

SUBJECT:	BRYN Y CWM AREA COMMITTEE PILOT
MEETING:	COUNCIL
DATE:	14TH DECEMBER 2017
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	BRYN Y CWM

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To seek approval of council to a temporary amendment of the constitution which will allow town and community council members voting rights on the Bryn y Cwm Area Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That council agree to a temporary amendment to the constitution of the Bryn y Cwm area committee to allow town and community council members who sit on the Bryn y Cwm area committee voting rights for the duration of the area working pilot, ending in September 2018.
- 2.2 That the quorum of the Bryn y Cwm area committee is one quarter of the whole number of members being 23.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The role of Area Committees is to provide a clear link between cluster areas and local authority decision making. It provides an opportunity for communities to have a voice and participate in local democracy. In March 2017, the Authority approved the piloting of a new model in Bryn y Cwm, whereby Area Committees will be retained as the sole structure to support joint working and adopting a strategic approach to coordinated funding opportunities.
- 3.2 Area Committees are a way to support and ensure Monmouthshire's communities are resilient with a clarity for purpose when seen from a community perspective. The committee needs to be citizen-focused and be able to influence at the interface between strategic and local decision-making ensuring that resources are directed to local priorities. The terms of reference for the committee include championing the area by raising issues of concern to residents, organisations and businesses with the Council and influencing how services
- 3.3 The Council constitution presently only allows voting rights to members of the County Council who sit on the Committee. To ensure the committee is able to operate inclusively and provide a voice to community and town council members it is appropriate to consider extending voting rights on issues discussed at the committee. The committee itself has no

decision-making powers and will be voting on issues on which the decision will still remain with Cabinet or County Council in line with the constitution.

4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 4.1 There were two options, either to extend voting rights or not to extend voting rights. The committee debated the issue and agreed that giving all democratically elected members of the committee the opportunity to vote would ensure the continued and effective involvement of members of community and town councils.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 5.1 The proposed change will be evaluated as part of the evaluation of the pilot scheme as a whole following its conclusion in September 2018.
- 5.2 The evaluation will be made available to Strong Communities Select Committee for scrutiny in October or November 2018.

6. REASONS:

- 6.1 To ensure that the committee is able to influence at the interface between strategic and local decision-making.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

None

8. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

- 8.1 The main impacts of this decision will be increased involvement and increasing collaboration with town and community councils – these are two of the five ways of working embedded in the Well-being of Future Generations Act. By creating scope for wider participation there are opportunities to bring in a diversity of views and contributions that will help develop more innovative and future focused solutions.
- 8.2 The actual impacts from this report's recommendations will be reviewed at the end of the pilot and the and criteria for monitoring and review are increased engagement and an increase in the number of recommendations going forward to council and cabinet meetings.

9. CONSULTEES:

SLT
Cabinet
Monitoring Officer
Bryn y Cwm Area Committee

The Monitoring Officer advised on the amendment to the constitution being a temporary measure and advised on the wording of the recommendations which has been included.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

[Community Engagement Review](#)

11. AUTHOR:

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Evaluation Criteria – Cabinet, Individual Cabinet Member Decisions & Council

Title of Report:	Bryn y Cwm Area Committee Pilot
Date decision was made:	Scheduled for 14th December 2017
Report Author:	Matthew Gatehouse

What will happen as a result of this decision being approved by Cabinet or Council?

Increased inclusivity of decision making at Bryn y Cwm Area Committee.
Increase the likelihood of a successful piloting of the new approach to area committees.
Opening up and ensuring a more participatory democratic process

What benchmarks and/or criteria will you use to determine whether the decision has been successfully implemented?

Increased town and community council engagement in area committees.
An increase in the number of recommendations from the area committee to select committees, Cabinet and County Council.
Increased perception amongst local people that they are able to influence decisions in their local area and participate in local democracy.
Increased likelihood that community interests and priorities will be taken into account by the Authority in exercising its functions.

What is the estimated cost of implementing this decision or, if the decision is designed to save money, what is the proposed saving that the decision will achieve?

There are no financial or non-financial costs associated with implementing the decision

