marshall
P. Murphy
B. Strong
F. Taylor
A. Watts
P. Watts
A. Webb
S. White
K. Williams
A. Wintle

Gwybodaeth Gyhoeddus

Mynediad i gopïau papur o agendâu ac adroddiadau

Gellir darparu copi o'r agenda hwn ac adroddiadau perthnasol i aelodau'r cyhoedd sy'n mynychu cyfarfod drwy ofyn am gopi gan Gwasanaethau Democrataidd ar 01633 644219. Dylid nodi fod yn rhaid i ni dderbyn 24 awr o hysbysiad cyn y cyfarfod er mwyn darparu copi caled o'r agenda hwn i chi.

Edrych ar y cyfarfod ar-lein

Gellir gweld y cyfarfod ar-lein yn fyw neu'n dilyn y cyfarfod drwy fynd i www.monmouthshire.gov.uk neu drwy ymweld â'n tudalen Youtube drwy chwilio am MonmouthshireCC. Drwy fynd i mewn i'r ystafell gyfarfod, fel aelod o'r cyhoedd neu i gymryd rhan yn y cyfarfod, rydych yn caniatáu i gael eich ffilmio ac i ddefnydd posibl y delweddau a'r recordiadau sain hynny gan y Cyngor.

Y Gymraeg

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu cyfraniadau gan aelodau'r cyhoedd drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg. Gofynnwn gyda dyledus barch i chi roi 5 diwrnod o hysbysiad cyn y cyfarfod os dymunwch siarad yn Gymraeg fel y gallwn ddarparu ar gyfer eich anghenion.

Nodau a Gwerthoedd Cyngor Sir Fynwy

Cymunedau Cynaliadwy a Chryf

Canlyniadau y gweithiwn i'w cyflawni

Neb yn cael ei adael ar ôl

- Gall pobl hŷn fyw bywyd da
- Pobl â mynediad i dai addas a fforddiadwy
- Pobl â mynediad a symudedd da

Pobl yn hyderus, galluog ac yn cymryd rhan

- Camddefnyddio alcohol a chyffuriau ddim yn effeithio ar fywydau pobl
- Teuluoedd yn cael eu cefnogi
- Pobl yn teimlo'n ddiogel

Ein sir yn ffynnu

- Busnes a menter
- Pobl â mynediad i ddysgu ymarferol a hyblyg
- Pobl yn diogelu ac yn cyfoethogi'r amgylchedd

Ein blaenoriaethau

- Ysgolion
- Diogelu pobl agored i niwed
- Cefnogi busnes a chreu swyddi
- Cynnal gwasanaethau sy'n hygyrch yn lleol

Ein gwerthoedd

- **Bod yn agored:** anelwn fod yn agored ac onest i ddatblygu perthnasoedd ymddiriedus
- **Tegwch:** anelwn ddarparu dewis teg, cyfleoedd a phrofiadau a dod yn sefydliad a adeiladwyd ar barch un at y llall.
- **Hyblygrwydd:** anelwn fod yn hyblyg yn ein syniadau a'n gweithredoedd i ddod yn sefydliad effeithlon ac effeithiol.
- **Gwaith tîm:** anelwn gydweithio i rannu ein llwyddiannau a'n methiannau drwy adeiladu ar ein cryfderau a chefnogi ein gilydd i gyflawni ein nodau.

Chairman's Report 20th October – 19th November

Thursday 20 th October 7 p.m.	50 th Anniversary of the Aberfan Disaster St David's Parish Church, Merthyr Tydfil
Friday 21 st October 6.30 – 8 p.m.	Monmouthshire Business Awards Celtic Manor
Saturday 22 nd October 7 p.m.	Vale of Glamorgan – Mayors Dragon Racing Evening St Andrews Golf Club, Barry
Sunday 23 rd October	Crosstober Cycling event Abergavenny Leisure Centre
Thursday 27 th October	Young Carers Collaborative Engagement Event (details to follow)
Thursday 27 th October 6.30 for 7 p.m.	AAODS Junior Show 'Moby Dick' Borough Theatre, Abergavenny
Saturday 29 th October 7 p.m.	Powys Charity Concert Alpha Chapel, Builth Wells
Thursday 3 rd November 11 a.m.	Citizenship Ceremony Registrar's Office, Usk
Thursday 3 rd November 7 for 7.30 p.m.	Fire Service – Long Service & Good Conduct Medal Presentation Fire Service HQ, Forest View Business Park, Llantrisant
Friday 4 th November 5.30 – 7 p.m.	Private viewing of the Exhibition 'Writing for Eternity' Abergavenny Museum
Sunday 6 th November 11 a.m.	Lord Mayor's Civic Service Metropolitan Cathedral of St David, Cardiff
Thursday 10 th November 11 a.m.	Tour of Ancre Hill Vineyard Rockfield Road, Monmouth
Friday 11 th November 11 a.m.	Armistice Day Service County Hall, Usk
Friday 11 th November 3 p.m.	Armistice Day Service Memorial Garden, Llanelly Hill
Saturday 12 th November 7 p.m.	Gwent Police Choir 47 th Annual Concert St Julian's High Street, Newport
Sunday 13 th November 10.15 a.m.	Armistice Parade and Service Cenotaph, Abergavenny
Sunday 13 th November 2.30 p.m.	Muster at Royal British Legion, Usk - Armistice Parade and Service St Mary's Church, Usk
Wednesday 16 th November 7 p.m.	Gwent Music – The Music for Youth Proms Concerts Royal Albert Hall, London
Saturday 19 th November 7.30 p.m.	Gwent Bach Society's Autumn Concert St Mary's Priory Church, Abergavenny

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**Monmouthshire County Citizens Advice
Bureau Limited**

ANNUAL REPORT

2015 – 2016

**Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered Number 6532431
Registered Charity Number 1125068
Authorised and regulated by the Financial
Conduct Authority FRN: 617672**

Our Advice Centres



Abergavenny
19a & b Cross Street
Abergavenny
NP7 5EW
Tel – 01873 856466



Caldicot
5a Church Road
Caldicot
NP26 4BP
Tel – 01291 422119



Chepstow
Registered Office
The Gatehouse
High Street
Chepstow
NP16 5LH
Tel – 01291 622185



Monmouth
23a Whitecross Street
Monmouth
NP25 3BY
Tel – 01600 773297

Our Trustee Board

Mr Brian Counsell	Chair
Dr Claire Bloomfield	Trustee –Research & Campaigns
Mr Roger Chater	Trustee – Personnel
Dr Huw Evans	Resigned – March 16
Mrs Sally Jones	Trustee - Fundraising
Mr Peter McGahey	Trustee
Mr Simon Pickering	Trustee - Publicity
Mr David Thomas	Treasurer
Prof Celia Wells	Trustee - Legal

Our Paid Staff

Mrs Shirley Lightbound	Chief Executive Officer
Mrs Beth Addis	Training Officer
Mr Gordon Elsmore	ASM (South) to March 16
Mrs Yvonne James	Admin & Finance Officer
Mrs Kathy Young	ASM (North)
Mrs Yvonne Havard	Project Manager (BABL)
Mrs Lou Allerhand	Project Worker (BABL)
Mrs Jenny Hart	Project Worker (BABL)
Ms Alison May	Project Worker (BABL)
Mr Darren Williams	Project Worker (BABL)

Volunteers

We now have 82 volunteers across the four offices and we are grateful to them all for the time they give to help us provide a service for our clients. Throughout the week our volunteers give approximately 550 hours of their time to help our clients.



Report of the Chair of the Trustee Board

2015/2016 Year of Further Progress

In May 2015 we received confirmation that Monmouth Citizens Advice Bureau would cease operation on 30th June 2015.

There followed successful talks with both the Trustees of Monmouth Town CAB and Monmouthshire County Council Property Services regarding the reassignment of the lease for the premises that Monmouth CAB had occupied and also all furniture, fixtures and computers were passed on to us. This enabled the transfer of responsibility for advice provision in the town to Monmouthshire County Citizens Advice. The integration and retention of volunteer advisers has been essential and I thank all staff for their efforts in this as it has meant that we have had a seamless transition from Monmouth CAB to Monmouthshire County Citizens Advice.

Funding

It is very gratifying that having set consecutive deficit budgets since we became a county wide organisation three years ago that we have successfully managed to have a surplus at the end of each year. The pressure to find alternative funding remains and the Welsh Government has still not advised us whether funding for the Better Advice Better Lives project will continue in the future beyond 2017, with this representing one third of our total funding. We have also been advised that Monmouthshire County Council will be cutting our funding for the 2016/17 financial year by a further £12,000.

We have tried to improve and increase our contact with Town and Community Councils and are now able to put numbers to the clients we advise in each ward and this is helpful in showing how much it costs for our service in their area and it is hoped that this will prove to be successful in raising additional funds.

Citizens Advice Nationally

Citizens Advice has been reorganising and changing the way it supports us. The terms and conditions for membership are being radically changed and the support

we receive by visits from bureau support reduced to telephone and video conferencing. We have joined the Quality of Advice Audit, Financial Health Monitoring and Leadership Self Assessment pilot schemes so that when the new membership requirements start we will have no surprises and be ahead of the game.

Personnel

In the year we welcomed three new Members to our Trustee Board, they are:

Peter McGahey who for many years was a trustee and chair of Cardiff and The Vale CAB

Sally Jones who has many years experience of finding funding for the third sector.

David Thomas, who is the Director of Post Graduate Dental Education at the Wales Deanery is our new Treasurer.

Developing the Service

During the year we opened an outreach in Usk and also in Wyesham and we have extended our opening hours in Monmouth town to four days a week. This has been made possible because our financial position and the wealth of talent we have in our service allows.

I thank all of our financial supporters, Welsh Government, Monmouthshire County Council, all of the Town and Community Councils and the Friends of Monmouthshire County Citizens Advice. It is their continued support that means we can help and advise the thousands of clients we see. I also must thank all the team that are Monmouthshire County Citizens Advice, it is their dedication that enables us to continue to provide the service to our clients.

Brian Counsell
Chair



Treasurer's Report 2015/2016

1. Statement of Financial Activities – overview

The financial position of the bureau remains secure. The surplus for year end is £31,000 on a total income of £232,505 and a total expenditure of £201,505 including a depreciation charge of £499.

The surplus was mainly due to some of the BABL funds being paid late from the previous year. We also received grants from Citizens Advice for running projects and brand implementation.

Balance Sheet

The bank position at year end is healthy at £123,330.

Unrestricted reserves are £105,589 and restricted reserves are £8,424. In line with our Reserves Policy, £77,155 of the unrestricted reserves, equivalent to three months operating expenses and contractual obligations, are allocated to ensure that the bureau can continue to operate and meet the needs of clients in the event of unseen and potentially financially damaging circumstances.

2. Variances

This year's accounts contain no variances and are entirely related to Monmouthshire CAB.

David Thomas
Treasurer



Chief Officer's Report 2015/2016

In the past year we have successfully continued to deliver services at all four main offices in the county, having assumed delivery in Monmouth from 1st July 2015. Monmouth Citizens Advice having ceased providing services on the 30th June 2015. We always regret seeing the end of a bureau but more importantly the public in Monmouth still have access to the service.

We are open four days a week at each site with cover in the north and south of the county on all five days of the week. Outreach is available in Usk, Abergavenny Community Enterprise, Tudor Gate Doctors Surgery and Chepstow Hospital with the option of appointments available in Wyesham.

Telephone advice is available to all the residents of the county Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm with recorded information outside of these hours. Telephone advice is also available in Welsh.

We now have a current website, Facebook page and twitter account which have regular posts of information for the public.

We continue to work closely with Gateway Credit Union, Shelter and the Registered Social Landlords as well as developing referrals with Women's Aid and Mind.

We are represented on the Financial, Educational and Digital Inclusion Partnership and contribute to their work. We also are members of the Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations and co-operate with them on the mapping of county wide services.

We continue to recruit and train volunteers and now have in total 82 volunteers for the county. Our staff and volunteers meet regularly both as one large group and in smaller meetings to exchange ideas, plan good practice and receive training.

At the all-county meetings we have had guest speakers addressing us on Universal Credit, support for energy grant making and have also had in house training.

Without a dedicated staff team and the work and commitment of our many volunteers the services we deliver would not be possible and I extend a very big thank you to all staff, trustees and especially our volunteers who give their time and expertise every day to help those most in need.

You will see some statistics of our service delivery elsewhere in this document and we are also able to show that we maintain a good standard of advice through the Quality of Advice Audit process that is managed by Citizens Advice nationally.

Shirley Lightbound
Chief Executive Officer



Recruitment & Training Officer's Report 2015/2016

Volunteers

Throughout the year we had approximately 82 volunteers within the county. Some are gateway assessors and some are generalist advisers. We had 18 supervisors, some alternate between being a supervisor and seeing clients as an adviser. We opened on a Monday in Monmouth and trained a new supervisor to cover that day. We also have a social policy co-ordinator. We took on one volunteer to do fundraising and also one volunteer to be part of press and publicity. There are also two volunteer administrators and two volunteer receptionists. Two volunteers were trained up in the role of McKenzie friends who support clients who need to attend court.

Recruitment

We took on new volunteers throughout the year. Chepstow had the biggest increase in new volunteers but they also had the most people leave so the numbers have stayed balanced. The website and recruitment posters in the windows seem to be the best way to advertise for volunteers.

Training

In 2015/2016 the training changed and it meant getting used to the new packages and what was required from the new volunteers. There is now just one course that runs through from gateway to generalist advice. It is possible for the volunteer to stop at the gateway level or they can continue on to become a generalist adviser.

Courses

This year our staff and volunteers have attended a variety of courses to increase their knowledge and skill base. These have included First Aid, Housing Law, Employment Discrimination & Tribunal Course, Mental Health First Aid, Understanding Tax Credits, ASK Re Course, Research & Campaigns, Immigration Advice, Universal Credit and the Right to Reside, also Personal Independence Payment courses and workshops for our BABL advisers. We have

also had speakers from Mind, Speak Easy, the Department of Work and Pensions regarding Universal Credit, the Network for Surviving Stalking and Women's Aid who came to speak at our workers meetings.

Going Forward

There is a constant level of interest in volunteering for the service so there is not a big pressure to actively recruit. If any hours change we may have to look at taking on more volunteers but currently there are a sufficient number.

By the end of 2016 we would like to have a good working group for research and campaigns. We would also like to increase the number of specialist volunteer roles e.g. in employment and immigration and certain benefits issues such as Universal Credit and the right to reside. We would also like to look at training volunteers up to use web chat, giving clients information over the internet.

We would like to train up more supervisors and establish from an early stage those volunteers that may want to become a supervisor and encourage them to train for that position. We would also like more people to become advisers but this is a long process due to the amount of study the volunteer must do but we are encouraging more people to complete the full training.

Beth Addis
Recruitment & Training Officer



Research & Campaigns 2015/2016

There have been a number of changes to our Research and Campaigns work during this year. The Advice Services Manager (North) now has overall responsibility for Research and Campaigns. We have started to build up a small team of volunteers from all four offices and raise awareness about different aspects of research and campaigns.

We have supported the following national campaigns during this year:

Scams month: with displays in offices and One Stop Shops, a stall in Abergavenny market. We worked with the Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) passing on information to their tenants and delivered public information and press releases alongside Trading Standards.

Housing Campaign and Survey: this was linked to the Welsh Government Renting Homes Bill and we carried out surveys with our clients across the county.

Big Energy Savings Week: with displays in offices, surveys with clients, displays in One Stop Shops, stalls in Abergavenny and Caldicot markets. Again we worked with the RSLs and Care & Repair. An article on Energy Savings was published in the local free magazines, together with a press release in local papers.

National Consumer Week: displays in offices and One Stop Shops.

ASK/Talk About Abuse Campaign: Beth Addis and Kathy Young have completed the ASK training and are in the planning stage of cascading the training to all generalist advisers. The Talk About Abuse Campaign was promoted by displaying posters and through twitter.

Off-gas project: As part of a national campaign we participated in research on a number of clients in the county not on mains gas, and how this impacts them. In depth interviews were carried out on a sample of clients and the information fed into the national report. The outcome of which is not available at the time of writing this report.

Self-Employment At the end of 2015 we noticed an increase in the number of people who were unclear about whether they were employed or self employed. This coincided with a national campaign on self-employment and we produced an easy checklist to help people be clear about their employment status. This was published as an article in a number of the county's free magazines and was also used by the Rosslyn Dental Agency for staff and the RSLs to inform their tenants. We promoted the campaign on twitter.

We have continued to spot trends and issues and collect evidence on the impact of unfair policies or practice and poor administration. Last summer Citizens Advice issued new guidance on Bureau Evidence Forms (BEFs), suggesting they should be flagged up in response to national calls for evidence and also when there is a major impact of an unfair policy or practice or a new local issue needs reporting. This new focus means we have not written as many BEFs this year and have concentrated on dealing with local matters by taking them up directly with the organisations concerned. The main issues raised included:

DWP - matters such as Employment Support Allowance (ESA) and Personal Independence Payment (PIP) delays, assessment and medical evidence problems, non-payment of benefit, sanctions and the impact of welfare reforms.

Scams and Fraud - particularly internet and phone scams.

Mobile/broadband contracts particularly difficulties with cancellation and payments

Employment - relating to agency workers, zero hours contracts, bogus self employment and discrimination

Mental Health Problems - concerns about clients who have 'fallen through the net' has also led to better communication with other organisations and updating information and contacts.

All of these topics feed into the National Reports which can be found on the National Citizens Advice website.

Kathy Young
Advice Services Manager – R & C Lead



Better Advice Better Lives Council Tax Project

Report 2015/2016

Overview

Another year and the project has gone from strength to strength, with an increase in achievement against targets and a favourable report from the Welsh Government into just how necessary the project is, not just in Monmouthshire, but the whole of Wales.

Refresher training has been undertaken following minor changes to Universal Credit (UC), which rolled out in Monmouthshire in September. Clients with UC issues are starting to trickle into the bureau. Immigration issues have increased with regard to benefits and with its continued trend more training has been undertaken to ensure we offer quality advice and support to those who need it.

2015/2016 has been another successful year and I am pleased to report that both financial and client numbers have yet again been exceeded, with an increase in both client numbers and financial gains.

The project is now firmly ensconced within Monmouthshire and is in demand with the Gateway Credit Union requesting we operate from more of their locations.

Monmouth office has also requested more presence for the project within that area, as has Abergavenny Food Bank. Abergavenny Community Enterprise (ACE) has secured its own funding for another year, and they have also requested additional outreach coverage.

We are currently looking into the logistics of opening or extending outreaches at these locations and are optimistic of a good outcome.

Targets

Following on from the strength of last year, we continued to see a rise in both client numbers and financial gains. We extended the appointment slots, allowing us to see more clients in the period and are looking to further enlarge availability by exploring longer opening hours at the four offices within Monmouthshire County.

- **Total clients seen 2015/2016** **335 up 67%**
- **Total financial gains 2015/2016** **£419,929 up 105%**

The Future

Changes are already happening. Universal Credit is making its impact, immigration is on the rise and changes to the Welfare State continue to complicate people's lives.

With the ongoing support of the Welsh Government, following their findings on the necessity of projects such as this throughout Wales, as well as bureau support throughout the area, the project is thriving. This allows us to meet the current demands and continue with the project's existing mandate – to help the people of Monmouthshire maximise their income through benefit take-up.

Training is ongoing, additional outreaches will be established and the needs of the community will continue to be met to the best of our ability.

Darren Williams
BABL Project Worker



Better Advice Better Lives Health Project

Report 2015/2016

The project is now in its 15th year and continues to provide an invaluable service to our clients. In the 2015/2016 year all targets were exceeded and the service has continued to be provided across the county by four part time case workers. Against a target of 253 the actual number of clients seen was 307. The total amount of confirmed financial gain for our clients was £273,432 across the county.

Following the integration of the Monmouth office into the county Service Lou Allerhand was appointed to cover the project in the Abergavenny and Monmouth offices. We also have three project workers in the south of the county.

We have seen a huge increase in the extent and diversity that the role now demands, with many applications for Employment Support Allowance now being withdrawn or refused to applicants, to such an extent that it requires the Project Worker to pursue a mandatory reconsideration and subsequent appeal for their client. A client case can take up to nine months before conclusion which can cause considerable difficulties for the client. This also applies to the other benefits of Personal Independence Payment and Attendance Allowance. However, we are not daunted and continue to provide an invaluable service to disabled and vulnerable people throughout the county, mainly at our outreach venues or when a home visit is made to the very elderly or housebound clients. The table below will give some idea of how much in actual gains have been made for the clients that we see and in many cases has changed their lives for the better.

Gains	BABL Health Project
Attendance Allowance	£45,646.80
Disability Living Allowance	£7,813.00
Employment Support Allowance	£80,942.80
Personal Independence Payment	£138,780.00
Grants	£250
TOTAL	£273,342.60

The new rules for claiming a Blue Badge are also causing client problems and there is some concern that the decision makers are not appropriately trained. Several case studies of clients have been submitted to the National project team and it is hoped that a campaign will arise from this to challenge the process.

Current funding from Welsh Government is only guaranteed until 31 March 2017 and it is understood that there is consideration for continuance but at the time of writing this report the future of the project is uncertain.

**Yvonne Havard
Project Manager**



Lou Allerhand



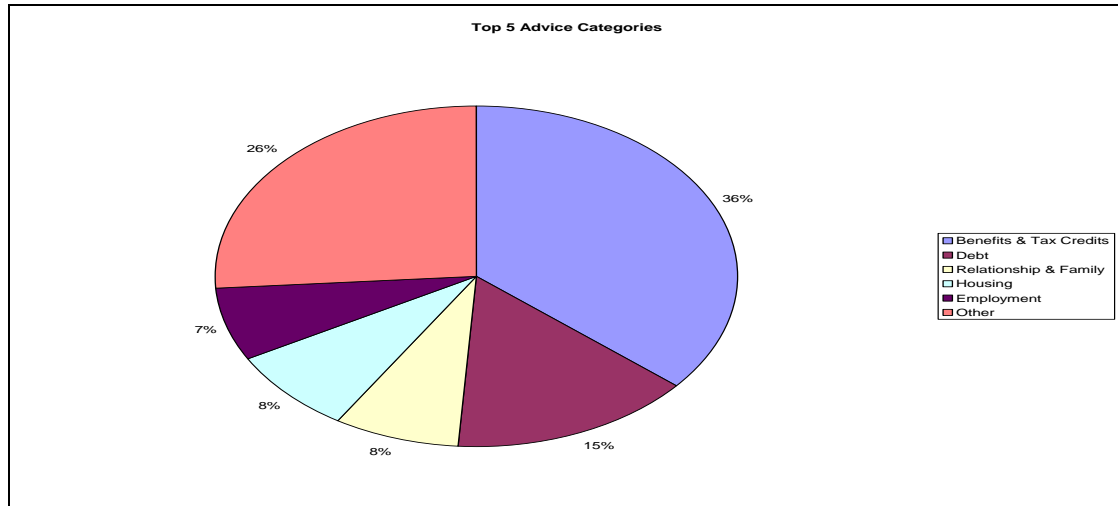
Jenny Hart



Alison May

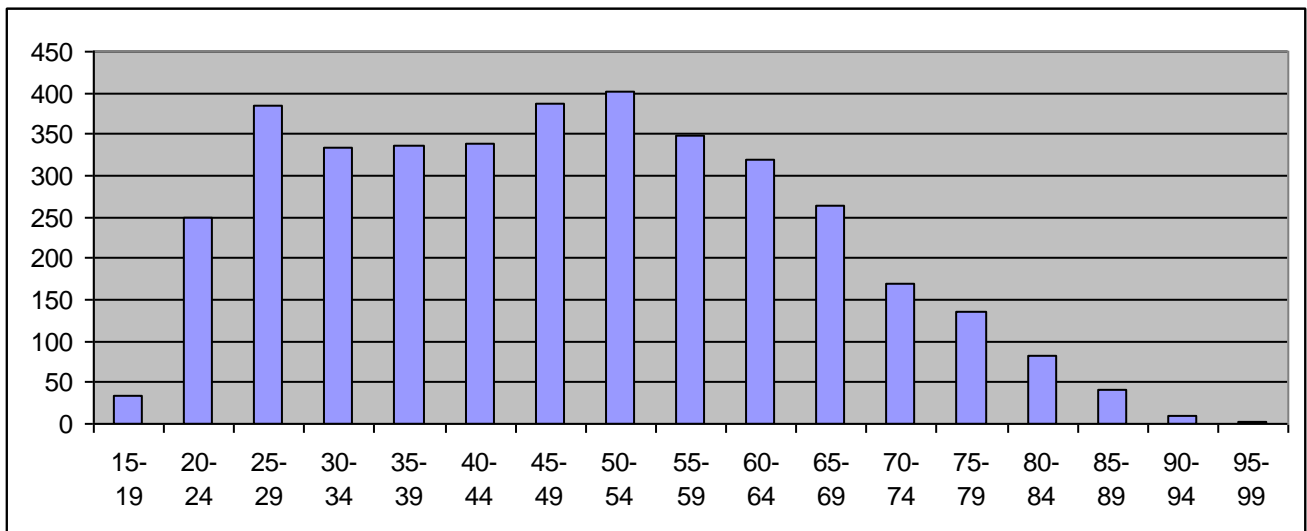
Our Statistics

During 2015/2016 we saw 4,209 clients throughout our service. The issues involved were varied. Following trends the key areas were Benefits and Tax Credits 36%, Debt 15%, Relationship and family 8%, Housing 8% and Employment 7%, other issues made up 26% of the total clients as you can see from the chart below.



Our work with clients with debt issues continues to be one of our main issues. During 2015/2016 we saw £133,854 worth of debt written off for our clients. We also managed to achieve an income gain of £286,015 for them.

The gender and age of our clients continues to stay at much the same levels as previously, as can be seen from the chart below. The top age ranges who attend for advice are those aged 25-29, 45-49 and 50-54. The majority of clients who come to see us are women with 56% of our clients for 2015/16 being female and 44% being male.



Advice Needs Analysis

During 2015/2016 we carried out an Advice Needs Analysis for Monmouthshire, comparing the service we offered against a Community Profile on the County which had been prepared for Monmouthshire County Council.

Our analysis showed where the needs of the residents of the County would be and what we are doing to meet those needs. The report covered four key areas:

Geography

We provide either a main office or an outreach in the areas where there is greatest population density. For more rural clients unable to reach our offices then we do provide telephone support through the Adviceline service. We continue to look for further outreach locations to provide access for all.

Community

The number of clients who visit us and their ages are in line with the population figures for the county from the 2011 census. The percentage of residents over 65 in Monmouthshire is 20.85% which is high by national standards but with 23.9% of our clients being over 65 our client numbers do reflect this.

Deprivation

The percentage of residents in Monmouthshire in long term unemployment is 26% which is below both the National and Eastern Wales average. As stated previously employment advice is one of our lower advice categories with only 7% of clients requesting advice on this topic and this is, therefore, in line with the statistics.

Gross earnings in Monmouthshire are low and the area has weak economic growth and this is reflected with our higher levels of advice being given on benefit and debt.

Our current statistics show a larger proportion of our clients with disabilities or long term health conditions than in the community profile.

There is a very low level of social housing in Monmouthshire and this does not therefore necessitate a great demand for services with regard to housing.

Skills

Statistically English is the main language in Monmouthshire with only 9% of the population saying that they can speak Welsh. We are able to offer interpreters for our clients who are unable to communicate fully in English or would prefer to speak in their own language.

Monmouthshire County Council is working towards ensuring full broadband coverage for Monmouthshire but we do offer support to our clients with making on line applications etc if they are unable to access the internet themselves.

Our Funders

We gratefully acknowledge the support of all of our funders



**Abergavenny
Town Council**



**Caldicot
Town Council**



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

**Monmouthshire
County Council**



**Chepstow
Town Council**



**Monmouth
Town Council**



**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**



**Caerwent Community Council
Llantilio Pertholey Community Council
Mathern Community Council
Poors Allotment Trust**

**Rogiet Community Council
Tidenham Parish Council
Usk Town Council**

Donations were also received from the Monmouthshire Masonic Trust Fund and the Friends of Monmouthshire County Citizens Advice.

**Llanover Community Council
Magor with Undy Community Council
Mitchel Troy Community Council
Portskewett & Sudbrook Community Council
Shirenewton Community Council
Trellech United Community Council**

Our Opening Times

	Drop in sessions for gateway advice	Appointments	Extra sessions by appointment only
Abergavenny Office 19a & b Cross Street Abergavenny NP7 5EW	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 10am – 1pm Information also available from 10am to 3pm	Available Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10am to 3pm	Better Advice Better Lives (help with benefit issues) Wednesday 11am to 1pm Friday 10am to 3pm
Caldicot Office 5a Church Road Caldicot NP26 4BP	Monday & Thursday 10am to 12 noon Tuesday & Wednesday 10am to 1pm	Available Tuesday Wednesday & Thursday 10am to 1pm	Better Advice Better Lives (help with benefit issues) Wednesday 10am to 1pm
Chepstow Office The Gate House, High Street Chepstow NP16 5LH	Monday Tuesday Wednesday & Friday 10am to 3pm	Available Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10am to 3pm	Better Advice Better Lives (help with benefit issues) Thursday 10am to 12pm
Monmouth Office 23a Whitecross Street Monmouth NP25 3BY	Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10am to 2pm	Available Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10am to 2pm	Better Advice Better Lives (help with benefit issues) Tuesday 10am to 3pm
Abergavenny Tudor Gate Doctors Surgery	Better Advice Better Lives (help with benefit issues) Thursday 1pm to 3pm		
Abergavenny Abergavenny Community Enterprise, Hillcrest Road	Better Advice Better Lives (help with benefit issues) Tuesday 12.30pm to 3pm		
Chepstow Community Hospital	Better Advice Better Lives (help with benefit issues) Tuesdays 9.30am to 12pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm Thursdays 1.30pm to 6.00pm		
Usk Usk Community Hub Maryport Street	Thursdays 10.30am to 12.30pm		
Wyesham Woodland View Community Shop	By appointment only		

For your information - These are our opening times as at 31 October 2016

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 5

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held
at County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 20th October, 2016 at 2.00 pm

PRESENT: County Councillor J. Higginson (Chairman)
County Councillor P. Jordan (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: D. Batrouni, J. Prosser, D. Blakebrough, M. Powell, V. Smith, G. Burrows, R. Chapman, P. Clarke, D. Dovey, G. Down, A. Easson, D. Edwards, R. Edwards, P. Farley, P.A. Fox, R.J.W. Greenland, L. Guppy, E. Hackett Pain, B. Hayward, M. Hickman, P.A.D. Hobson, G. Howard, S. Howarth, D. Jones, P. Jones, P. Murphy, B. Strong, A. Watts, A. Webb, K. Williams and A. Wintle

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Paul Matthews	Chief Executive
Kellie Beirne	Chief Officer, Enterprise
Peter Davies	Chief Officer, Resources
Will McLean	Head of Democracy, Engagement and Improvement
Joy Robson	Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer
Robert Tranter	Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer
Nicola Perry	Senior Democracy Officer
Simon Kneafsey	21 st Century Schools Programme Manager

APOLOGIES:

Councillors J. Crook, D. Evans, J. George, R. Harris, S. Jones, S.B. Jones, J. Marshall, F. Taylor, P. Watts and S. White

2. Chairman's report and receipt of petitions

In opening the meeting the Chairman held a minute silence in memory of the Aberfan disaster.

The Leader took a moment to reflect and advised that Monmouthshire County Council would be observing the minute silence the following day. The Group Leaders echoed the sentiments of the Leader and a suggestion was made that the Leader and Chairman write to the Borough and offer the condolences of the people of Monmouthshire.

We received the Chairman's report.

County Councillor A. Webb presented a petition for a speed limit change on the A446, between Tintern and Llandogo.

The Chair of Strong Communities Select Committee referred to a recommendation had been made by the committee that a Members Seminar be arranged regarding speeding and road safety, and requested that this be followed up.

3. Declarations of Interest

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held at County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 20th October, 2016 at 2.00 pm

Declarations of interest were made by Members under the relevant item.

4. Public Open Forum

There were no items for the public open forum.

5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2016 at 2.00pm were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

In doing so it was noted that item 13.1 should reflect that the Cabinet Member advised that all promises made to residents would be kept.

6. To note the action list of the last meeting

We received the Action List of the meeting held on 22nd September 2016.

County Councillor Greenland provided an update regarding the Velothon, following discussions with Run4Wales it had been agreed that there would be a rolling road closure for the 2017 Velothon professional race. Therefore the road closures would be much less than in previous years. We also heard there would be a shorter race, turning left at the A4042, and out of the County. Run4Wales would engage with businesses regarding the route at an early stage.

7. To receive the minutes of Audit Committee 15th September 2016

8. Notices of Motion

The Chairman advised that Council would receive item 9a ahead of 8a.

8.1. Motion from County Councillor A. Easson

That this Council will not employ anybody on "flex contract" terms and conditions. Furthermore this Council will discourage, in fact, demand that businesses supplying contract services to Monmouthshire will also not employ any such conditions.

County Councillor P. Clarke declared a personal, prejudicial interest pursuant to the Member's Code of Conduct as a Director of the Glen-yr-Afon House and Three Salmons Hotel which, from time to time, contracts services to MCC, and left the meeting during discussion.

In moving the motion Councillor Easson stated that MCC should not entertain such contracts, which could be used as a way of avoiding zero hour contracts. It thought that the issue could also be discussed at Audit Committee.

Members agreed that further clarification to explain flex contracts was needed, and this could be addressed through Audit Committee.

Councillor Easson proposed to amend the motion to include:
'and move this discussion to the Audit Committee for determination'.

The proposal was duly seconded, and the motion was carried.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of County Council held
at County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 20th October, 2016 at 2.00 pm**

9. Report of the Head of People Services and Information Governance

9.1. Zero Hour Contracts

The Cabinet Member presented the report to provide full council with an analysis of the current use of zero hour / non-guaranteed hours (NGH) / casual contracts across the organisation, requested by full council on 22nd September.

During discussion we noted the following points:

- A few discrepancies were currently being investigated and it was hoped we would be completely compliant with the current guidance as soon as possible.
- Members received a list of areas where the contracts applied and were able to identify the services unable to exist without those arrangements.
- The Leader of the Opposition stated that the number of zero hour contracts had more than doubled in two years, as a result of cuts and an increased reliance on casual staff.
- Members were provided with details of zero-hour contracts with Newport City Council, but felt this was comparing bad practice against bad practice, and was not a helpful comparison. It was disappointing that at 9% MCC is above the 5% acceptable average.
- A Member referred to a few people who had worked 20 hours, sometimes more, for the last couple of years and were still on zero hour contracts. It was a concern that these issues were not identified through appraisal systems.
- It was asked if the Conservative/Liberal administration were confident and satisfied that none of the 318 people on zero hour contracts have worked regular, weekly hours over a period more than three months as part of main stream position.
- It was hoped that the new delivery model would not impact the people on zero hour contracts.
- The Leader thanked officers for the information and recognised that with more work to be done, we were heading in the right direction, and was reassured with the triggers for assessment. The Leader stated that he refused to take lectures from the Labour Group, whose many authorities across Wales were still unable to provide the living wage, unlike this Conservative controlled Council.
- The Chief Executive suggested that the detail should be referred to the Audit Committee and agreed to discuss with the Chair of Audit.

County Councillor Howarth proposed a motion that the Audit Committee look at the zero hour contracts within Monmouthshire County Council, and a report be presented to Council at the earliest time possible. The motion was duly seconded.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

Council resolved to accept the recommendations in the report, along with the proposed motion:

- Council consider the information provided.

10. Report of the Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

10.1. Standards Committee Selection Panel Report

The Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer presented a report explaining that two new independent members of the Standards Committee are required to be appointed following the completion of the terms of office of two current independent members on 13th January 2017.

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Members were asked to recommend criteria for appointment and to establish a Panel to make recommendations to the Council for appointment.

We were advised that a Community Councillor from One Voice Wales and the Lay Member, High Sheriff had agreed to sit on the panel on this occasion. Furthermore, an advertisement for independent members would be placed in the South Wales Argus, and associated newspapers, with the deadline date being 18th November 2016.

We noted that existing members of Standards Committee could be nominated.

On behalf of the Conservative Group, the Leader nominated Councillor P. Jordan.

On behalf of the Labour Group Councillor Batrouni nominated Councillor J. Higginson.

On behalf of the Independent Group nominated Councillor F. Taylor.

Upon being put to the vote, Council resolved to accept the recommendations in the report:

- To appoint three elected members to a Panel for the purposes of Regulations 15 and 16 of the Standards Committee (Wales) Regulations 2001.
- To ask One Voice Wales to appoint a Community Council member to the Panel.
- That the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the political group leaders, appoints a lay member to the Panel.
- To adopt and publish criteria for the appointment of the independent members to the Standards Committee that require: Political independence; the ability to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of legislation and guidance relating to Codes of Conduct in public life; experience in a role with public accountability; ability to challenge the Council in relation to its standards in a fair and consistent way; understanding and respect for confidentiality; demonstration of personal and financial integrity.

11. Report of the Chief Executive

11.1. **Future Schools Programme**

County Councillor L. Guppy declared a personal non-prejudicial interest pursuant to the Member's Code of Conduct in relation to her role as a LEA Governor at Caldicot School, and a family member attending the school.

County Councillor D. Blakebrough declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest pursuant to the Member's Code of Conduct in relation to her role as a Governor at Monmouth Comprehensive School, and a child who is a student at the school.

County Councillor R. Edwards declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest pursuant to the Member's Code of Conduct as a family member attends Monmouth Comprehensive School.

The Cabinet Member welcomed The Head Teacher from Caldicot School, and Deputy Head from Monmouth Comprehensive school to the meeting. Council were presented with a report which provided an update on the progress with the Future Schools Programme and to suggest changes to the approved capital programme that will enable full delivery of two new schools to replace Caldicot School and Monmouth Secondary School.

The Chairman advised that he had received a letter on behalf of the pupils of Caldicot School thanking MCC for its decision to build the new school, and expressed gratitude to Councillors.

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Following a presentation by the 21st Century Schools Manager debate ensued, during which time the following points were noted:

- County Councillor Hayward expresses disappointment that the budget was already 15% overspent and questioned the justification for this. It was thought that fixed costs should be identified particularly as ground conditions were known prior to the start of the build. Further explanation regarding payment of costs was requested.
- There were concerns that the demolishing of the swimming pool would mean there would be no pool available for at least 12 months.
- The Cabinet Member responded that the cost of building materials and labour costs would remain the same regardless of the chosen site. The disruption to the school was known, and had been planned for. The costs were now fixed and any overspend would now be picked up by contractors.
- It was confirmed that the costs of borrowing for the additional capital budget required would come out of the maintenance costs for the school, not staff costs. The cost of maintenance for a new school would be minimal.
- It was confirmed that the school requires continuity of use of the sports hall, and there would be no other option than to close the hall for a period of time
- Members referred to 2.1.3 in the report:
Agree to give delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Chief Officer Resources and the Head of Finance to determine the best funding package for the Council contribution of £5.95 million having regard to:
 - *Opportunity to release additional Council owned assets for disposal;*
 - *Prudential borrowing opportunities with annualised contributions from Caldicot and Monmouth School budgets recognising significant energy efficiency improvements and elimination of any material need for building maintenance for an extended period.*
 - *Inclusion within the Medium Term Financial Plan of a revenue provision (£476k) to finance the full £5.95 million by prudential borrowing over 25 years.*

County Councillor Batrouni stated that he could not support the second bullet point of the recommendation. There were also concerns regarding the assets available to be sold as per the first bullet point.

- In response the Cabinet Member explained that the assets were surplus buildings under the current plans for rationalisation, and county farms currently under offer. The point regarding schools was that any savings within school should be utilised to affect the prudential borrowing, which would be the smallest amount needed to borrow. He added it was not a case of staff reductions to achieve, but achieved savings assisting in the process.
- Members reiterated that concerns surrounded money management and failing promises, particularly that there has been a £17 million overspend, and the cost of the replacement pool requires further work to ascertain.

County Councillor J. Higginson left at 16:10pm

- The school would be designed for complete disabled access.
- Members expressed a lack of confidence in the Program Board and stated that Members should be more heavily involved in the decision making process.
- Councillor A. Watts expressed concern surrounding the lack of funding available for future development of Chepstow School.
- Councillor Down deplored the suggestion that the school should pick up the cost of interest from the borrowed money, unless the saving from the maintenance costs could be confirmed. He added that, as Councillor Hackett Pain had confirmed at the last Council meeting that the development of the pool would go ahead as promised, the

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held at County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 20th October, 2016 at 2.00 pm

Cabinet Member must have known at that time that the pool would not be built in accordance with promises made, and ought to consider her position.

- We were advised that the commitment to the pool remains and it was expected to be completed by the middle of 2018. With regards to financing, there would be another report to Council before the end of this year.

Councillor Howarth proposed an amendment to recommendation 2.1.3 bullet point 2, to read:

- *Prudential borrowing opportunities would be explored.*

The motion was duly seconded and Members debated the motion:

- Councillor V. Smith stressed that Members were misconstruing the bullet point in question, and highlighted that the schools would have a budget based on floor space, and heating a new design would hold a lower cost.
- The Chief Executive provided context to the issue, and provided information regarding the legal funding of schools.
- The Cabinet Member asked, if the recommendation is removed, which services Members suggest are stopped in order to provide the funding.
- It was confirmed that the energy savings would come out of all school funding and used partially to service the funding shortfall to move this program forward.

Council agreed to hold a recorded vote on the proposed amended recommendation. The outcome was as follows:

For: County Councillors Batrouni, Blakebrough, Chapman, Down, Easson, Farley, Hayward, Howarth, D. Jones, A. Watts, Williams, Wintle.

Against: County Councillors Burrows, Clarke, Dovey, R. Edwards, D. Edwards, Fox, Greenland, Guppy, Hackett Pain, Hickman, Hobson, Howard, P. Jones, Jordan, Murphy, Powell, Prosser, Smith, Strong, Webb.

With 12 for, and 22 against, the motion was defeated.

Therefore, Council resolved to agree the recommendations in the report:

- The Future Schools Programme Board recommends that Council:
 - Approve increases to the following capital budgets:
 - Caldicot School from £ 34.9 million to £40.175 million
 - Monmouth School from £41.049 million to £47.674 million
 - Approve an additional funding requirement of £11.9 million for the delivery of this programme to be financed by way of:
 - A 50% contribution from Wales Government - £5.95 million (confirmation attached at Appendix 1).
 - A 50% contribution from the Council - £5.95 million
 - Agree to give delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Chief Officer Resources and the Head of Finance to determine the best funding package for the Council contribution of £5.95 million having regard too:
 - Opportunity to release additional Council owned assets for disposal;

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Minutes of the meeting of County Council held at County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 20th October, 2016 at 2.00 pm

- Prudential borrowing opportunities with annualised contributions from Caldicot and Monmouth School budgets recognising significant energy efficiency improvements and elimination of any material need for building maintenance for an extended period.
- Inclusion within the Medium Term Financial Plan of a revenue provision (£476k) to finance the full £5.95 million by prudential borrowing over 25 years.
- Agree that the revenue budget savings required to fund the additional borrowing will be considered as part of the budget and MTFP process
- Agree to consider a revised approach to replacement leisure facilities on the Monmouth campus as set out in paragraphs 3.13 and 3.14. A further report will be provided to Council in January 2017.

The meeting ended at 17:10pm

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ACTION LIST
MEETING OF MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
20th October 2016

MINUTE NUMBER AND SUBJECT	ACTION TO BE TAKEN	TO BE ACTIONED BY	PROGRESS
Item 1 Petition	To follow up the recommendation made by Strong Communities Select Committee that a Member Seminar be arranged for road safety issues.	H. Ilett	Seminar to be held 8 th November 2016.
Item 6 Audit Committee Minutes	Following the cancellation of the October meeting, it was requested that the Chief Executive discuss the issue of sparse agendas with Chair of Audit.	P. Matthews	
Item 9 Zero Hour Contracts Item 8 Flex Contracts	To suggest that zero hour contracts be discussed and scrutinised at Audit Committee. To be forwarded to Audit Committee for discussion.	P. Matthews	

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 7

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Democratic Services Committee held
at County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Monday, 17th October, 2016 at 2.00 pm

PRESENT: County Councillor F. Taylor (Chairman)
County Councillor D. Evans (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: D. Edwards, J. Higginson, P. Jones, S. Jones,
J. Prosser, V. Smith and A. Webb

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

John Pearson	Local Democracy Manager
Nicola Perry	Senior Democracy Officer
Kellie Beirne	Chief Officer, Enterprise

APOLOGIES:

County Councillors R. Harris

1. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

2. Public open forum

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

3. To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 2016

The minutes of the meeting of Democratic Services Committee held on 27th June 2016 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

4. To note the action list of the previous meeting

We noted the action list of the meeting held on 27th June 2016.

5. Minister's Statement /Local Government Reform

We welcomed Frank Cuthbert, Head of Democracy, Diversity and Remuneration Team, Welsh Government to the meeting who was in attendance to address the committee in reference to the recent statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government.

Following presentation of the Statement, Members were invited to discuss and comment. In doing so we noted the following points:

- Members of Democratic Services Committee welcomed the statement.
- Members looked forward to engaging in the consultation process and suggested that a definite timeline would aide debate. It was expected that a timeline would appear in the consultation paper.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Democratic Services Committee held at County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Monday, 17th October, 2016 at 2.00 pm

- Members were interested in the constitution of the Independent Panel and asked that the information be shared when possible.
- A concern was raised regarding political uncertainty in terms of bring forward the new Bill, and the danger of it running over into the next assembly year.
- Members discussed the reorganisation of town and community councils, and referred to the merging community councils into one town council.
- The Chief Officer explained that the structure of the City Deal would be a joint cabinet committee, which would encourage joint working, and would see the establishment of regional delivery vehicles.
- A Member stressed that Monmouthshire should be a major part of the metro system.

The Chair thanked Mr. Cuthbert for attending and noted that members recognised that any changes must be about improving outcomes for our citizens.

6. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report

The Local Democracy Manager presented the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' (IRP) Draft Annual Report. It was noted that the proposals include a small increase (£100) in the basic salary for County Councillors and no increase for senior salaries (other than the increase in basic salary). Feedback was invited and the following points were raised:

- Clarification was sought regarding the £150 for each member (£500 for special cases). It was explained that the £100 mentioned was the increase in a County Councillor's basic salary. The £150 may be awarded to town and community councillors in certain circumstances.
- It was suggested that the caring responsibilities allowance of up to £403 should be increased. Declaring an interest because of his caring responsibilities, County Councillor D. Edwards supported the view that £403 was an inadequate amount per month noting that carers, on average, are paid £12.00 p.h. and stated that this point should be brought to the attention of the IRP. It was suggested that concerns about the level of the Carer Allowance should be made as part of the consultation response to the Panel.
- Representation on the National Parks Authority was queried, noting that it was unclear if representatives should represent Monmouthshire generally or more specifically by living in and representing a ward that lies within the National Park. It was also queried if Monmouthshire should have more than the current two representatives, as it is the second largest area within the National Park. A response was provided that there is a conflict between local representation and political balance referring to the Environment Act that states that local authorities, when making nominations to the National Park Authority should appoint members who represent wards within the National Park. This does not override the ability for local authorities to appoint members to committees / joint bodies to reflect political balance. This can cause problems where members don't live in the National Park area. It was stated that it was likely that Monmouthshire CC's representation on the National Parks Authority will reduce to one member in future.
- Concern was expressed that it will be difficult to encourage people to become county councillors in future mentioning the varying workload in different councils. It was accepted that different councils have varying workloads, ward areas and population, and also confirmed that there are no town or community councils in

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Democratic Services Committee held at County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Monday, 17th October, 2016 at 2.00 pm

Cardiff. The inability of some fulltime workers to consider the role in practical terms with a basic salary of £13,400, and the consequent likelihood of missing out on good quality candidates, was also commented upon. It was felt that this was an important point to raise. It was agreed that the need to attract suitable persons to the role of county councillor is an important point adding that there is conflict between the viability of becoming a councillor in practical terms and the public purse and in order to have a full time councillors, financial constraints would require fewer people to undertake the role.

- Regarding the Diversity campaign, the Welsh Government is working with employers to encourage, and release, employees to undertake councillor duties.
- It was noted that the Local Government Measure permits councils to set the times of their meetings. It was commented that evening meetings would be much easier for councillors in full time employment to attend.
- It was suggested that the Welsh Government and the IRP communicate with residents to educate them about the role of the county councillor, the allowances available and the time contributed individually by councillors to improve perceptions of the role.
- It was commented that Scrutiny Committee Chairs don't have enough support noting that in Monmouthshire, there is one scrutiny manager with an increasingly high workload due to the volume of scrutiny required (as acknowledged in the IRP report) and requested that this point is added to any feedback. It was acknowledged that there is an increased demand for scrutiny and whilst the function is working well, there was concern about the amount of support available. It was explained that the support referred to in the report was the tools to do jobs (laptop, phone etc.) as opposed to the staffing structures within an authority.
- It was suggested that councillors should have an attendance allowance, noting that a small number of members infrequently attend meetings. A Member supported the suggestion of publishing individual councillor's allowances and attendance. Live streamed meetings also allow electors to transparently see and hear the contribution of their representatives.
- It was agreed to seek the views of members regarding their support requirements, their awareness of allowances and any other comments to compile a formal response. Concern was expressed that members are not using the allowance for reimbursement for the costs of care, possibly due to negative perceptions.

7. Community Governance Update

The Chief Officer for Enterprise presented a report on Community Governance. It was reported that the comments arising from presentation of the paper, considered at the Democratic Services Workshop in September, will be considered by Council in December 2016 prior to further consultation and engagement with the existing Area Committees.

It was confirmed that three of the four Area Committees have considered the report and there have been differing, but mainly positive, comments so far. Whilst consistency is sought, there is recognition that there is no one size to fit all. All options will be presented to Council in December.

An independent consultant has been engaged to undertake more specific work to

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Democratic Services Committee held at County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Monday, 17th October, 2016 at 2.00 pm

provide more detailed options to include terms of reference, voting rights and to include a review of the Whole Place Team, its engagement and work at community level.

The Head of Democracy, Engagement and Improvement will be meeting with the Member Working Party that identified Option 2 as the preferred model (with the addition of an additional single representative of the town or community councils) to ensure the proposals are agreed and ready for consideration by Council. It was confirmed that representation for the town or community council should be a Member not the Clerk.

It was agreed that a key issue is purpose, outcomes and progress with clear roles and lines of reporting for Clusters and Whole Place, and also how to work collectively to solve problems. It was agreed that Members will have the opportunity to see the draft document before consideration by Council.

It was agreed that clarity was important going forward and that cluster meetings need terms of reference to avoid duplication.

8. Diversity in Democracy Update

It was reported that Welsh Government is supporting promotion of Diversity in Democracy, encouraging people to be elected as county councillors. It was noted that this Council had informal mentees as part of the programme. An event last week launched the second phase of the programme. It was acknowledged that some people are deterred from standing for office sometimes by barriers and the challenge is how to get people of different backgrounds to come forward. The following points were made:

- It was commented that a lot more needs to be done in terms of education, led by Welsh Government. It was agreed that it was Diversity in Democracy was a good programme to be part of.
- Members who were involved were thanked for their participation. The ongoing drive to achieve diverse membership and nominees within parties was recognised.
- It was reported that an exit survey (for those not standing for office again) and a further survey of all candidates standing in community and county level elections will be conducted to identify who was and wasn't elected with a view to compiling a profile of Local Government post 2017 elections compared to post 2012 elections.
- It was suggested that consideration of an education and citizenship programme should be added to the forward work planner to increase understanding of a role in public life.
- It was commented that training for both Officers and Members on equalities was required to consider the changing culture over the next decade. It was suggested that main council meetings could be signed.

9. Election 2017 Advertising

Consideration was given to a proposed A4 leaflet to be circulated with the council tax demand to promote participation in the forthcoming election, a reminder people to register to vote and other information. Members were invited to make suggestions for inclusion to the Local Democracy Manager. The Communications Team will also review the leaflet to make it a more attractive document.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Democratic Services Committee held at County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Monday, 17th October, 2016 at 2.00 pm

Information was provided that there is a webpage dedicated to next year's election including an online nomination facility.

It was queried if there was any budget available to provide a further leaflet, not necessarily for distribution at the same time, to promote the role of a county councillor and to provide information on the average hours spent and the allowances available. It was discussed if the leaflet could be circulated with the registration letters sent to all household in February and explained that no budget has been announced by Welsh Government for letters next year. If a budget is available, a leaflet could easily be included.

10. To discuss the future work plan

The future work plan was received. The following items were added:

- Information leaflet on the role of a county councillor, time put in by individual councillors and allowances available.
- Schedule of activities to encourage people to vote– members were invited to participate and to register interest in doing so with the Chair.
- Formal Response to the draft Independent Remuneration Panel Report. (Members were reminded that they can also send individual responses).

11. To note the date and time of next meeting as 2.00 pm, Monday 23rd January 2017

Monday 23rd January 2016 at 2.00pm

The meeting ended at 4.15 pm

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SUBJECT: Proposal to revise the Policy on Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) in respect of Supported Borrowing for 2016/17 onwards

MEETING: Council

DATE: 1st December 2016

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1 PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is:

- 1.1 To reflect the outcome of the review into the Council's annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) charge related to supported borrowing financing element of capital expenditure
- 1.2 To provide Full Council with a proposal to revise the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2016/17 in respect of Supported Borrowing.
- 1.3 To outline both short to medium term revenue consequences of the proposal as well as introducing a fairer and simpler approach to be adopted for current and future council tax payers

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council approves:

A change to the approach concerning the Minimum Revenue Provision calculation on Supported Borrowing (Option 2 approach) moving it from a 4% reducing balance basis to a 2% straight line basis, in common with many welsh authorities.

3 BACKGROUND

Legislative framework and guidance

- 3.1 The concept on the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) was introduced when the Local Government Capital Finance System was changed on 1 April 1990. This required local authorities to assess their outstanding debt and to make an annual charge to the General Fund of 4% of the General Fund Debt (capital financing requirement CFR).
- 3.2 The arrangements were further endorsed in Wales, under regulation 22 of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 , which required local authorities to charge to their revenue account for each financial year MRP to account for the cost of their unfinanced capital expenditure i.e. their borrowings.
- 3.3 The 2008 Regulations revised the former regulation 22, in favour of replacing detailed rules with a simple duty for an authority each year to make an amount of MRP which it considers to be "**prudent**". The regulation does not itself define "prudent provision". However, the

MRP guidance makes recommendations to authorities on the interpretation of that term. These revisions introduced a wide, but not exhaustive, variety of methods which Councils can adopt when calculating MRP.

- 3.4 The broad aim of a prudent provision was to ensure that debt is repaid over a period that is reasonably commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure provides benefits or in case of borrowing supported by government, reasonably commensurate with the period implicit in the determination of the grant, although Councils retain a discretion to pay more than the minimum calculated sum.
- 3.5 The issue of statutory MRP guidance has been made possible by section 238(2) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, which amends section 21 of the Local Government Act 2003. Section 21 already allowed regulations to be made on accounting practices and is the power under which the existing MRP regulations were made. The amendment inserts a new section 21(1A) into the 2003 Act, enabling Welsh Ministers also to issue guidance on accounting practices and thus on MRP. Authorities are obliged by new section 21(1B) to “have regard” to such guidance – which is exactly the same duty as applies to other pieces of statutory guidance including, for example, the CIPFA Prudential Code, the CIPFA Treasury Management Code.
- 3.6 Welsh government has issued statutory guidance that councils are required to “take account of” in deciding what is “prudent”. Authorities are also asked to prepare an annual statement of their policy on making MRP for submission to their full council. In Monmouthshire this is included with the Treasury Strategy report to full Council before the start of each financial year.
- 3.7 The guidance makes some assumptions; firstly that we can easily distinguish between schemes funded by “supported” borrowing and other borrowing (sometimes referred to as “prudential borrowing”).
- 3.8 Pragmatically the proportion of an individual asset that has been funded by Supported or Unsupported borrowing is often unexplicit, as funding decisions are commonly made on the basis of Treasury and cashflow consequences rather than specific project or asset funding
- 3.9 In addition it appears to assume that where there is borrowing on a scheme/asset it is either “supported” or not. Neither of these assumptions are necessarily true, although the guidance does recognize that it is conventional where depreciation approaches have been used not to start depreciation until the asset comes into use. We have used this convention (which has also been included within MRP regulations) to delay the commencement of MRP on the borrowing funded costs of any capital development.
- 3.10 Given MRP reviews are an increasing consideration for all Welsh Authorities, WAO has helpfully issued some general guidance to all Welsh authorities to reflect upon in their consideration. A copy of this guidance is included in Appendix 1. They remind Councils that 4% reducing balance should not be regarded as simplistically equating to an average asset useful life of 25 year. They also conclude, ultimately, it is a matter for individual Councils to determine what is prudent with consideration given to the statutory guidance provided.
- 3.11 So it is important to recognise that whilst Authorities must always have regard to the guidance, having done so, they may in some cases consider that a more individually designed MRP approach is justified. That could involve taking account of detailed local circumstances, including specific project timetables and revenue-earning profiles.

3.12 Options for Prudent Provision in the statutory guidance

The guidance envisages that authorities can distinguish between borrowing that is “supported” (through the RSG system) and other borrowing. The guidance also sets out four options for making MRP;

Option 1 - the regulatory method – this is basically the “old” system for determining MRP as though the 2003 regulations had not been revoked in 2008. So it involves making a 4% of outstanding debt provision, amended by a calculation on the credit ceiling and capital finance requirement on 1 April 2004, and the “commutation adjustment” which arises because authorities incurred losses when the Government commuted annual grant related an adjustment to home improvement grants in 1992.

Option 2 - the CFR method - this is a simplification of the above and involves simply setting MRP equal to 4% of the non-housing CFR at the end of the preceding financial year.

Note: Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) is a measure of the underlying need to borrow for capital purposes. When capital expenditure is not paid for immediately, by resources such as capital receipts, capital grants or other contributions, then the CFR increases.

Option 3 - the asset life method – this method requires MRP to be charged over the asset life using either an equal instalment method or annuity method, and permits an additional voluntary provision in any year which may be matched by an appropriate reduction in a subsequent year’s MRP. Equal instalment involves paying the same amount each year. Annuity method involves smaller payments in the early years and larger payments in the latter years, effectively recognising the time value of money. Commencement of MRP can be made in the financial year following the one in which the asset becomes operational.

Option 4 - the depreciation method – this requires depreciation accounting to be followed, including impairment should assets last for a shorter period than originally envisaged, until the element of the asset funded by borrowing has been paid in full.

Current Policy

- 3.13 This report pertains to the Council’s Supported borrowing (option 2) consideration. Members may recall a similar report on 15th December 2015 to consider changes to the minimum revenue calculation affecting Unsupported Borrowing (option 3).
- 3.14 Currently the Authority uses Option 2 the CFR method in respect of supported capital expenditure funded from borrowing. Under this option, MRP is calculated at 4% on a reducing balance basis. MRP amounts repaid are recalculated each year on the revised balance. The effect of this is that past borrowing liabilities are never completely extinguished, and for instance after 50 years £10million of the original £80million capital financing requirement remains outstanding.

Proposed Revised Approach for Supported Borrowing

- 3.15 Increasingly Local authorities are relooking at their MRP calculation to reduce the pressure on the revenue budget whilst still ensuring that a prudent level of provision is set aside. It should be stressed the change to MRP calculation should not be regarded as a saving, it is more accurately just a beneficial change in cash flows.

- 3.16 An analysis MCC's asset portfolio, afforded by capital, indicates an average weighted life of circa 53 years outstanding. To enable such a calculation, it has been necessary to attribute an arbitrary economic useful life of 99 years to assets that are not traditionally depreciated, and which from a depreciation point of view would be effectively presumed as having an infinite life.
- 3.17 The 4% reducing balance repayment method leaves £10m unpaid CFR at the end of 50 years, which wouldn't necessarily be conducive with the broad aim of a prudent provision to ensure that debt is repaid over a period that is reasonably commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure provides benefits.
- 3.18 As Wales Audit Office highlight it is difficult to equate a reducing balance approach with an appropriate asset life. Consequently it is advocated that the 4% reducing balance approach is replaced with a straight line approach. This ensures prudently that the liability is actually repaid over the indicative life of Council's asset portfolio, that 2% equates more closely with the indicative asset life and importantly avoids Future Generations needing to afford liability repayments for historic capital expenditure on a portfolio of assets that would have an expired useful life.

Feedback to the Proposal

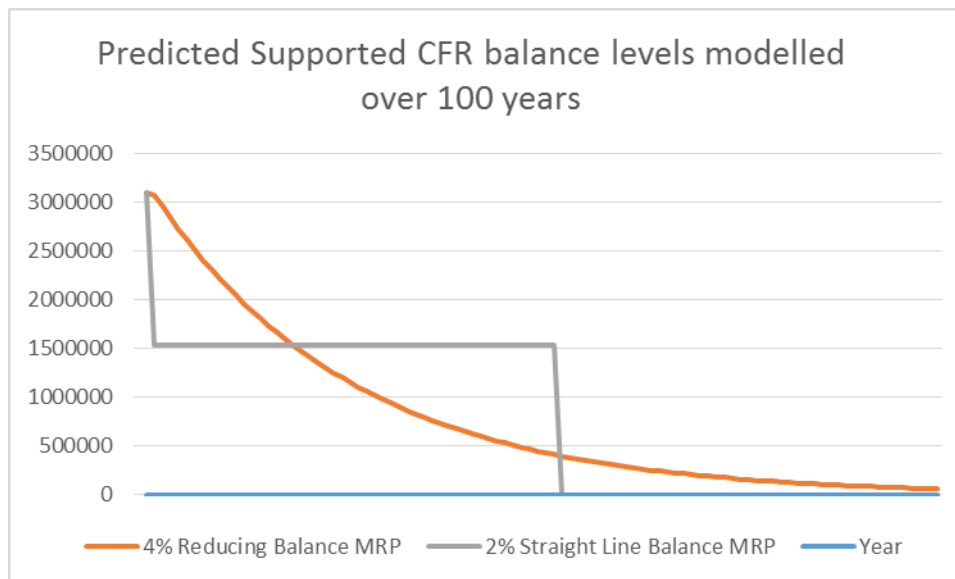
- 3.19 The Council's Treasury Consultants, Arlingclose, confirm that the report contains all the relevant points that they'd expect in support of moving from 4% reducing balance to 50 year straight line basis.
- 3.20 Wales Audit Office confirm that the report sets out all the options and takes account of their generic guidance.
- 3.21 The Audit committee considered this report on 17th November 2016 where the balance of opinion was to recommend the proposal to Council. A summary of the issues raised at Audit Committee are included below:

The Chair enquired why a different approach was being advocated for Supported and Unsupported borrowing (considered previously). Guidance suggests Options 1 and 2 tend to be more appropriate to Supported Borrowing and Options 3 and 4 more reflective of Unsupported/prudential borrowing. The previous proposal and this report are consistent with that advice. In retaining the option 2 CFR based calculation for Supporting Borrowing, it has been appreciated that a straight line repayment of MRP is more prudent than the existing 4% reducing balance basis, as the reducing balance fails to fully repay liabilities even after 100 years, which is inconsistent with the average unexpired useful life of MCC's assets.

One Member of Committee exhibited a concern that the result of the exercise would be felt disproportionately on future taxpayers, as they were expected to contribute equally towards the financing of current capital assets that he felt would have a declining operational benefit to the electorate over time. It is true that the usefulness of assets does decline over time and ultimately expires if not adequately maintained and refreshed. The Council's approach towards asset management means that it would be unusual for the Council to procure an asset and then run it down with no investment over its life. Members will also get the opportunity to consider the Council's capital direction and priorities annually over the next 50 years to ensure assets remain viable operational assets over their lifetime. Equitably the historic approach is actually more disproportionate to future generations as there is an expectation they will continue to pay for current assets decisions long after the average useful life of current assets is set to expire.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 4.1 The table in appendix 2 indicates the cashflow payments under the existing approach (i.e. 4% reducing balance) against those of a 2% straight line basis, and the effect on the Council's Supported borrowing CFR is shown graphically below.



- 4.2 The Council's accounting policy on MRP is simply to set aside a prudent level of resources, and the method for achieving this is through the use of an accounting estimate. Changing the basis of the MRP calculation represents a change to the estimation technique employed within the options provided in the Guidance. As with any provision, calculations can be reviewed on a cumulative basis and any over-provisions made in previous years can be corrected in the year that they were identified. This revision would not lead to a prior period adjustment in the Statement of Accounts, but provides a benefit in the year the change takes effect.
- 4.3 As an illustration, if applied from 2017-8 financial year the advocated approach will necessitate £1.5 million less needing to be set aside as MRP, introducing a favourable cashflow effect available to assist with 2017-18 budget setting. This beneficial cashflow continues for 18 years, albeit to a lesser effect per annum, until year 2034 when payment under a straight line method becomes more than the reducing balance approach.
- 4.4 The cashflow consequences have been modelled out to 100 years. At year 50, when the full liability has been repaid, this method derives a further cashflow saving against the existing approach that continues to necessitate repayment ad infinitum as the current reducing balance approach never fully repays the liability. So the liability remains at £10m by year 50, and over a further 50 years only repays £8.5 million, leaving a balance still outstanding at the end of 100 years of £1.5 million.
- 4.5 The proposals above demonstrate that the policy is consistent, affordable over the longer term and ensures a more equitable spread of debt repayment costs across all generations of taxpayer.
- 4.6 It has the added advantage of being more prudent than the existing reducing balance method, in that it does ultimately pay off the liability in accordance with the likely economic usage of assets.

- 4.7 The Council will continue to periodically review its MRP policy to ensure that it consistently follows the above principles in the future.

5 FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Whilst the adoption of the revision to the MRP Policy could have a favourable effect on the Council's 2017/18 Medium Term Financial Plan, it needs to be stressed that these cash flow adjustments should not be considered as savings, the change merely pushes expenses towards the latter half of repayment schedule, and ultimately the Council is seeking to repay an extra £10m over 50 years over the existing approach. However it can be argued that a revised approach better reflects the usage of assets, where currently Future Generations could be expected to contribute to the repayment of historic Supported Borrowing liabilities long after the economic use of average assets has expired.
- 5.2 In addition reducing payments now means the Council can better continue to keep services open now for the benefit of future generations rather than have to cut services now that may never get reinstated. The Future Generations Evaluation is contained in Appendix 3.

6 SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

None

7 CONSULTEES:

Head of Finance
Treasury Advisors
Wales Audit office
Chief Executive
Executive Member for Resources
Audit committee

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix 1 WAO guidance

Appendix 2 Annual Forecast of Existing and Modelled MRP changes

Appendix 3 Future Generations Evaluation form

9 AUTHOR:

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Reference	AJB/mh
Date	7 January 2016
Pages	1 of 7

Dear Ms Robson

Minimum Revenue Provision for the redemption of debt

A number of local authorities in Wales have approached their audit teams recently regarding their approach to setting a prudent provision for the redemption of debt as required by the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 (as amended). As this is an area that is under consideration by a number of bodies, you may find it useful to see our views on this area in our role as the external auditor and on the factors that authorities should take into account when determining their policy.

Statutory basis for the provision for the redemption of debt

Under regulation 21 of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 as amended ("the Regulations") local authorities (including police, fire and national park bodies) must charge to a revenue account a minimum revenue provision (MRP) in respect of capital expenditure incurred in a prior year.

Until 2008, MRP was calculated in accordance with a formula set out in the Regulations. In 2008, this requirement was replaced by Regulation 22 (Calculation of minimum revenue provision) which states "A local authority must calculate for the current financial year an amount of minimum revenue provision which it considers to be prudent."

Welsh Government statutory guidance

In March 2008, the Welsh Government published statutory guidance entitled "Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision." Local authorities in Wales are required to have regard to this guidance. The guidance notes that the prudent amount of provision should normally be determined in accordance with the principle that:

“The broad aim of prudent provision is to ensure that debt is repaid over a period that is either reasonably commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure provides benefits, or, in the case of borrowing supported by the Welsh Assembly Government Revenue Support Grant, reasonably commensurate with the period implicit in the determination of that grant.”

It goes on to note that Welsh Ministers consider that the methods of making prudent provision include four options set out in the guidance but notes that approaches differing from those exemplified are not ruled out.

Our role as the external auditor

As stated in the Regulations, the responsibility for determining what is a prudent MRP lies with the Authority. It is not the role of the external auditor to determine for the authority what is prudent.

In relation to the financial statements, auditors will routinely check that an MRP has been calculated and charged to a revenue account. We also have a responsibility to consider whether there are any matters which come to our attention during the course of the audit that should be brought to the attention of the public. This responsibility includes consideration of whether or not the Authority has complied with its statutory duties. Therefore audit teams will consider the approach taken by authorities in setting MRP.

Welsh Government statutory guidance

Authorities are required to have regard to the Welsh Government guidance when determining a prudent MRP. The Guidance states that MRP should be set at a level reasonably commensurate with the expected life of the asset or reasonably commensurate with the period implicit in the determination of Revenue Support Grant (RSG).

The Guidance contains four examples of how a prudent MRP may be determined. These are not exhaustive. In our view, these form a base line against which an authority's policies can be measured.

Under options 1 and 2 (as set out in the Guidance) a prudent MRP could be calculated at 4% reducing balance based on the Capital Financing Requirement. Authorities will be aware that RSG calculations include an element of funding for supported borrowing on a 4% reducing balance basis. Therefore, under this method MRP would be consistent with the funding stream from the Welsh Government.

Where an authority wishes to change its MRP for supported borrowing to an amount lower than 4% reducing balance, we would expect the authority to be able to demonstrate that:

- The lower charge more accurately reflects the lives of assets employed by the authority; or
- The lower charge is reasonably commensurate with the period implicit in the determination of RSG (i.e. a 4% reducing balance basis).

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Reducing MRP now will inevitably increase the charges that must be made in future years. For example, reducing MRP from a 4% to a lower rate will mean that an authority will have a lower MRP charge in the early years but in future years, MRP will exceed the amount that would be charged at 4% reducing balance thus increasing costs in future years.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, when fully commenced, will put in place a “sustainable development duty” and a requirement to perform that duty in accordance with a “sustainable development principle”. As part of the sustainable development duty, authorities must set and pursue well-being objectives to contribute to the well-being goals set out the Act. Doing something “in accordance with the sustainable development principle” means that the body must “act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. It also requires that authorities must take account of, among other things, “the importance of balancing short term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to meet long term needs”.

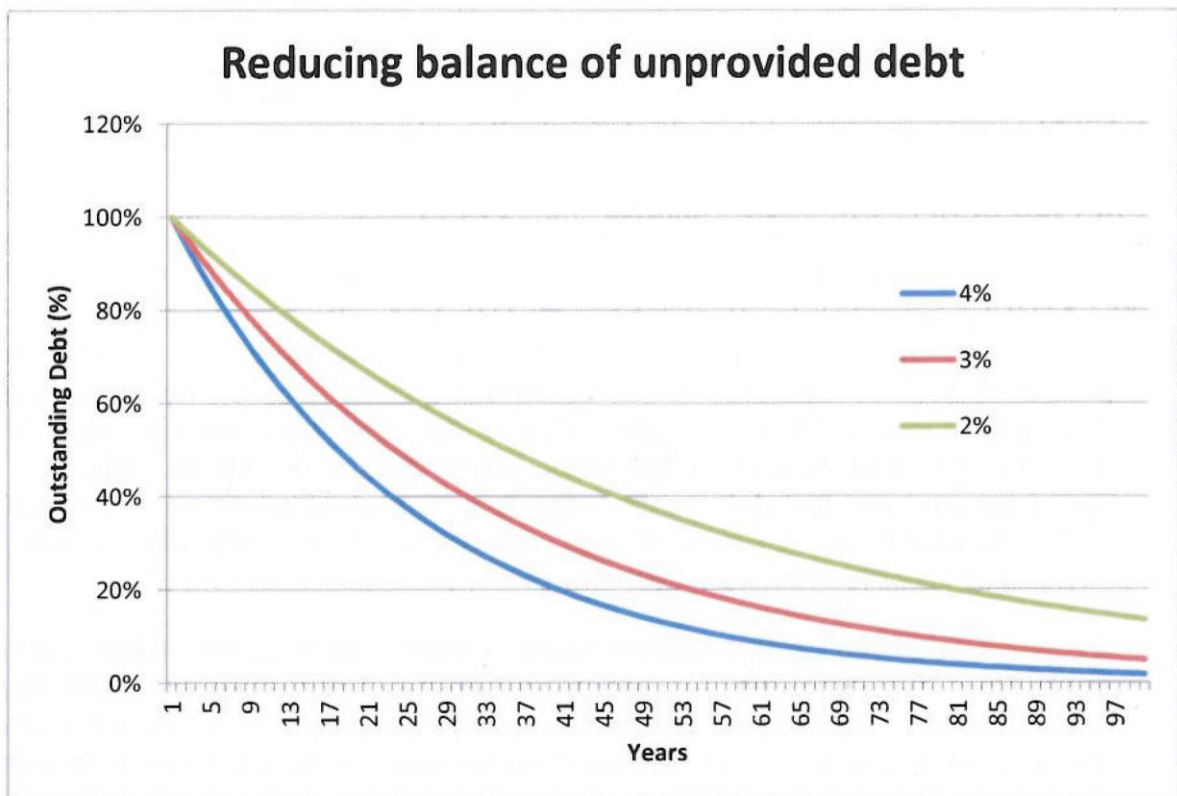
It appears therefore that local authorities need to make sure that when making decisions in respect of MRP that relate to actions taken in pursuit of their well-being objectives (or other sustainable development action) they act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations. Similarly, in respect of such decisions, it appears that they should take into account the importance of balancing short term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to meet long term needs. An authority wishing to modify its MRP policy should therefore consider how the amended policy would affect its compliance with its legal duties under the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

Asset lives

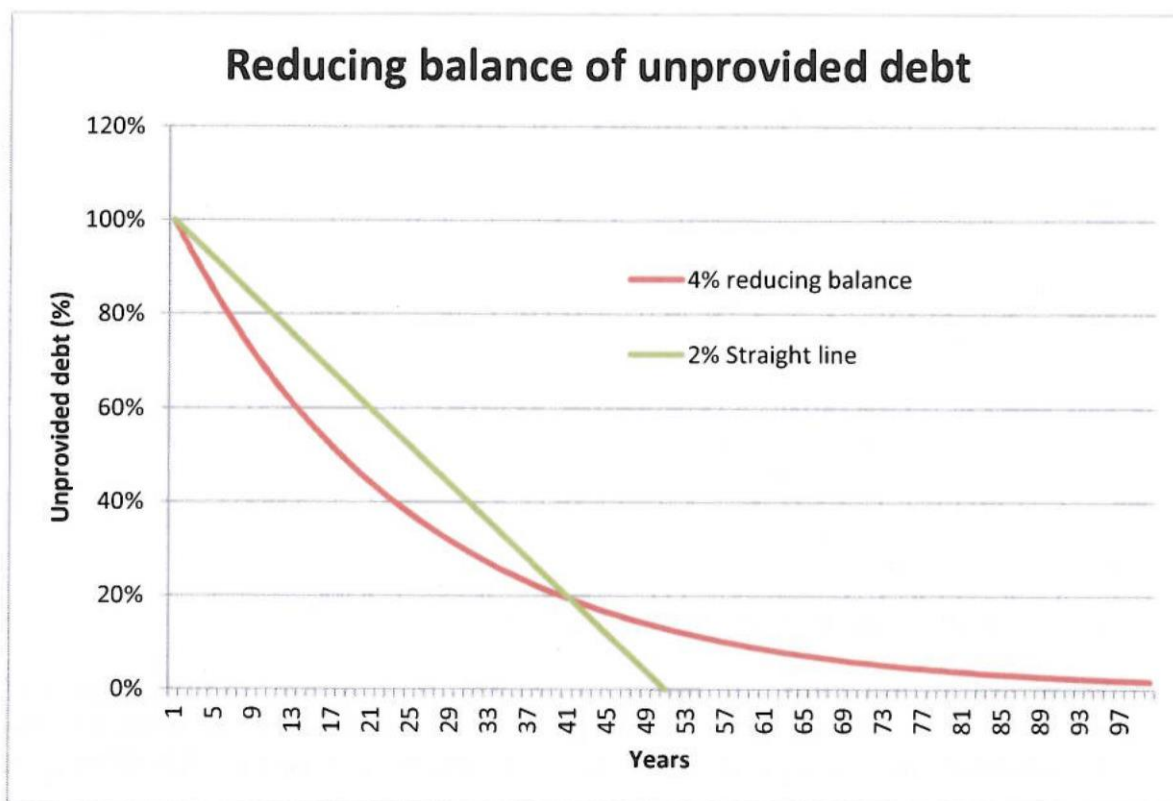
Some authorities have considered the assets lives for those assets financed by supported borrowing and whether or not there is scope for modifying the MRP charge to more accurately reflect asset lives albeit retaining the reducing balance basis.

Authorities should note that the percentage applied under a reducing balance method does not readily translate into the equivalent of an asset life. For example, a 3% reducing balance does not equate to a 33 year asset life. After 33 years, 38% of the original debt will not have been provided for. In comparison, a 4% reducing balance leaves 27% not

provided for after 33 years. After 50 years, the unprovided balances are 22% (at 3% reducing balance) and 13% (4% reducing balance). Applying a reducing balance basis will mean that the debt is never fully extinguished and therefore may significantly outlast the related assets. At 3% reducing balance, debt is only 95% provided for after 100 years (4% - 75 years). The following chart illustrates how much of debt remains unprovided for over time on a 4%, 3% and 2% reducing balance basis.



Where authorities wish to make a prudent provision based on asset lives, they may wish to consider an alternative to the reducing balance model (e.g. straight line or weighted to reflect consumption of service potential). For example, if an authority's average asset life was 50 years and it determined to provide MRP on a 2% straight line basis, the amount of the loans unprovided for each year would be as shown below. In this case, the debt is fully provided for after 50 years.



Setting MRP on a cumulative basis

In some cases, authorities have charged MRP since 2008 at a higher level than that suggested by the Welsh Government guidance. For example:

- MRP provided at 4% straight line rather than 4% reducing balance; or
- MRP provided at 5% reducing balance rather than 4% reducing balance.

In some cases, authorities now wish to change their MRP charge to a 4% reducing balance, in line with the guidance. In these circumstances, MRP provided from 2008 to 2015 will have been greater than if a 4% reducing balance calculation had been applied since 2008. It has been suggested that authorities are able to take advantage of such an 'over-provision' and set MRP in the first year of the new policy such that the cumulative MRP charged since 2008 is as would have been calculated under the amended policy. The impact of this is to set a reduced, a zero or even a negative MRP in the first year of the amended policy.

At present we would not be minded to challenge the overall approach of setting the current year MRP taking into account the cumulative differences between the amended and original policies subject to the following.

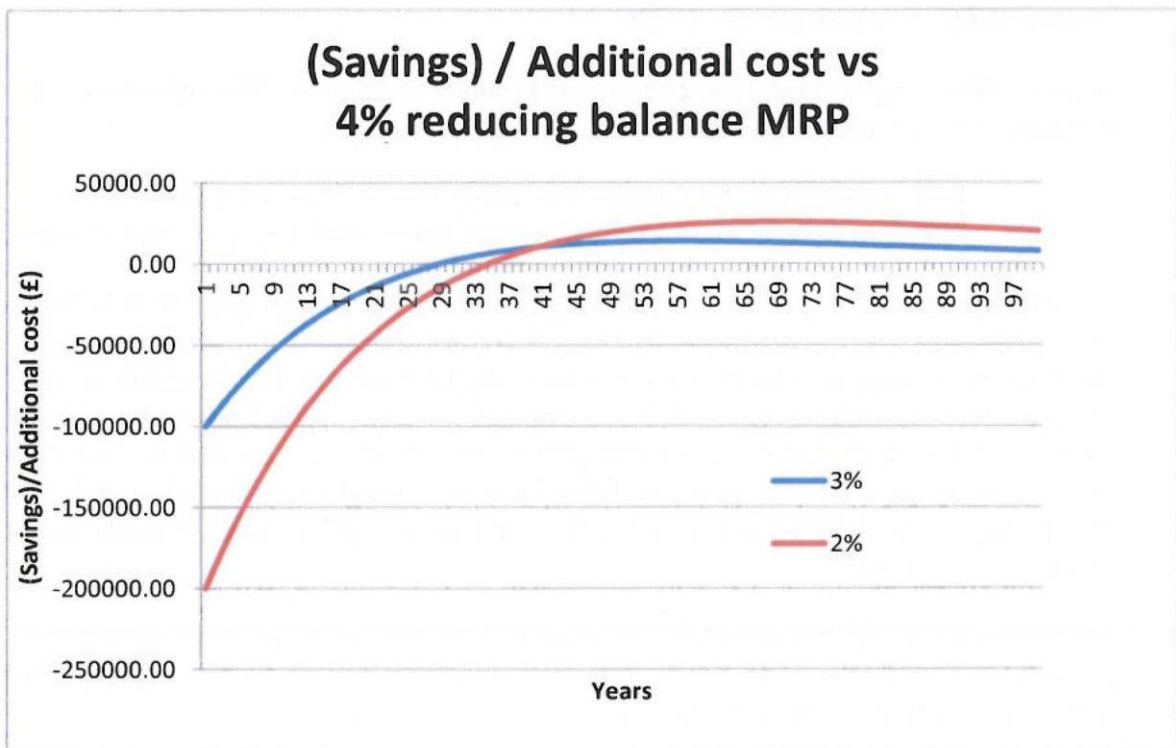
The Regulations require an authority to make a prudent provision for the financing of capital expenditure. The statutory guidance refers to redemption i.e. the clearing, of debt. Adjusting the current year MRP to take account of the differences between the amended and original policies may result in a negative or a zero MRP in one year:

- A negative MRP would have the effect of increasing the amount of unprovided debt. In our view, setting a negative MRP would therefore be contrary to law.
- In our view, where there is a positive Capital Financing Requirement and an authority wishes to set MRP at £0, it needs to be very clear how such a provision meets the requirement to make a prudent provision.

If in future, the MRP policy were to be changed again and a higher MRP charged, the authority should then consider also calculating MRP in the first year on a cumulative basis, noting that this would result in a significantly higher MRP in the first year of a revised arrangement.

Impact on changes on MRP provided in year

The following chart exemplifies the impact of MRP calculated on a reducing balance basis at 3% and 2% compared with 4% based on £10m CFR. In both cases, in the early years an authority makes savings. However, after a period of 25-35 years, MRP will be greater than that charged at 4%.



Conclusion

As explained above, it is for each authority to determine what is a 'prudent' MRP.

In our view, where an authority has used unsupported borrowing to finance its capital programme, a prudent MRP should reflect the asset lives. For supported borrowing, authorities may consider whether it is more appropriate to use asset lives or to consider Welsh Government funding via RSG.

Where an authority wishes to change its policy, we would encourage them to discuss the proposals with their external audit team at an early stage. We would also encourage authorities to ensure that any proposals are properly supported by adequate evidence and professional advice to justify the provision made.

Please note that these comments do not constitute guidance and should not be relied upon as such. The comments also reflect our current thinking in relation to MRP and this letter does not preclude us from coming to a different conclusion at a later date, based on particular circumstances.

Yours sincerely



Anthony Barrett
Assistant Auditor General

Supported Borrowing CFR and MRP							Appendix 2	
Year	Year ending 31st March	CFR	4% Reducing Balance MRP	Revised CFR	2% Straight Line Balance MRP	Revised CFR	Cashflow effect	
0	2015	77,479,641		77,479,641		77,479,641		
1	2016	79,899,641	- 3,099,186	76,800,455	- 3,099,186	76,800,455		
2	2017	76,800,455	- 3,072,018	73,728,436.80	- 1,536,009	75,264,446	1,536,009	
3	2018	73,728,437	- 2,949,137	70,779,299.33	- 1,536,009	73,728,437	1,413,128	
4	2019	70,779,299	- 2,831,172	67,948,127.35	- 1,536,009	72,192,428	1,295,163	
5	2020	67,948,127	- 2,717,925	65,230,202.26	- 1,536,009	70,656,419	1,181,916	
6	2021	65,230,202	- 2,609,208	62,620,994.17	- 1,536,009	69,120,410	1,073,199	
7	2022	62,620,994	- 2,504,840	60,116,154.40	- 1,536,009	67,584,400	968,831	
8	2023	60,116,154	- 2,404,646	57,711,508.23	- 1,536,009	66,048,391	868,637	
9	2024	57,711,508	- 2,308,460	55,403,047.90	- 1,536,009	64,512,382	772,451	
10	2025	55,403,048	- 2,216,122	53,186,925.98	- 1,536,009	62,976,373	680,113	
11	2026	53,186,926	- 2,127,477	51,059,448.94	- 1,536,009	61,440,364	591,468	
12	2027	51,059,449	- 2,042,378	49,017,070.99	- 1,536,009	59,904,355	506,369	
13	2028	49,017,071	- 1,960,683	47,056,388.15	- 1,536,009	58,368,346	424,674	
14	2029	47,056,388	- 1,882,256	45,174,132.62	- 1,536,009	56,832,337	346,246	
15	2030	45,174,133	- 1,806,965	43,367,167.32	- 1,536,009	55,296,328	270,956	
16	2031	43,367,167	- 1,734,687	41,632,480.62	- 1,536,009	53,760,319	198,678	
17	2032	41,632,481	- 1,665,299	39,967,181.40	- 1,536,009	52,224,309	129,290	
18	2033	39,967,181	- 1,598,687	38,368,494.14	- 1,536,009	50,688,300	62,678	
19	2034	38,368,494	- 1,534,740	36,833,754.38	- 1,536,009	49,152,291	- 1,269	
20	2035	36,833,754	- 1,473,350	35,360,404.20	- 1,536,009	47,616,282	- 62,659	
21	2036	35,360,404	- 1,414,416	33,945,988.03	- 1,536,009	46,080,273	- 121,593	
22	2037	33,945,988	- 1,357,840	32,588,148.51	- 1,536,009	44,544,264	- 178,170	
23	2038	32,588,149	- 1,303,526	31,284,622.57	- 1,536,009	43,008,255	- 232,483	
24	2039	31,284,623	- 1,251,385	30,033,237.67	- 1,536,009	41,472,246	- 284,624	
25	2040	30,033,238	- 1,201,330	28,831,908.16	- 1,536,009	39,936,237	- 334,680	
26	2041	28,831,908	- 1,153,276	27,678,631.84	- 1,536,009	38,400,228	- 382,733	
27	2042	27,678,632	- 1,107,145	26,571,486.56	- 1,536,009	36,864,218	- 428,864	
28	2043	26,571,487	- 1,062,859	25,508,627.10	- 1,536,009	35,328,209	- 473,150	
29	2044	25,508,627	- 1,020,345	24,488,282.02	- 1,536,009	33,792,200	- 515,664	
30	2045	24,488,282	- 979,531	23,508,750.73	- 1,536,009	32,256,191	- 556,478	
31	2046	23,508,751	- 940,350	22,568,400.71	- 1,536,009	30,720,182	- 595,659	
32	2047	22,568,401	- 902,736	21,665,664.68	- 1,536,009	29,184,173	- 633,273	
33	2048	21,665,665	- 866,627	20,799,038.09	- 1,536,009	27,648,164	- 669,383	
34	2049	20,799,038	- 831,962	19,967,076.57	- 1,536,009	26,112,155	- 704,048	
35	2050	19,967,077	- 798,683	19,168,393.50	- 1,536,009	24,576,146	- 737,326	
36	2051	19,168,394	- 766,736	18,401,657.76	- 1,536,009	23,040,137	- 769,273	
37	2052	18,401,658	- 736,066	17,665,591.45	- 1,536,009	21,504,127	- 799,943	
38	2053	17,665,591	- 706,624	16,958,967.79	- 1,536,009	19,968,118	- 829,385	
39	2054	16,958,968	- 678,359	16,280,609.08	- 1,536,009	18,432,109	- 857,650	
40	2055	16,280,609	- 651,224	15,629,384.72	- 1,536,009	16,896,100	- 884,785	
41	2056	15,629,385	- 625,175	15,004,209.33	- 1,536,009	15,360,091	- 910,834	
42	2057	15,004,209	- 600,168	14,404,040.96	- 1,536,009	13,824,082	- 935,841	
43	2058	14,404,041	- 576,162	13,827,879.32	- 1,536,009	12,288,073	- 959,847	
44	2059	13,827,879	- 553,115	13,274,764.15	- 1,536,009	10,752,064	- 982,894	
45	2060	13,274,764	- 530,991	12,743,773.58	- 1,536,009	9,216,055	- 1,005,019	
46	2061	12,743,774	- 509,751	12,234,022.64	- 1,536,009	7,680,045	- 1,026,258	
47	2062	12,234,023	- 489,361	11,744,661.73	- 1,536,009	6,144,036	- 1,046,648	
48	2063	11,744,662	- 469,786	11,274,875.26	- 1,536,009	4,608,027	- 1,066,223	
49	2064	11,274,875	- 450,995	10,823,880.25	- 1,536,009	3,072,018	- 1,085,014	
50	2065	10,823,880	- 432,955	10,390,925.04	- 1,536,009	1,536,009	- 1,103,054	
51	2066	10,390,925	- 415,637	9,975,288.04	- 1,536,009	0	- 1,120,372	

Year	Year ending 31st March	CFR	4% Reducing Balance MRP	Revised CFR	2% Straight Line Balance MRP	Revised CFR	Cashflow effect
52	2067	9,975,288	- 399,012	9,576,276.52		- 0	399,012
53	2068	9,576,277	- 383,051	9,193,225.46		- 0	383,051
54	2069	9,193,225	- 367,729	8,825,496.44		- 0	367,729
55	2070	8,825,496	- 353,020	8,472,476.58		- 0	353,020
56	2071	8,472,477	- 338,899	8,133,577.52		- 0	338,899
57	2072	8,133,578	- 325,343	7,808,234.42		- 0	325,343
58	2073	7,808,234	- 312,329	7,495,905.04		- 0	312,329
59	2074	7,495,905	- 299,836	7,196,068.84		- 0	299,836
60	2075	7,196,069	- 287,843	6,908,226.09		- 0	287,843
61	2076	6,908,226	- 276,329	6,631,897.04		- 0	276,329
62	2077	6,631,897	- 265,276	6,366,621.16		- 0	265,276
63	2078	6,366,621	- 254,665	6,111,956.31		- 0	254,665
64	2079	6,111,956	- 244,478	5,867,478.06		- 0	244,478
65	2080	5,867,478	- 234,699	5,632,778.94		- 0	234,699
66	2081	5,632,779	- 225,311	5,407,467.78		- 0	225,311
67	2082	5,407,468	- 216,299	5,191,169.07		- 0	216,299
68	2083	5,191,169	- 207,647	4,983,522.31		- 0	207,647
69	2084	4,983,522	- 199,341	4,784,181.42		- 0	199,341
70	2085	4,784,181	- 191,367	4,592,814.16		- 0	191,367
71	2086	4,592,814	- 183,713	4,409,101.59		- 0	183,713
72	2087	4,409,102	- 176,364	4,232,737.53		- 0	176,364
73	2088	4,232,738	- 169,310	4,063,428.03		- 0	169,310
74	2089	4,063,428	- 162,537	3,900,890.91		- 0	162,537
75	2090	3,900,891	- 156,036	3,744,855.27		- 0	156,036
76	2091	3,744,855	- 149,794	3,595,061.06		- 0	149,794
77	2092	3,595,061	- 143,802	3,451,258.62		- 0	143,802
78	2093	3,451,259	- 138,050	3,313,208.27		- 0	138,050
79	2094	3,313,208	- 132,528	3,180,679.94		- 0	132,528
80	2095	3,180,680	- 127,227	3,053,452.74		- 0	127,227
81	2096	3,053,453	- 122,138	2,931,314.63		- 0	122,138
82	2097	2,931,315	- 117,253	2,814,062.05		- 0	117,253
83	2098	2,814,062	- 112,562	2,701,499.57		- 0	112,562
84	2099	2,701,500	- 108,060	2,593,439.58		- 0	108,060
85	2100	2,593,440	- 103,738	2,489,702.00		- 0	103,738
86	2101	2,489,702	- 99,588	2,390,113.92		- 0	99,588
87	2102	2,390,114	- 95,605	2,294,509.36		- 0	95,605
88	2103	2,294,509	- 91,780	2,202,728.99		- 0	91,780
89	2104	2,202,729	- 88,109	2,114,619.83		- 0	88,109
90	2105	2,114,620	- 84,585	2,030,035.04		- 0	84,585
91	2106	2,030,035	- 81,201	1,948,833.64		- 0	81,201
92	2107	1,948,834	- 77,953	1,870,880.29		- 0	77,953
94	2108	1,870,880	- 74,835	1,796,045.08		- 0	74,835
96	2109	1,796,045	- 71,842	1,724,203.28		- 0	71,842
97	2110	1,724,203	- 68,968	1,655,235.14		- 0	68,968
98	2111	1,655,235	- 66,209	1,589,025.74		- 0	66,209
99	2112	1,589,026	- 63,561	1,525,464.71		- 0	63,561
100	2113	1,525,465	- 61,019	1,464,446.12		- 0	61,019
			- 78,435,195		- 79,899,641		- 1,464,446



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

Future Generations Evaluation (includes Equalities and Sustainability Impact Assessments)

<p>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Mark Howcroft</p> <p>Phone no:01633 644740 E-mail:markhowcroft@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>To review the treasury strategy with regard to minimum revenue provision calculation in respect of supported borrowing (option 2)</p>
<p>Name of Service Chief Executives Business Support</p>	<p>Date Future Generations Evaluation form completed</p>



1. 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.




Well Being Goal	How does the proposal contribute to this goal? (positive and negative)	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>The existing method of calculation (4% reducing balance) takes significantly longer time to pay off liability than the anticipated life of the Council's borrowing funded asset portfolio, which could easily be construed</p>	<p>The proposal alters the cashflow of minimum revenue provision payments involved in the supported costs of borrowing to a 2% straight line basis. Whilst this does provide a cashflow benefit in early years, importantly it better align MRP repayment with the weighted</p>

Well Being Goal	How does the proposal contribute to this goal? (positive and negative)	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	that Future taxpayers receipts will be used to finance assets that will have expired.	average outstanding life of assets so that future generations will no longer continue to pay for assets that have expired.
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	N/A	
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	N/A	
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	The viable aspect is considered in the efficient use of resources above	
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	N/A	
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	N/A	
A more equal Wales		

Well Being Goal	How does the proposal contribute to this goal? (positive and negative)	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances		

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

Sustainable Development Principle	How does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle?	What has been done to better to meet this principle?
 <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p>The proposal provides a positive cashflow effect until 2032-33 after which the cashflows effect becomes negative against the present reducing balance approach. The amounts repaid are the same every year, so neutral in application between current and future taxpayers. (However future taxpayers will also have the effect of time value of money so that their proportionate costs in real terms are less).</p>	
 <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>N/A</p>	

Sustainable Development Principle	How does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle?	What has been done to better to meet this principle?
 <p>Involvement Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
 <p>Prevention Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
 <p>Integration Positively impacting on people, economy and environment and trying to benefit all three</p>	<p><i>There is space to describe impacts on people, economy and environment under the Wellbeing Goals above, so instead focus here on how you will better integrate them and balance any competing impacts</i></p>	

3. 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 proposal does not seek to treat any individual with a protected characteristic any differently. The consequence of the proposal in providing a cash flow benefit to the organization up to 2033 will allow services to be maintained where the alternative in providing a balanced annual budget would be a general declining service offering.		
Disability	As above		
Gender reassignment	As above		
Marriage or civil partnership	As above		
Race	As above		
Religion or Belief	As above		
Sex	As above		
Sexual Orientation	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?
Welsh Language	As above.		

4. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on important responsibilities of Corporate Parenting and safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect either of these responsibilities? For more information please see the guidance <http://hub/corporatedocs/Democratic%20Services/Safeguarding%20Guidance.docx> and for more on Monmouthshire's Corporate Parenting Strategy see <http://hub/corporatedocs/SitePages/Corporate%20Parenting%20Strategy.aspx>

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	The proposal does not seek to treat any individual with a safeguarding aspect differently. The consequence of the proposal in providing a cash flow benefit to the organization up to 2033 will allow services to be maintained where the alternative in providing a balanced annual budget would be a general declining service offering.		
Corporate Parenting	The proposal does not seek to treat any individual with a corporate parenting consideration any differently. The consequence of the proposal in providing a cash flow benefit to the organization up to 2033 will allow services to be maintained where the alternative in providing a balanced annual budget would be a general declining service offering.		

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

- Baseline examination of Supported Borrowing MRP arrangements
- Consideration of similar developments in other local authorities.
- Analysis of weighted average unexpired asset life of Councils asset portfolio afforded by borrowing
- Regard for capital financing regulations
- Services of Treasury advisers
- Feedback for WAO

6. 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?

The change in approach to a straight line basis provides a more prudent approach than existing in repaying the MRP liability over the anticipated life of assets, recognizing that the existing reducing balance approach disproportionately requires future taxpayers to contribute to repaying that liability long after useful life of afforded assets have expired.

The change in approach better reflects the time value of money and the pattern of asset usage and avoids future tax payers contributing disproportionately to the repayment of debt.

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7. 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	Progress
None			

8. Monitoring: The impacts of this proposal will need to be monitored and reviewed. Please specify the date at which you will evaluate the impact, and where you will report the results of the review.

The impacts of this proposal will be evaluated on:	Half yearly Treasury Strategy to Audit Committee (March 2017)
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<p>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Ian Bakewell</p> <p>Phone no: 01633 644479 E-mail: ianbakewell@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>To agree to provide consent to Monmouthshire Housing Association to de-pool their service charges,</p>
<p>Name of Service</p> <p>Housing & Community Services</p>	<p>Date Future Generations Evaluation form completed</p> <p>1st November 2016</p>




1. **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.



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Well Being Goal	How does the proposal contribute to this goal? (positive and negative)	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>There will be greater transparency and clarity for MHA tenants in relation to what service charges are provided and their respective costs.</p>	<p>There will be a programme of consultation with tenants, due to commence shortly, on the run up to implementation on 1st April 2017</p>
<p>A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>A healthier Wales</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Well Being Goal	How does the proposal contribute to this goal? (positive and negative)	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood		
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	Many service charges support and contribute to communities eg grass cutting, communal lighting. The proposal, however, is neutral in this regard.	There will be a programme of consultation with tenants, due to commence shortly, on the run up to implementation on 1 st April 2017
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	N/A	N/A
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	N/A	N/A

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

Sustainable Development Principle	How does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle?	What has been done to better to meet this principle?
 <p>Long-term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p>The proposal supports planning generally because the proposal will result in MHA tenants having a greater awareness about service charges and their costs. Tenants will, therefore, be better informed and will be more equipped to engage with MHA and challenge, propose alternative etc</p>	<p>There will be a programme of consultation with tenants, due to commence shortly, on the run up to implementation on 1st April 2017</p>
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver</p>	<p>Although this is a priority for MHA as business, MHA are proactively involving the Council and is a positive response to Welsh Government policy</p>	<p>There will be a programme of consultation with tenants, due to commence shortly, on the run up to implementation on 1st April 2017</p>
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>The following are stakeholders:</p> <p>MHA tenants – there will be a programme of consultation on the run up to 1st April 2017</p> <p>Welsh Government – Welsh Government are aware of MHA’s intentions and are supportive</p> <p>The Council – this proposal seeks consent from MCC</p>	<p>There will be a programme of consultation with tenants, due to commence shortly, on the run up to implementation on 1st April 2017</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	How does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle?	What has been done to better to meet this principle?
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>MHA's proposals is largely neutral in this regard, but due to the proposal resulting in increased clarity and transparency for tenants, tenants will be better informed and, therefore, in a better position to influence MHA going forward</p>	<p>N/A</p>
 <p>Integration</p> <p>Positively impacting on people, economy and environment and trying to benefit all three</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>

3. **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	neutral	None	
Disability	neutral	None.	
Gender reassignment	neutral	None	
Marriage or civil partnership	neutral	None	
Race	neutral	None	
Religion or Belief	neutral	None	
Sex	neutral	None	
Sexual Orientation	neutral	None	
Welsh Language	neutral	None	

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4. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on important responsibilities of Corporate Parenting and safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect either of these responsibilities? For more information please see the guidance note <http://hub/corporatedocs/Democratic%20Services/Equality%20impact%20assessment%20and%20safeguarding.docx> and for more on Monmouthshire's Corporate Parenting Strategy see <http://hub/corporatedocs/SitePages/Corporate%20Parenting%20Strategy.aspx>

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	Neutral	Neutral	N/A
Corporate Parenting	Neutral	Neutral	N/A

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

Stock Transfer Agreement
 Welsh Government social rents policy
 Transfer document to tenants

6. 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?

The main positive benefits of this proposal are:

- A dedicated temporary staffing resource that supports private sector housing development to strengthen homeless provision
- Additional housing options for vulnerable households
- The Council is better able to meet its statutory duties under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014
- The mandate mitigates against the use of B & B
- The mandate provides a basis for generating additional income for the Council
- This will be a ring-fenced post and duties will not be diluted through day to day management activities

There are no negative impacts of the proposal

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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	Progress
Package and brand the existing services into 'Monmouthshire Lettings' in partnership with the Communications Team	By March 17	TBC	An approach to marketing is in place
Continue seeking to identify private landlords who may be potentially interested in private scheme	This is a routine weekly activity	Karen Durrant, Private Sector Housing Manager	Discussions with potential new landlords are in progress

Continue looking to identify Private Leasing opportunities and prepare for ending or private lease agreement	By March 17	Karen Durrant, Private Sector Housing Manager	One property in Chepstow has already been identified and discussions are in progress with the owner. Cost modelling has commenced
Establish an action plan	October 2016	Karen Durrant, Housing Options Team Manager	Already and largely in place

8. Monitoring: The impacts of this proposal will need to be monitored and reviewed. Please specify the date at which you will evaluate the impact, and where you will report the results of the review.

The impacts of this proposal will be evaluated on:	January and March 17 on the basis of tasks completed through the project plan
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SUBJECT:	Monmouthshire Housing Association – Request to De-Pool Service Charges
MEETING:	County Council
DATE:	1st December 2016
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To consider a request for the Council to provide consent to Monmouthshire Housing Association (MHA) to disaggregate service charges from rents paid by social housing tenants. This is known as de-pooling. MHA is seeking the Council to consent to waiving compliance with a part of the Stock Transfer Agreement

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To agree to provide consent to Monmouthshire Housing Association to de-pool their service charges, subject to MHA undertaking a programme of resident consultation to ensure all affected tenants are fully aware of the proposals and their affect.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Under the Stock Transfer Agreement made in 2008, a number of promises were made to tenants by MHA prior to transfer, including the following:
- If transferring tenants did not pay a separate service charge for a service they received pre-transfer, they would not do so if the transfer to MHA went ahead and
 - That no new service charges would be introduced as a result of the transfer for services which tenants received before transfer
- 3.2 The above promises are protected by MHA's covenants in the Fourth Schedule of the Transfer Agreement.
- 3.3 The Transfer Agreement (Clause 5.2 of Appendix 1) states that MHA shall comply with all promises and commitments made by the Council to former secure tenants of the Council
- 3.4 The Transfer Agreement, however, allows the Council to waive compliance with the covenants where it is satisfied that circumstances outside of the control of MHA prevent them from complying with the covenant. Also of relevance is that the Council would not be able to enforce the said covenants if the required compliance had a detrimental effect on MHA
- 3.5 The driver behind the request from MHA is essentially Welsh Government policy for Social Housing Rents. This includes:
- 'Where a social landlord currently pools rents and service charges, they are now required to start the process of disaggregating service charges from rent and to complete the exercise by March 2016. Where a landlord is unable to

meet this timescale, consideration will be given to the provision of extended transitional arrangements.’

3.7 MHA were unable to meet the March 2016 target date due to a timing issue relating to Welsh Governments annual rent increase determinations, which last year was not announced sufficiently early to provide enough time to implement the policy. Welsh Government are aware of this and, therefore, have acknowledged MHA’s inability to achieve the intended deadline.

3.6 MHA has calculated that its ability to recover charges for services provided pre-Transfer and which continue to be provided (such as grass cutting) is costing approximately £450,000 per year. It is not sustainable to continue with this, which in effect is a subsidy to tenants and MHA consider this will increasingly have a material and detrimental impact on the business.

3.7 De-pooling will **not** result in overall increases in rents as the service charge element will be extracted from the current gross rent (resulting in a reduction in the rent element). The proposal, therefore, results in no additional costs to tenants.

3.8 A proposed approach to the de-pooling is planned, which is detailed in **Appendix 1**, with a view to being implemented from April 2017.

4. REASONS:

4.1 MHA is under a regulatory requirement to de-pool, which is a circumstance beyond their control.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 There are no resource implications for the Council.

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

6.1 Positive implications have been identified. **See Appendix 2**

7. SAFEGUARDING & CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

7.1 No implications have been identified.

8. CONSULTEES: Cabinet; Senior Leadership Team and Monmouthshire Housing Association

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

9.1 The following papers are of relevance:

- Welsh Government
- Stock Transfer Agreement
- The Council transfer promise document to tenants

10. AUTHOR: Ian Bakewell, Housing & Communities Manager

11. CONTACT DETAILS: Tel: 01633 644479 Email: ianbakewell@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Monmouthshire Housing Association – Proposed Approach to De-Pooling

Late 2016

Consultation with all current tenants on de-pooling service charges will start. This will include the following:

- De-pooling will enable tenants to understand what services they receive and how much they will pay for them going forwards.
- De-pooling will not result in overall increases in rents as the service charge element will be extracted from the current gross rent (resulting in a reduction in the rent element)
- De-pooling will not require any changes to tenants tenancy agreements, so will not affect their rights
- Future service charges (from April 17) will be calculated on a variable basis eg tenants will pay an estimated charge each week 'on account' and following reconciliation with actual cost at the end of the financial year, any resultant deficit or credit will be carried forward to the following year. In that way tenants will pay no more than the actual cost of the service.
- MHA will not make any profit from service charges and will only recharge to tenants the actual cost of the service
- Tenants will have statutory rights under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 to ask for information about the service charges and to challenge the level of charges or the standard of the service.
- If new services are introduced in future, MHA will consult with them beforehand in line with tenancy agreements.

Prior to April 2017

Individual tenants will be forwarded lists of services they currently receive so they can check the list and confirm it is correct.

April 2017

The de-pooled service charges and rents will be introduced. The review materials will show the reduction in rent to reflect the introduction of the separate variable service charge. Tenants will be served with a Summary of Service Charge rights and obligations as required by the 1985 Act.

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Children and Young People's Directorate

CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT 2016/17

THURSDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2016

Purpose

- The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an evaluation of the Children and Young People's directorate and the extended schooling system that it works with.
- It will reflect on the progress that our schools have made in the last year at the end of all key stages. This report will focus on the key headline indicator at the end of each stage. The full range of outcome indicators (for the Foundation Stage, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3) can be found in papers that have been presented to the Children and Young People Select Committee on the 3rd November.
- The results included in this report for Key Stages four and five are still provisional and there may be some small changes when the numbers are finalised. However, in terms of trend and our high level analysis we believe them to be sufficiently robust for inclusion in this report.
- The report will conclude with a set of objectives for the coming year based on the key areas of focus identified in this report

Changing perspective – the wider picture



*There is more to CYP
than schools and
standards*

A long term programme of wellbeing

Page 82

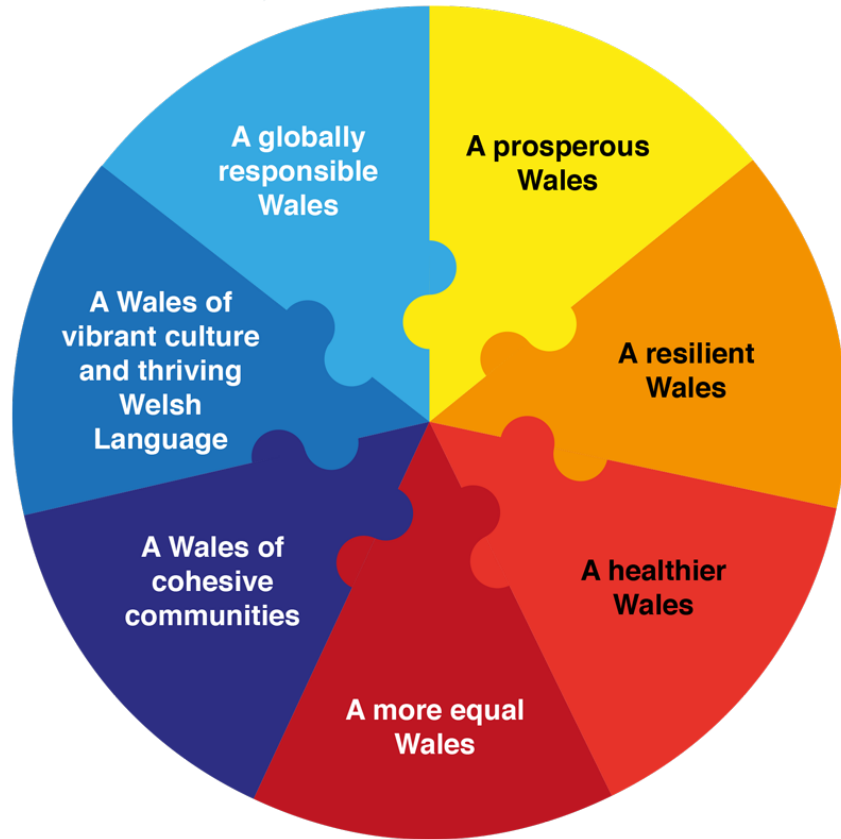


Four Pillars



- **Be ready for school** [*Early Years / Flying Start*]
- **Be in school** [*Access, getting to school, attendance*]
- **Be well behaved and ready to learn** [*Exclusions, youth support services, partnership work, EAL, LAC*]
- **Be well taught** [*Standards, ALN, teaching and learning*]

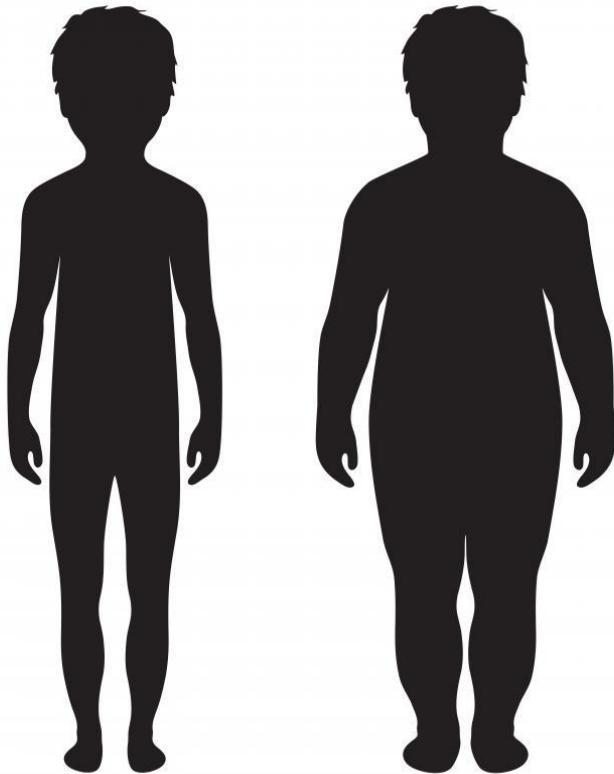
Maximising our contribution



- Preventative
- Collaborative
- Long term
- Integrated
- Participative

The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act speaks directly to the outcomes we are seeking to achieve for our children and young people. We will place the five key principles at the heart of all of our reforms including services for those with Additional Learning Needs, Childhood Obesity and challenging behaviours

e.g. Childhood Obesity



- It is estimated that:
 - Nearly **5,400** (180 classrooms of) children and young people (age 0 -18 years) are **overweight or obese**
- Of whom
 - Approximately **3,000** (100 classrooms) are **obese**

The CYP Directorate will become one of the key participants in the wider Public Service Board approach to reducing childhood obesity. Working with colleagues across agencies we will work to reduce the wide ranging impact of obesity on our young people. We will extend the number of schools who achieve the Healthy Schools standard

Partnership working to address Adverse Childhood Experiences

CHILD MALTREATMENT



Verbal abuse
23%



Physical abuse
17%



Sexual abuse
10%

CHILDHOOD HOUSEHOLD INCLUDED



Parental separation
20%



Domestic violence
16%



Mental illness
14%



Alcohol abuse
14%



Drug use
5%



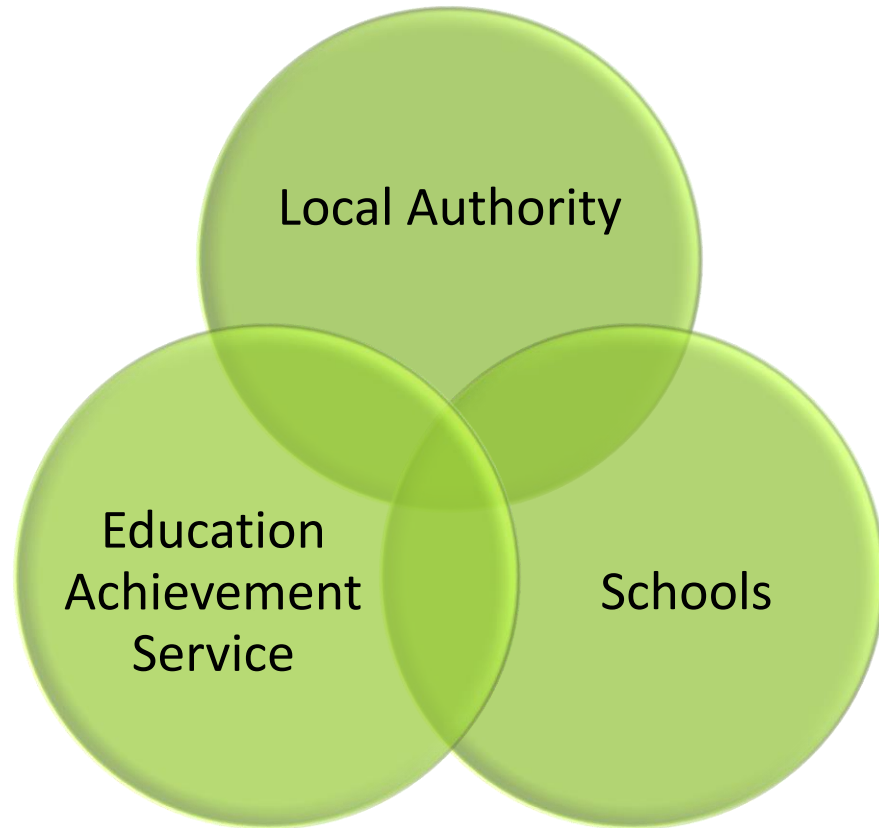
Incarceration
5%

Compared with people with no ACEs, those with 4+ ACEs are:

- 4 times more likely to be a high-risk drinker
- 6 times more likely to have had or caused unintended teenage pregnancy
- 6 times more likely to smoke e-cigarettes or tobacco
- 6 times more likely to have had sex under the age of 16 years
- 11 times more likely to have smoked cannabis
- 14 times more likely to have been a victim of violence over the last 12 months
- 15 times more likely to have committed violence against another person in the last 12 months
- 16 times more likely to have used crack cocaine or heroin
- 20 times more likely to have been incarcerated at any point in their lifetime

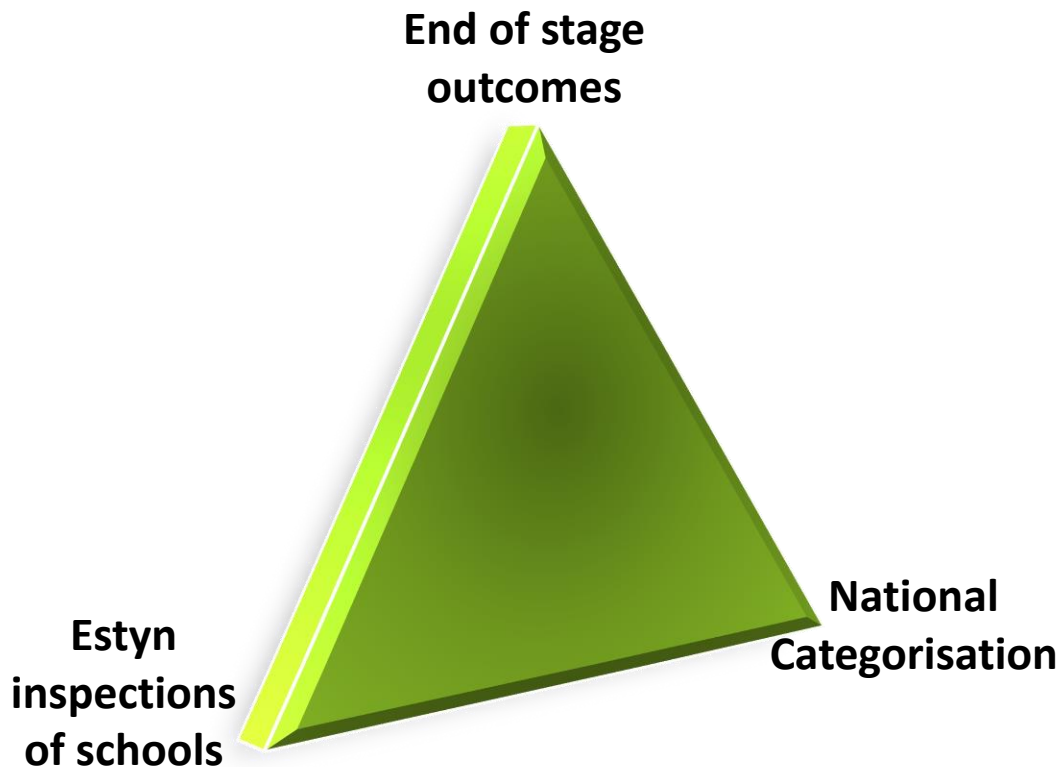
Where are our schools?

A partnership endeavour



- The mechanism to support and challenge our schools is a partnership approach
- Openness, honesty and accountability is at the core of the approach

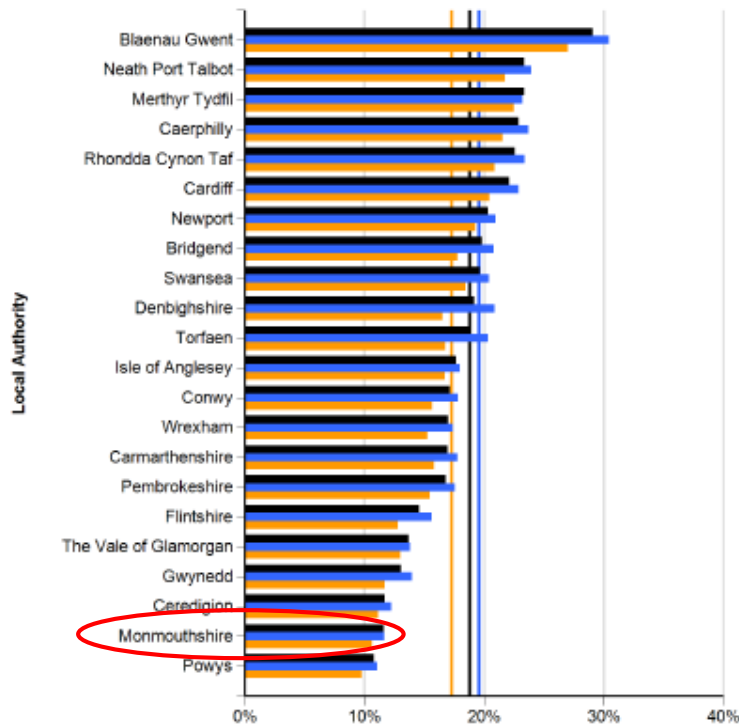
Triangulation of standards in our schools



- **End of stage outcomes [annual assessment]:**
 - Expected Level
 - Expected Level +1
 - Gender Gap
 - eFSM Gap
- **National Categorisation [Annual assessment based on three year rolling data and leadership]:**
 - Standards
 - Leadership
- **Estyn Outcomes [rolling programme of school inspection]:**
 - Outcomes
 - Prospects for improvement
 - Teaching and Leadership

Context – how do we compare ourselves?

1.1 % pupils of statutory school age eligible for FSM 3-year average
LA comparison - 2015/16



- Critical aspect of calibrating our performance is who we measure our progress against.
- Two areas of focus for our schools:
 - Their free school meals group (100% FSM)
 - Their family of schools (FSM / Deprivation /ALN EAL)
- A key development for Monmouthshire is that on the three year rolling average we are now 2nd lowest ranked authority for free school meals a movement from last year when we were ranked twentieth.

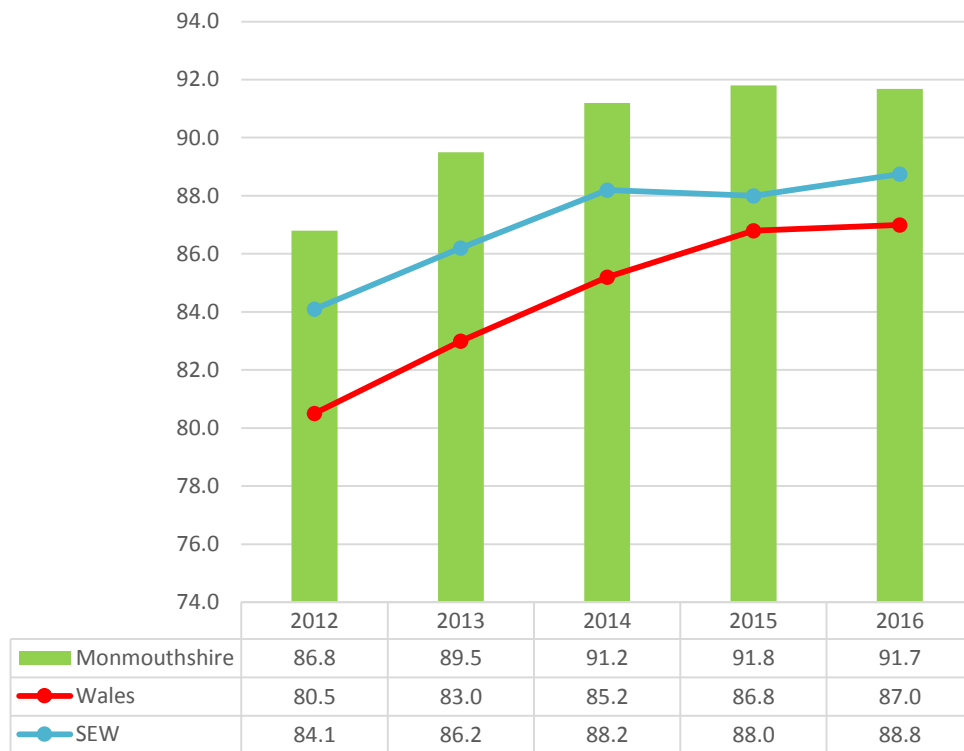
For all outcome indicators we should challenge ourselves to be in the top two positions in Wales

Foundation Phase at a glance (2016)

Foundation Phase Indicator	LLC – English	LLC – Welsh	Mathematical Development	Physical and Social Development
 1 st	 1 st	 7 th	 2 nd	 3 rd

Foundation Phase Indicator – expected level

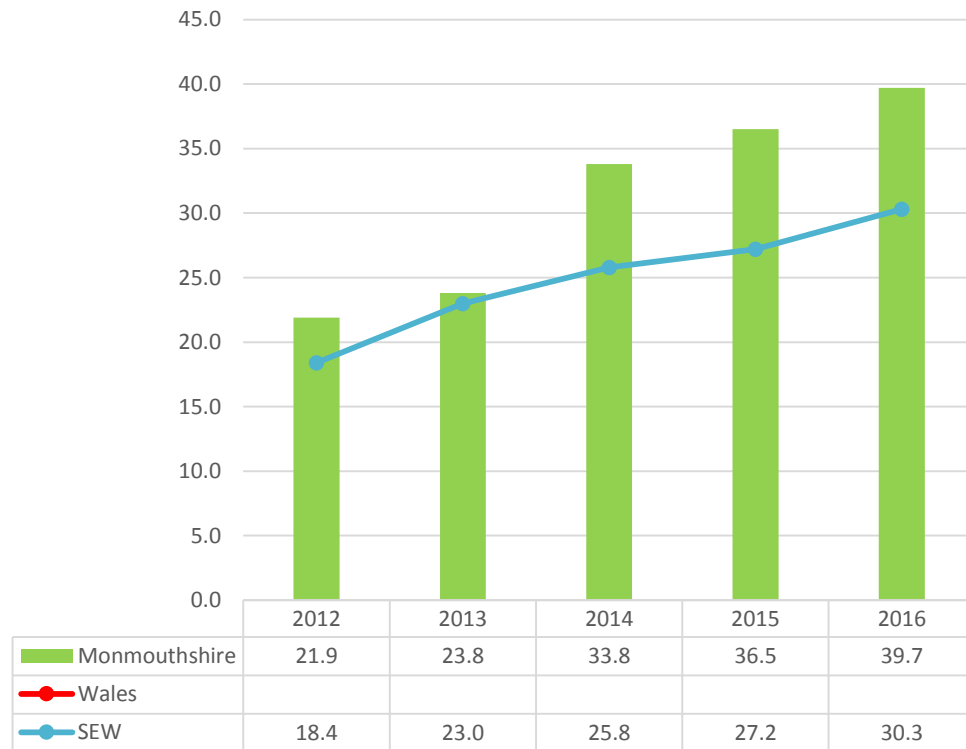
Foundation Phase Indicator - Expected Level



- *eFSM ranking is 2nd therefore the expectation is that our performance is in the top two in Wales*
- 2016 91.7% slight decline from 2015 (-0.1%) but progress from 2015 to 1st in Wales (2015 2nd)
- Very slight declines in FPI, LLC English and Mathematical development at the expected level.
- All targets missed except LLC Welsh

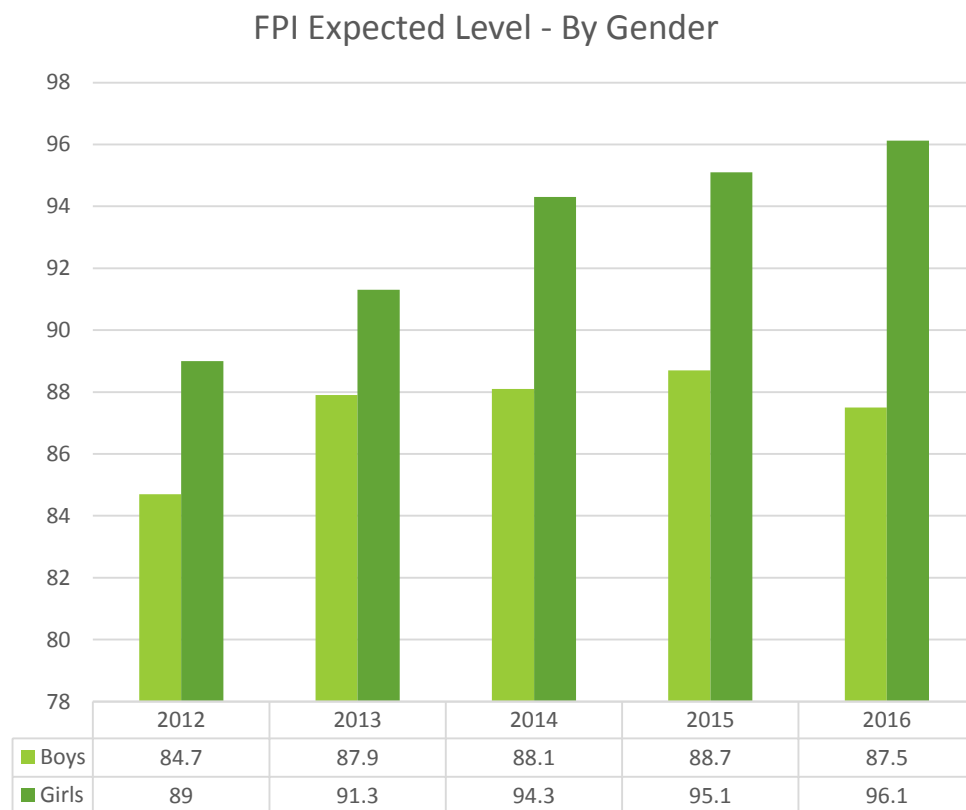
Foundation Phase Indicator – expected level plus 1

Foundation Phase Indicator - Expected Level +1



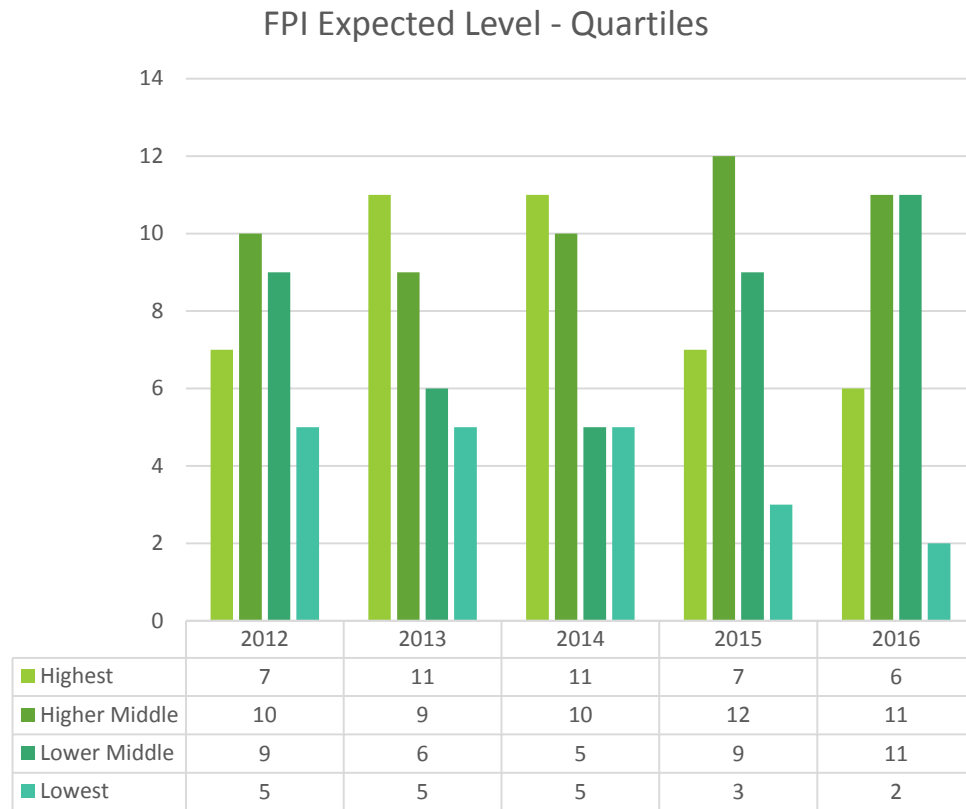
- Performance at the expected level + 1 is showing strong development – 81% increase in number achieving (18 percentage points)
- Increases in all areas
 - >45% achieving English, Maths and Welsh
 - >70% achieving PSD
- Exceptional development and area for continued focus
- Targets exceeded in all areas except English (very near 0.5%)

Foundation Phase – Gender gap








- Gender gap has increased over the last five years from 4.3% in 2012 to 8.6% in 2016
- Gap has increased and is now higher than the Welsh gap at both the expected and expected +1

Foundation Phase - Quartile performance



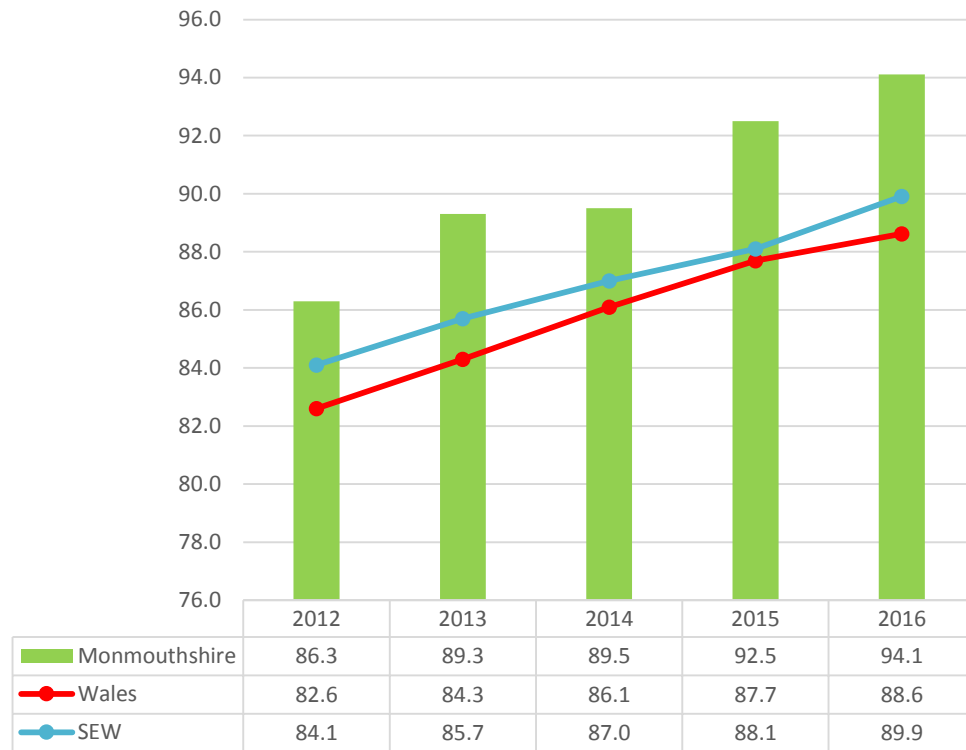
- The WG heat map disguises some of the comparative analysis
- Reduction in the number of schools in Q4 positive
- Too much volatility between Q3 and Q2 – need to understand individual progression
- 5 years net progress of -1 into top quartile – how can we ensure more schools are there?

KS2 at a glance (2016)

Core Subject Indicator	English	Welsh	Maths	Science
				

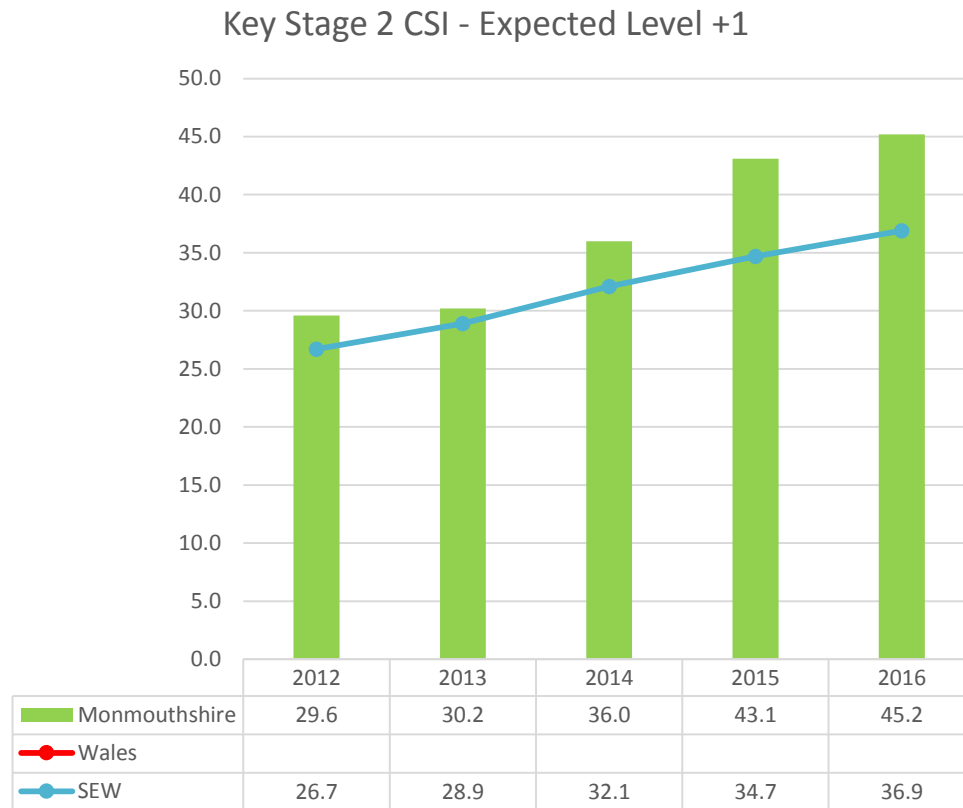
KS2 CSI – Expected level

Key Stage 2 CSI - Expected Level



- *eFSM ranking is 2nd therefore the expectation is that our performance is in the top two in Wales*
- Increased performance in 2016 now ranked first in Wales
- Performance at the expected level has increased in all areas
 - English 95.9%
 - Welsh First Lang 95.1%
 - Maths 95.2%
 - Science 97.2%
- Performance exceeded target in all areas.

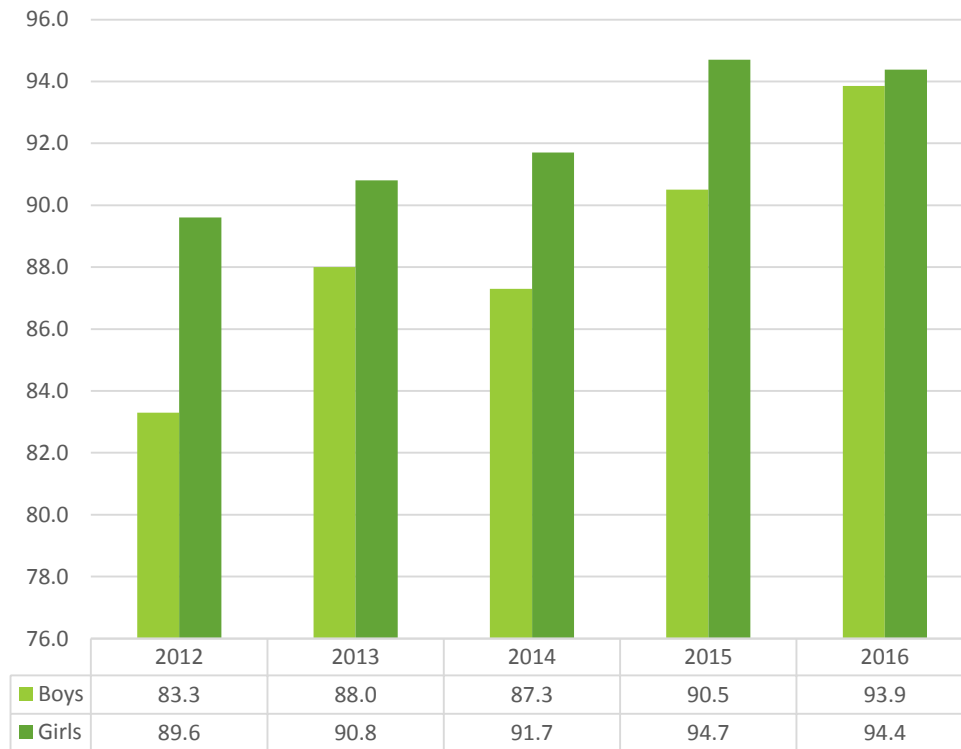
KS2 CSI – Expected Level +1



- Excellent progress at expected measure +1
 - 15.6 percentage points
 - >50% improvement in 5 years
- English, Maths and Science all >54% achieving
- All above target
- Key question is:
 - how can we sustain?
 - Is there scope at level 6?
 - What does this mean for our secondary settings?

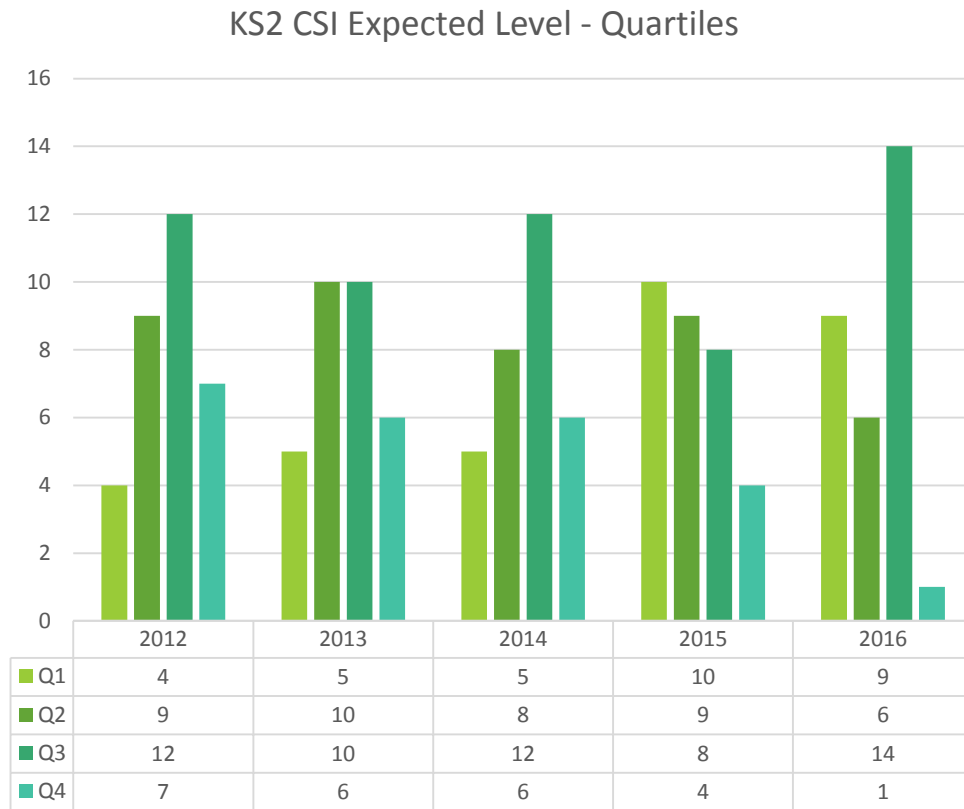
KS2 CSI – Gender gap

KS2 CSI Expected Level - By Gender







- Area of progress – cf. foundation phase
- Near parity at expected level in 2016 an improvement of 5.1 percentage points since 2012 and 3.7 pp on 2015
- Gap is lower than the Wales position (0.5% compared to 5.2%)

KS2 – Quartile Performance

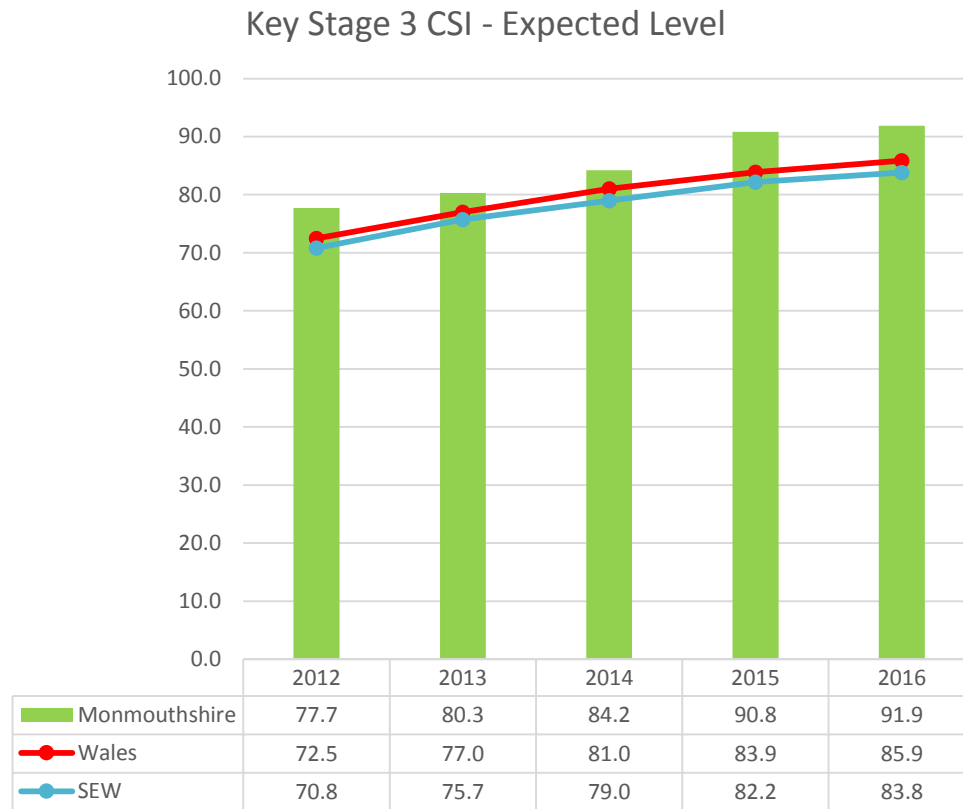


- Real progress in reducing the number of schools in Q4 (7 to 1 over 5 year period)
- Progress at Q1 too – (4 to 9)
- Volatility between Q2 and Q3 – 2016 increase of 4 schools below the median
- Fall from 2015 of 19 above the median to 15 schools in 2016

KS3 at a glance (2016)

Core Subject Indicator	English	Maths	Science
			

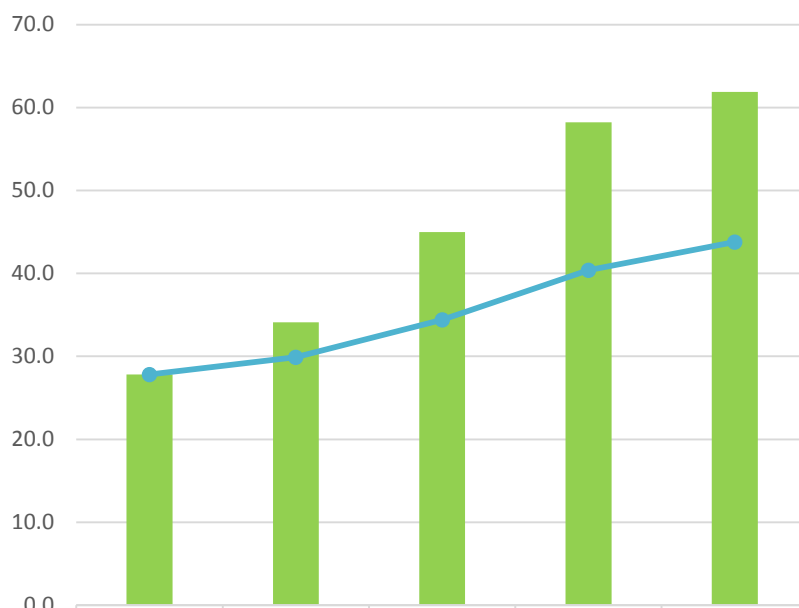
KS3 CSI – Expected level



- *eFSM ranking is 2nd therefore the expectation is that our performance is in the top two in Wales*
- Improved performance again in 2016 – now ranked third in Wales – below our expectation; a place lower than in 2015
- Across the board improvement but below targets (but only < 2% below aggregated target)

KS3 – Expected Level + 1

Key Stage 3 CSI - Expected Level +1



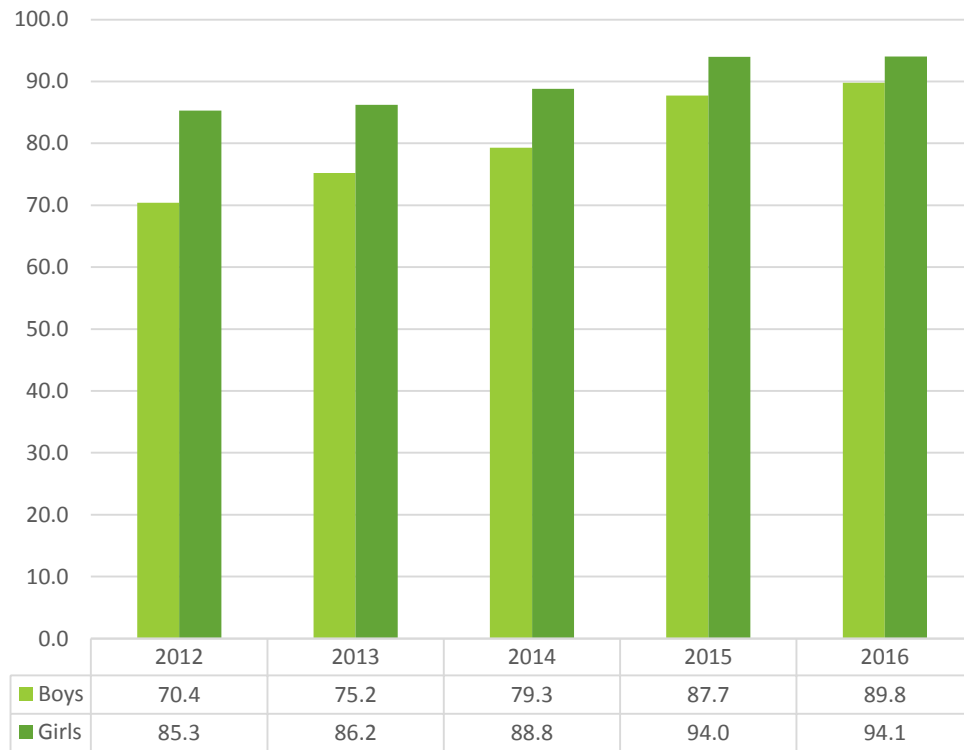
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Monmouthshire	27.8	34.1	45.0	58.2	61.9
Wales					
SEW	27.8	29.9	34.4	40.4	43.8

- Another area of strength [level 6][*level 7*]:
 - English 72.7% / 24.7%
 - Maths 74.5% / 38.8%
 - Science 76.5% / 34.1%
- Targets missed at expected level +1 for English and maths but exceeded for science
- All targets met for expected level +2

How do we convert this to KS4 outcomes?

KS3 CSI – Gender gap and quartile performance

KS3 CSI Expected Level - By Gender



Level 5

Decreased for all indicators except science. With the exception of science, all subject gender gaps are narrower than the Wales average gender difference.

Level 6

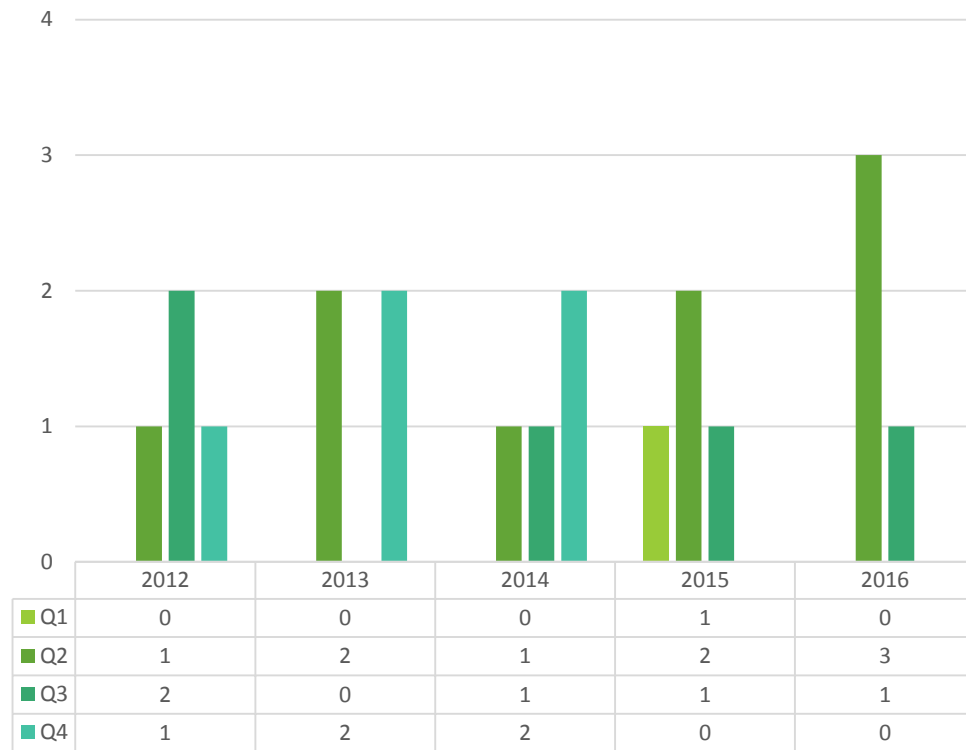
Decreased for all subjects. The gender gaps are narrower than the Wales average gender difference for English and Welsh.

Level 7

Decreased for all subjects, and are narrower than the Wales average gender difference in all subjects except science.

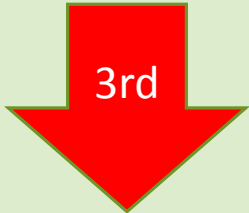
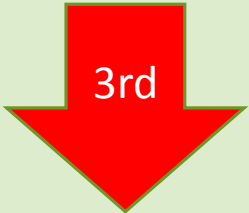




KS3 – Quartile Progress

KS3 CSI Expected Level - Quartiles

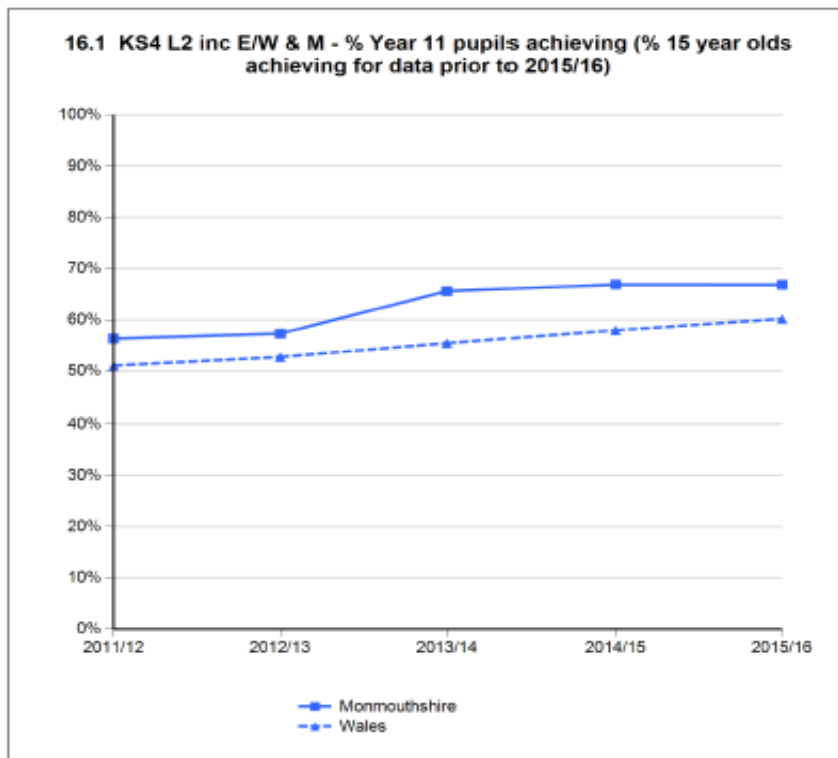


- Progress:
 - More schools above the median than at any time in the last 5 years
 - But none in Q1 anymore
 - None in Q4 since 2014
- How do we convert Q2 to Q1?

KS4 at a glance (2016)

Level 2 Inclusive	Level 2	Level 1
		
5 A*/A	Capped Point Score	No qualifications
		

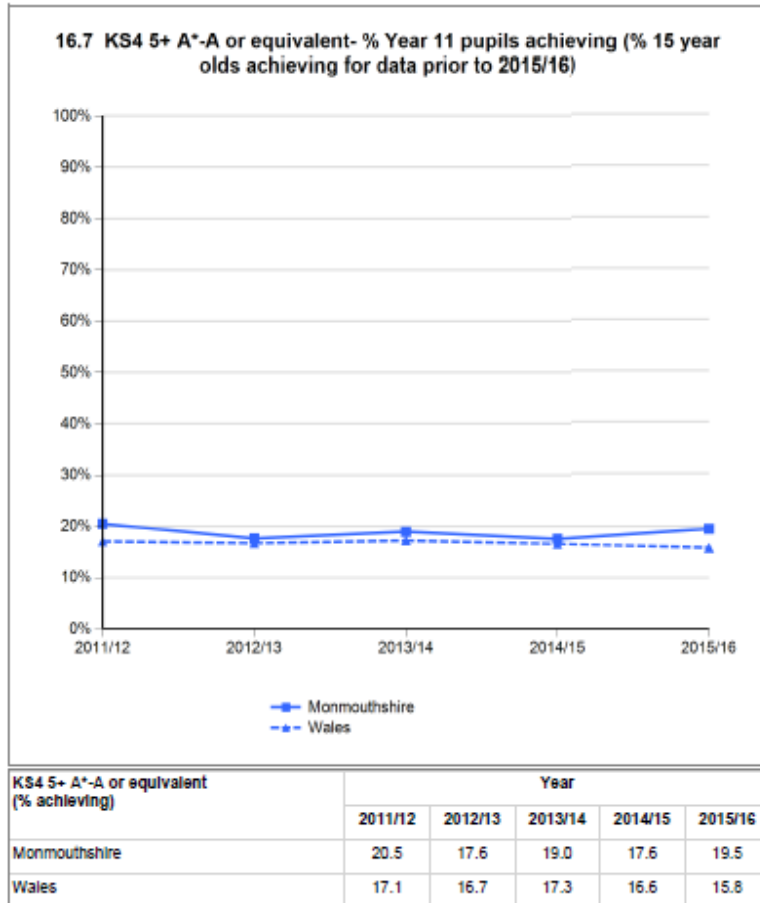
KS4 Level 2 inclusive



KS4 L2 Inc E/W & M (% achieving)	Year				
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Monmouthshire	56.3	57.3	65.6	66.9	66.8
Wales	51.1	52.7	55.4	57.9	60.2

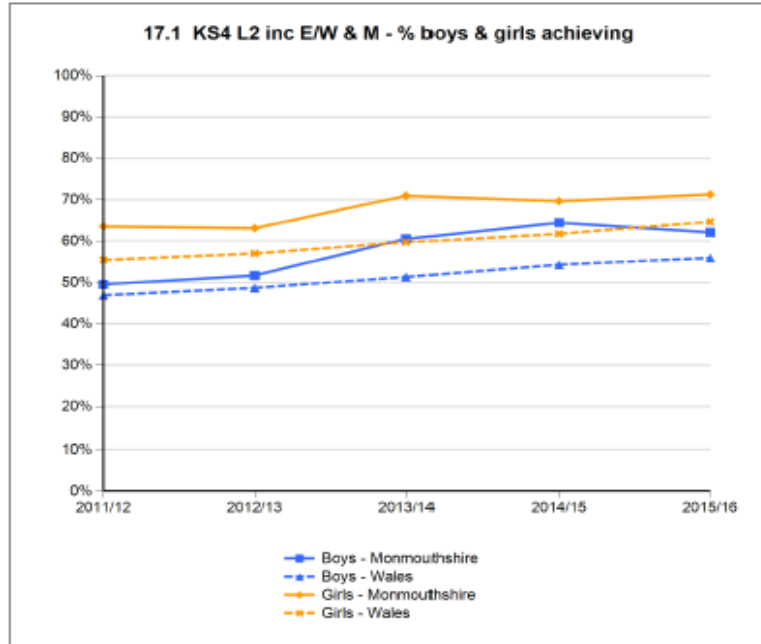
- Remains the ‘gold standard’ but we have to ensure that in future we have a view across the wide range of indicators at the end of KS4.
- Significant progress in 2013/14 but:
 - failed to move beyond the mid 60%s
 - fallen back in comparison to other Local Authorities (had been number 1 for the last 2 years now third)
 - Over the last three years the rate of improvement has been slower in Monmouthshire compared to the rest of Wales

5 A*/A Grades



- Along with the rest of Wales Monmouthshire has seen a decline in the number of children achieving 5 A*/A over the last five years although the local rate has been slower than the national rate.
- In 2016 the numbers in Monmouthshire improved
- The gap between Monmouthshire and the rest of Wales is now 3.7% and we should expect this to grow.
- 50% of our schools experienced a decline in 2016

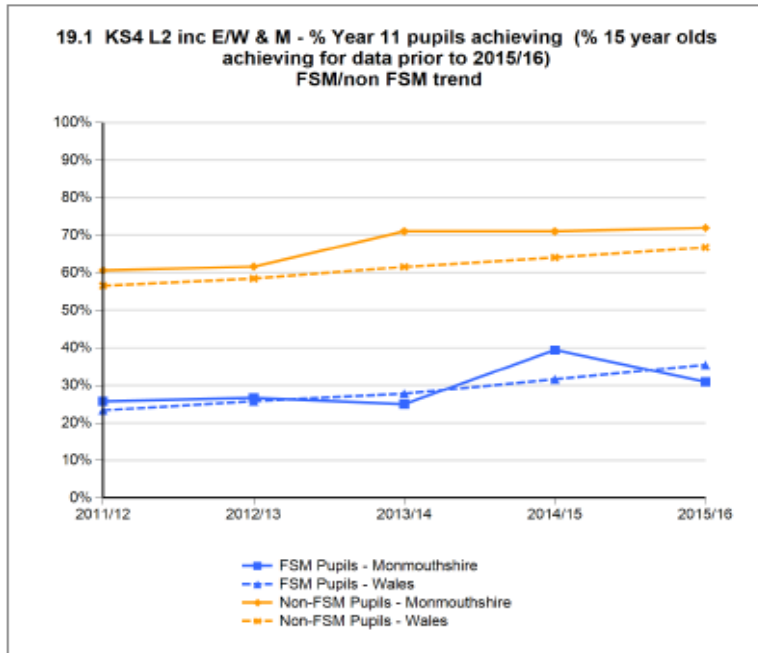
KS4 Level 2 inc. – Gender gap



KS4 L2 Inc E/W & M (% achieving)	Year				
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Boys - Monmouthshire	49.6	51.7	60.6	64.4	62.1
Boys - Wales	46.9	48.7	51.4	54.3	56.0
Girls - Monmouthshire	63.5	63.1	71.0	69.7	71.3
Girls - Wales	55.5	57.0	59.7	61.8	64.7
Difference (boys%-girls%) - Monmouthshire	-14.0	-11.4	-10.4	-5.2	-9.2
Difference (boys%-girls%) - Wales	-8.5	-8.3	-8.4	-7.5	-8.7

- The performance of boys compared to girls had been on an improving trajectory since 2011/12 but has fallen back in 2016.
- Work with other cohorts has been successful and the gap has closed at the end of KS2 and KS3
- Despite progress in the last two years this year Monmouthshire boys are performing worse than the average girls across Wales – first time in three years

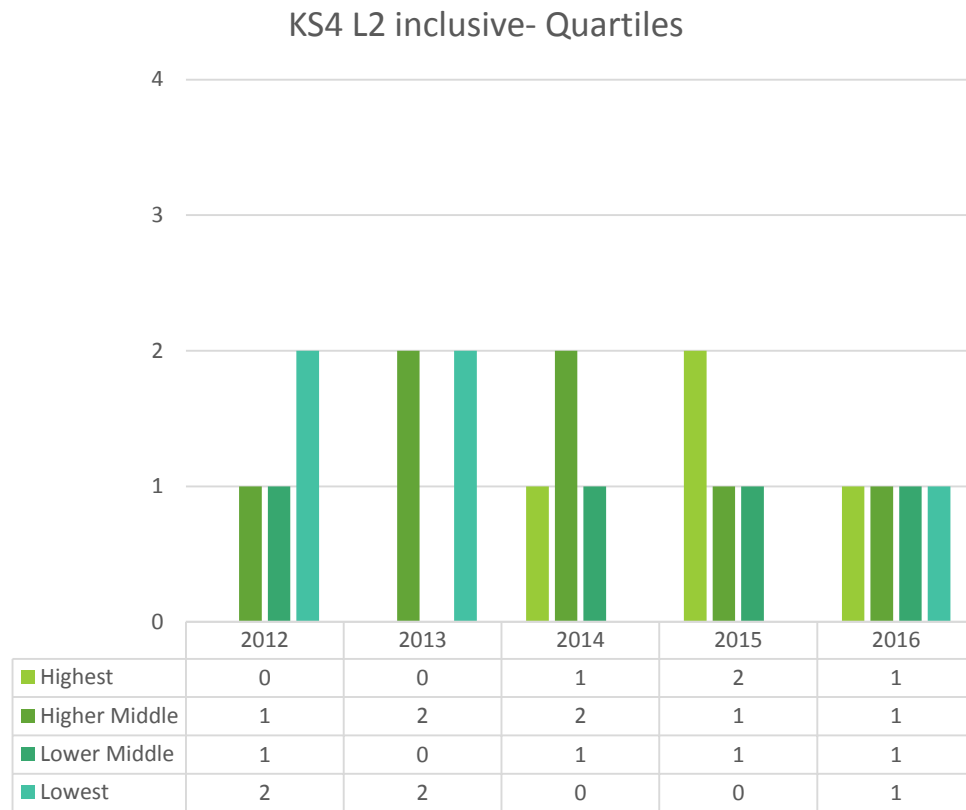
KS4 Level 2 inc. – FSM gap



KS4 L2 Inc E/W & M (% achieving)	Year				
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
FSM Pupils - Monmouthshire	25.7	26.7	25.0	39.4	31.0
FSM Pupils - Wales	23.4	25.8	27.8	31.6	35.5
Non-FSM Pupils - Monmouthshire	60.6	61.6	71.0	71.0	72.0
Non-FSM Pupils - Wales	56.6	58.5	61.6	64.1	66.7
Difference (non-FSM%-FSM%) - Monmouthshire	34.9	35.0	46.0	31.6	41.0
Difference (non-FSM%-FSM%) - Wales	33.2	32.7	33.8	32.4	31.3

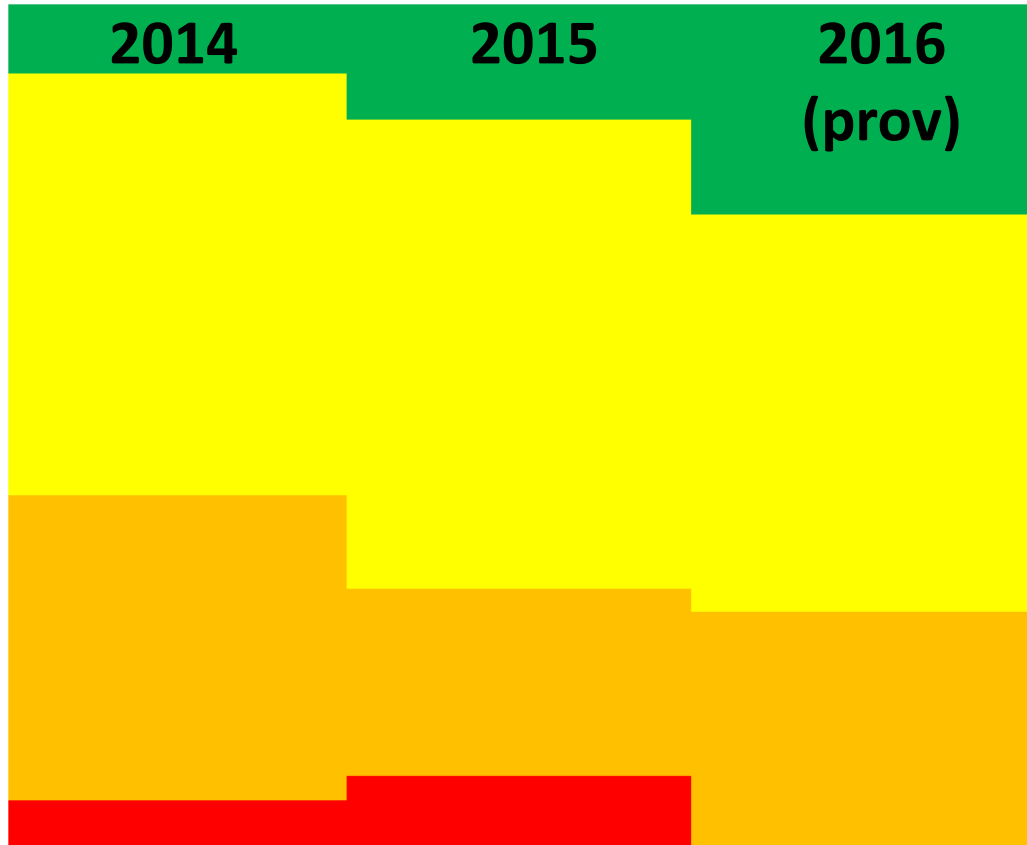
- The attainment of the small cohort of children (84 in 2016) remains an area of significant concern
- Over the last 5 years there has only been a 6% increase in the cohort’s performance
- No evidence of the gap being closed in a systematic way year on year.
- As a challenge to our schools and the EAS we need to be clear as to effectiveness of PDG spend in the schools. We should use the evidence presented by the Sutton Trust to better understand the impact of interventions.

KS4 Level 2 inc. – Quartile progression



- Real progress over time but we still have fluctuations
- 50% in Q1 in 2015
- Zero schools in Q4 since 2013 (but one has slipped back this year)
- In 2016 1 in Q1, 1 in Q2, 1 in Q3 and 1 in Q4

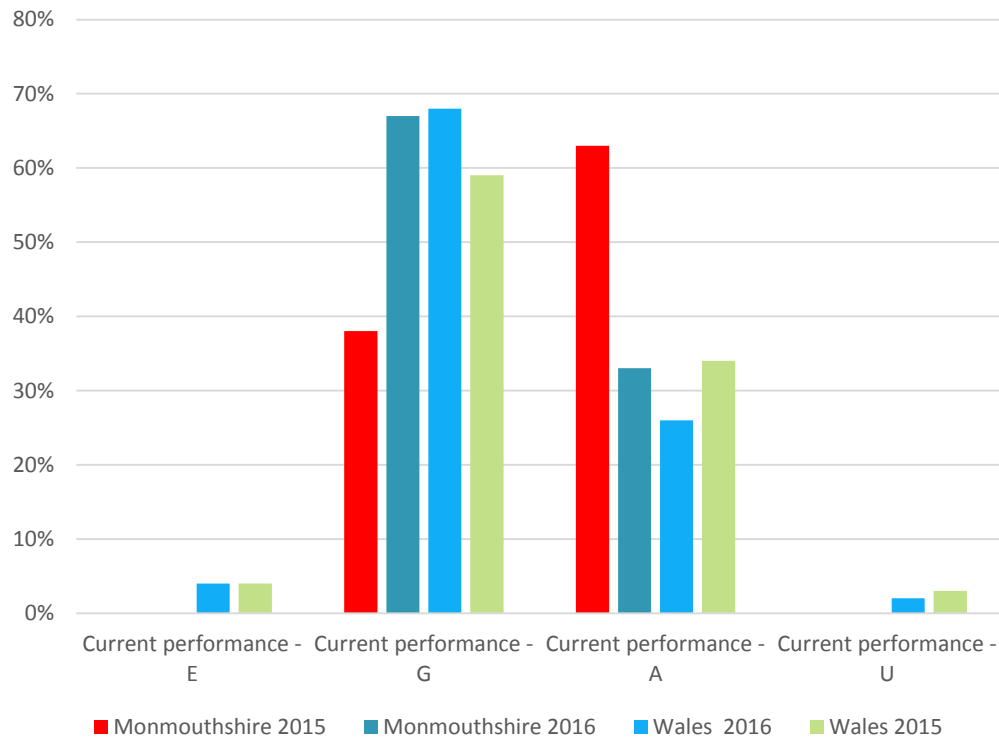
Categorisation of all our schools



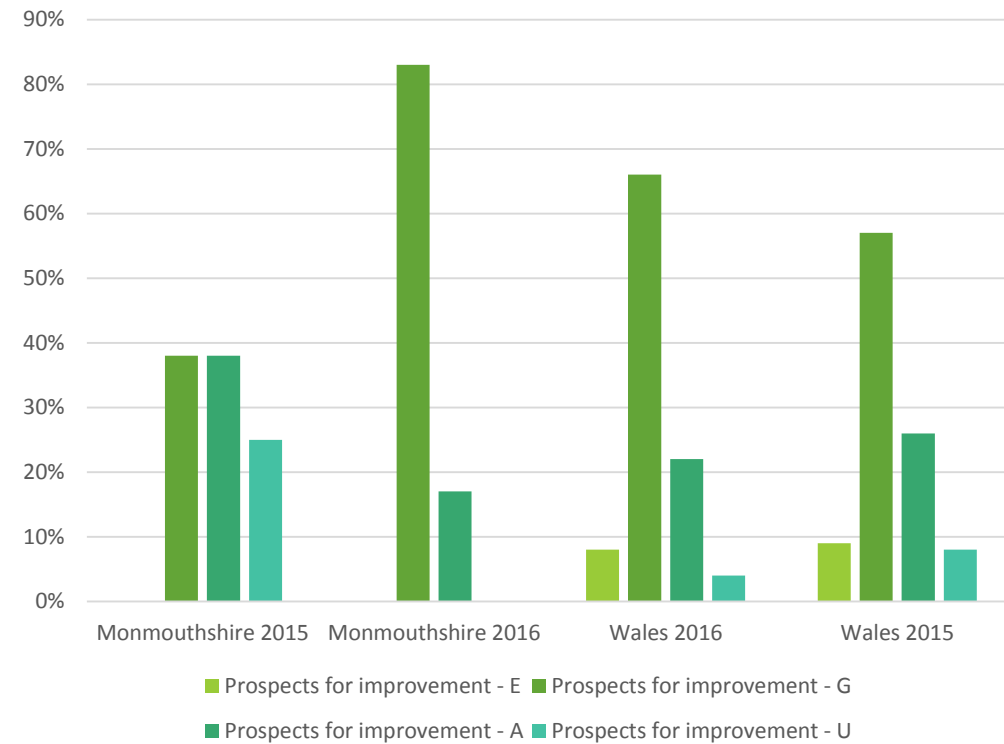
- The categorisation of our schools is part of a National Model designed to identify which of our school are most in need of external support.
- There are three steps in arriving at the overall judgement:
 - Step One: data driven on a three year rolling average
 - Step Two: begins with the schools self-evaluation and then considers wider perspectives
 - Step Three: the combination of steps one and two identifies a 'colour' and a subsequent package of support
- This is the key driver in planning our programmed interventions in schools alongside the EAS

Estyn Outcomes 2014 - 2016

Current Performance

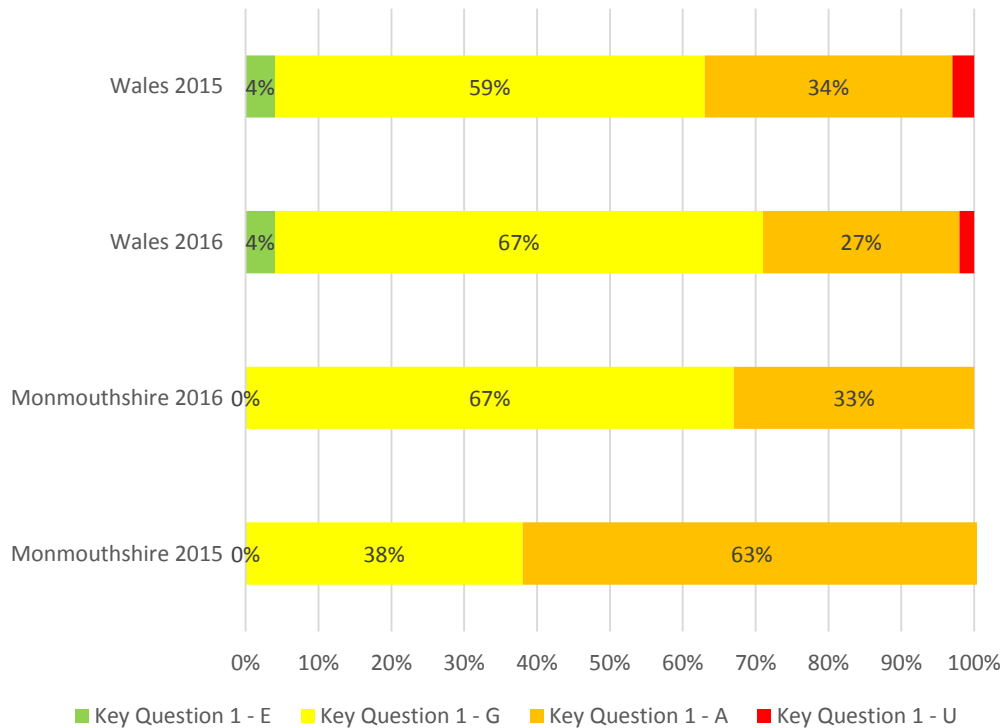


Prospects for Improvement



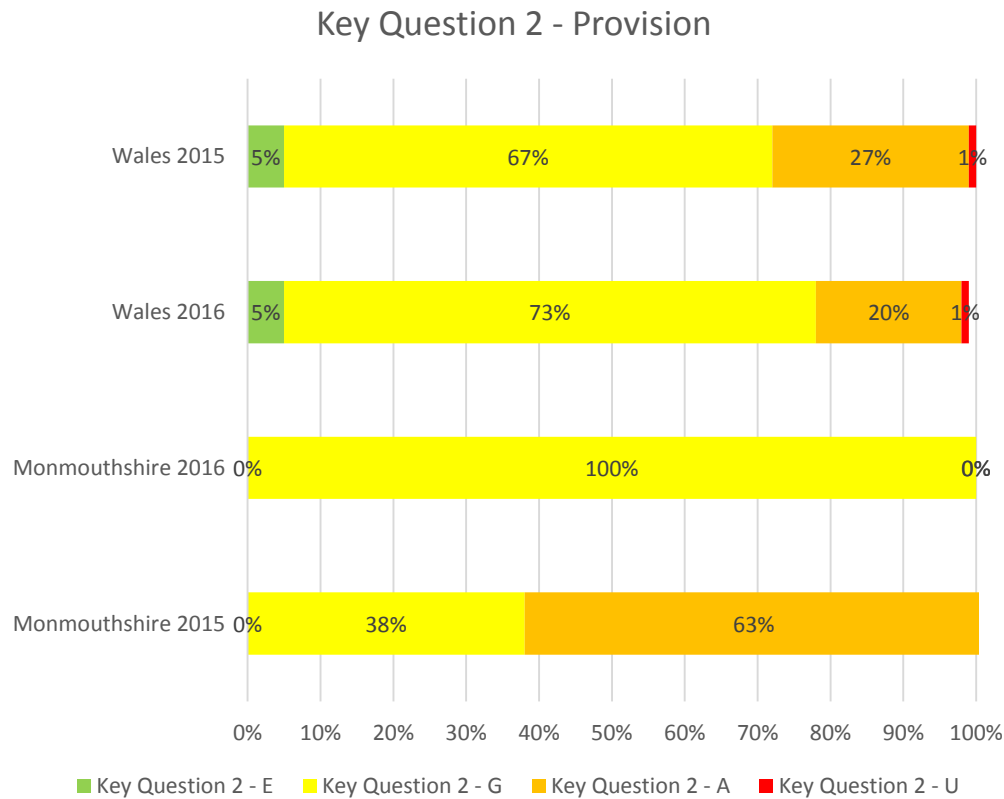
Estyn Key Question Outcomes 2014 – 2016 – Key Question 1; Standards

Key Question 1 - Outcomes



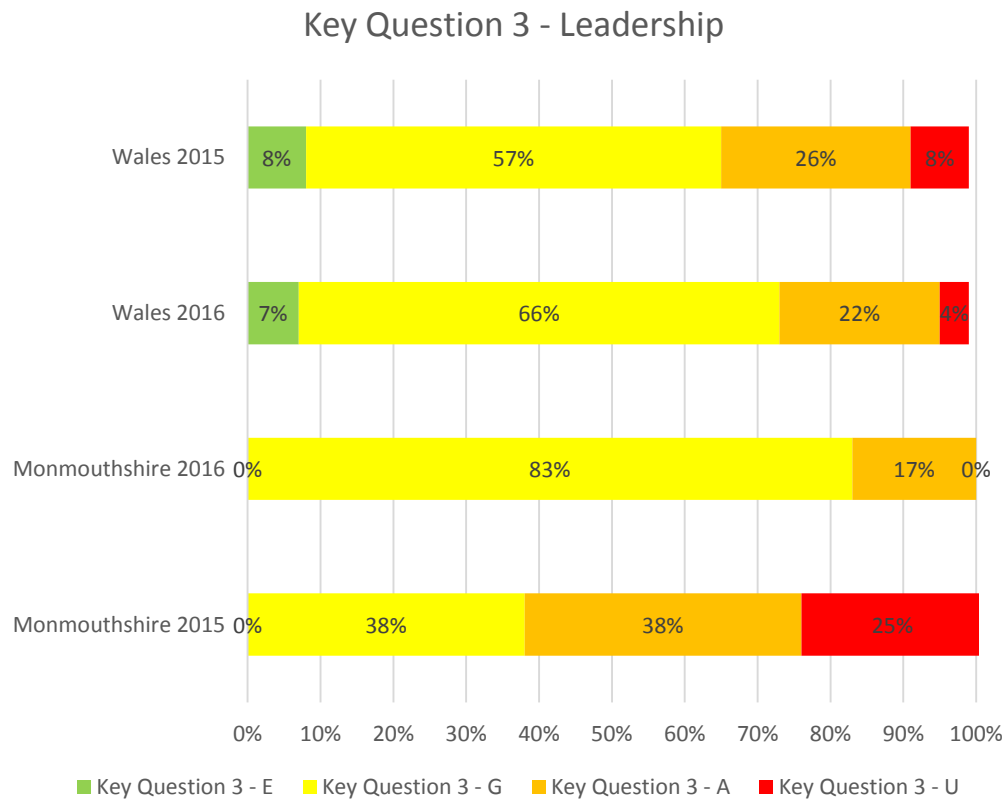
- The Estyn approach to inspecting school is based on a rolling programme of inspections. There for although year on year comparatives are useful different schools are being evaluated every year.
- Compared to the Welsh average over the past two years Monmouthshire has not had any schools judged as having Excellent standards.
- In 2016 the majority (62%) of Monmouthshire Schools had ‘good’ outcomes which compares positively to 2015 when only a minority did (38%).
- Monmouthshire has not had any unsatisfactory schools for key question one in the last two years

Estyn Key Question Outcomes 2014 – 2016 – Key Question 2; Provision



- Compared to the Welsh average over the past two years Monmouthshire has not had any schools judged as having Excellent provision.
- In 2016 the all of Monmouthshire Schools had 'good' provision which compares positively to 2015 when only a minority did (38%). This also compares positively with the Welsh position of 73%.
- Monmouthshire has not had any unsatisfactory schools for key question two in the last two years.

Estyn Key Question Outcomes 2014 – 2016 – Question 3; Leadership



- Leadership is critical to all aspects of the education system in Monmouthshire.
- In 2015 the majority of schools were judged to have either adequate (39%) or unsatisfactory (25%) leadership. This compared poorly to the Welsh average.
- In 2016 this had improved and many (83%) were judged as having good leadership. This means that Monmouthshire compares favourably to the Welsh average.
- There are no schools in Monmouthshire where leadership has been judged excellent.

Our key challenges:

- To continue to triangulate our evidence:
 - Standards
 - Estyn
 - Categorisation
- Ask what we need in our school system:
 - How many excellent schools?
 - How do schools support each other?
- How can primary good practice be maintained through KS3 and KS4
- How can we design effective improvement pathways for our schools; collectively and individually?
- **What would our standards be if we had excellent teaching and leadership?**



The hardest path



- Move beyond good to excellent – *we should expect to see schools receive ‘excellent’ Estyn judgements*
- More ‘green’ schools – *to provide the bedrock for a strong and self-improving system*
- The median should be our baseline at the expected level
- We will continue to push for increasing numbers of children achieving the higher levels of achievement
- More Q1 performance in our schools
- The highest standards for all groups of learners

Attendance and Exclusions:

BEING IN SCHOOL AND BEING WELL BEHAVED

Exclusions

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Total number of Primary Days lost to FTE	137	50.5	60	41	106
Rate of Total primary FTE per 1000 pupils	26.1	9.6	11.3	7.7	19.9
Total number of Secondary Days lost to FTE	636	481	277.5	371	475.5
Rate of Total Secondary FTE per 1000 pupils	154.9	119.4	72.4	95	123.5

Exclusions were too high in 2012 at the time of the original Estyn inspection. The next three years saw efforts to reduce these number and we were successful, particularly at the primary stage. The secondary setting is more complex and the demands can be more pressing. The 2015/16 figure is now nearly at the levels not seen since 2012/13.

Managing these pressures more effectively will be a key part of the ALN and Inclusion review.

Attendance – Primary Schools

Statistical Neighbour	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Powys	93.6%	94.6%	94.2%	95.6%	95.6%	
Ceredigion	94.3%	94.9%	94.3%	94.6%	95.7%	
Pembrokeshire	93.2%	93.9%	93.5%	94.8%	95%	
Vale of Glamorgan	93.7%	94.5%	94.2%	95.3%	95.3%	
Monmouthshire	94.4%	94.7%	94.4%	95.8%	95.8%	95.7%
Wales Average	93.3%	93.8%	93.7%	94.8%	94.9%	

Attendance rates in Monmouthshire have been consistently high over the past 5 years when compared with the rest of Wales but the refined use of data following Estyn's Inspection in 2012, has resulted in a significant rise in primary attendance which has been sustained.

Attendance – Secondary Schools

LA	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Powys	92.9%	93.2%	94.3%	94.6%	94.9%
Ceredigion	93.7%	93.6%	94.5%	94.5%	94.6%
Pembrokeshire	92.6%	92.2%	93.4%	93.2%	93.3%
Vale of Glamorgan	92.7%	93.3%	94.2%	94.7%	95.0%
Monmouthshire	93%	93.4%	94.5%	94.6%	94.7%

Monmouthshire's secondary attendance has again improved by 0.1% in 2015/16. If the SEBD special school is not included in these figures attendance rates would rise by 0.3% and would have resulted in an attendance figure of 94.9% for the Local Authority placing it second in Wales (the inclusive figure shows Monmouthshire as 4th in Wales).

Safeguarding:

'SAFEGUARDING IS PROTECTING CHILDREN AND ADULTS FROM RISK FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT; PREVENTING IMPAIRMENT OF THEIR HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT AND ENSURING THEY RECEIVE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE CARE...SO AS TO ENABLE THEM TO HAVE EFFECTIVE LIFE CHANCES'

Resources:

FINANCE AND PHYSICAL ASSETS

Financial Resources and support services

Achievements:

- Central budgets made a small contribution to reserves
- Mandates for 16-17 on target to be achieved.
- We have designed and delivered the Outstanding Administrator's programme to promote self sufficiency in schools.
- Evolve Policy for risk assessment of school activities
- EVC training for all schools.
- Schools ICT rollout has commenced and schools are now benefiting
- ParentPay rollout enabling parents to pay online simply and securely
- The online portal for admissions is live and proving to be effective

Challenges:

- There are an increasing number of schools in a deficit; we are predicting 7 schools in deficit at the year end.
- The ongoing budget environment remains challenging but schools are now understanding the opportunities that joint working will bring.
- ICT rollout programme has been impacted by hardware and broadband issues.
- The late notification and variability in Welsh Government Grants is often a challenge for schools to manage.

Future Schools Programme

Achievements

- Secured additional funding from WG and MCC
- Projects on time to deliver.
- ICT strategies – forward thinking.
- Creative learning environments.

Challenges

- What is the potential for Monmouthshire in a 'Band B' of funding?
- How can we work across our new and existing estate to build business acumen into our schools and their management?

Objectives for 2016/17

What will we do? (Stage 1 Improvement Plan)

New areas of specific focus

Continue to raise standards across all key stages of education for all pupils: particularly in relation to literacy, numeracy and closing the gap in key stage performance between pupils receiving free school meals and those who do not.

Focus on the attainment at the expected level plus one in our primary settings: this will provide the basis for higher levels of attainment in the later stages.
Work closely with our secondary schools to ensure they are prepared for the new examination requirements

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Increase the proportion of pupils with additional learning needs accessing or receiving education within main-stream settings.

- Conclude the independent review of ALN and inclusion provision across the County.
- Develop a broader offer across schools and youth support services to effectively tackle Adverse Childhood Experiences
- The CYP Directorate will become one of the key participants in the wider Public Service Board approach to reducing childhood obesity.

Engage a critical friend to help the authority continue to improve on the performance elements identified in the latest Estyn inspection

Seeking specific expertise to develop our collaborative working across geographical and age based clusters

Invest in ICT so that schools can maximise the impact of technology

Work with all schools to ensure that Monmouthshire is ready to deliver the Successful Futures framework

Build and refurbish our school estate as prioritised so they are fit for learning and teaching.

Work closely with schools and wider partner agencies to reduce the number of exclusions

How did we do against
last year's priorities?

Key priorities for delivery in 2015/16

What	By when?	Did we make it?
Increased performance in the number of children getting five good GCSEs including English and maths at the end of KS4 whilst maintaining a particular focus on performance at the end of KS3	August 2015	-
Closing the gap in attainment between those eligible for free school meals and those who are not	August 2016	x
Continue to reduce the number of schools that are in financial deficit and those with a surplus budget greater than agreed limits	August 2016	x
21 st Century secondary schools programme (First Phase)	September 2015 to September 2017	✓
Strengthen collaborative arrangements to build capacity in all schools and reduce variation between schools in Monmouthshire	September 2017	✓
Production of Digital learning and teaching strategic plan to include SIMS in every classroom	September 2017	✓