



People, Place Prosperity
A Strategy for Social Justice
2017 – 2022 (Phase 3 January 2021)

Version Control

Title	People, Place, Prosperity: A Strategy for Social Justice
Purpose	To demonstrate the Council's continuing commitment to address inequalities in the county in order to make our society function better. Providing an approach that will help turn lives around by removing barriers and facilitating practical support and solutions to enable citizens to realise their full potential.
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Putting Social Justice.....at the **heart** of what we do in Monmouthshire

Monmouthshire County Council is committed to building sustainable and resilient communities. Central to this are the principles of social justice. A socially just society is one in which everyone's rights and dignity are equally respected, where all citizens are able to participate fully, and where nobody's life chances are held back for reasons that are beyond their personal control.

The current Administration have demonstrated their commitment to Social Justice through their appointment of a Cabinet Member for Social Justice and Community Development and this Social Justice Strategy, first produced in 2018, demonstrates how the Council will address inequalities in our county in order to make our society function better. It offers an approach that will help turn lives around by removing systemic barriers and facilitating practical support and solutions to enable our citizens to realise their full potential.

2. The Story So Far and our Next Steps

The Aim of this Social Justice Strategy has always been '**To put Social Justice at the heart of what we do**' and over the past two years the Strategy has set out a broad programme of work to help to make a real difference to the lives of local people by working in partnership.

The **Commitments** made in the Strategy have therefore focussed and continue to focus on the following:

- Enabling connected and caring communities supporting people to live independently;
- Delivering on social justice, better prosperity and reducing inequality; and
- Enabling better local services through supporting volunteers and social action

All of this has aligned with the Public Service Board priorities and aspirations:

- To reduce inequalities between communities and within communities;
- To support and protect vulnerable people; and
- To consider our impact on the environment.

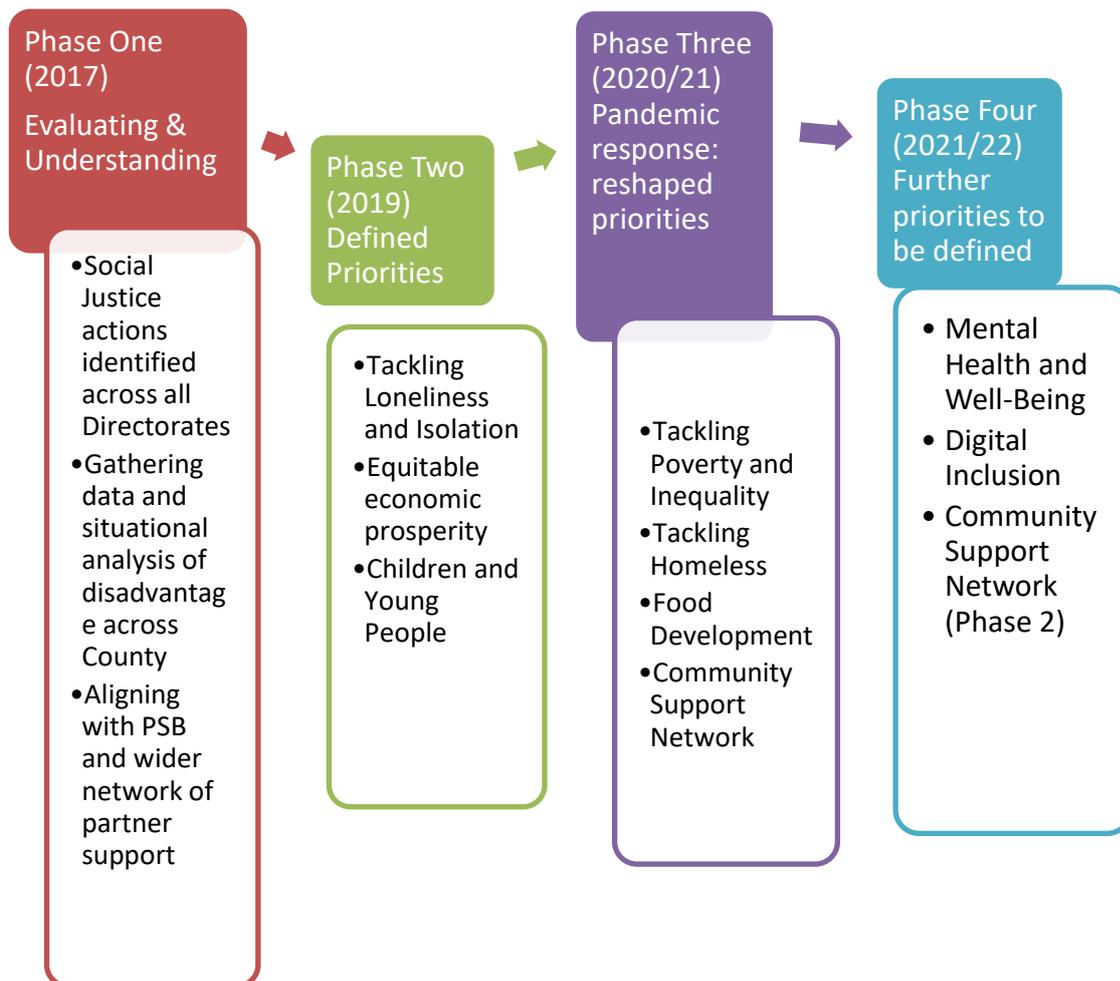
The Community Partnership and Development Team have also been the 'Engine Room' for the Social Justice movement in Monmouthshire 'the Bridge between

community needs and aspirations and the wider strategic priorities of the Council and its PSB partners’.

However, this has always been an evolving strategy and in this third phase, the Strategy details our response to what has been without doubt, the most demanding year for community support, when the UK went into lockdown in March 2020 as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. As a result, the Council had to pivot its Community Service delivery model and in light of the service changes required for 2020, this Social Justice Strategy sets out how the Strategy has evolved and the new direction for the Strategy and the Council’s Service areas in particular the Community Support Network (formerly the Community Partnership and Development Network). However, the Strategy also demonstrates our continuing commitment to work as a Council, and in partnership at national, regional and community level, to implement the policy interventions, approaches, support and methods to improve outcomes for people and communities.

Diagram One below details the history of the Social Justice Strategy to date and how the Strategy will evolve as we move forward:

Diagram One – The evolution of the Social Justice Strategy



3. Case Studies

Below are some case studies which provide some examples of some of the activities that have been undertaken to date as a result of taking a coordinated approach to Social Justice delivery:

Community Focused Schools: Sharing Social Capital

The Community Focused Schools pilot worked across the Chepstow cluster of schools to support schools to reach out into their communities, creating opportunities for children and young people to engage in local projects and also for members of the local community to share their skill, knowledge and passions across the cluster. The focus of the pilot was upon creating more equitable access to the social capital that some children are already fortunate enough to be exposed to.

Over sixty volunteers from the local community came forward offering to share their knowledge and professional networks. Examples of successful projects included a dance/theatre producer who worked with sixth form students to develop professional-level production skills, a local food producer who has come forward to share a programme of cookery skills with children and families, collaboration with partners to establish a new youth provision in Thornwell focused on supporting transition from primary to secondary school, and a successful funding bid to enable children to enjoy camping with their families within school grounds.

Following the successful pilot the approach is being offered across the county, integrated into the council's approach to tackling poverty and inequality.

Tackling Loneliness and Isolation: Owls and Acorns

Owls & Acorns started as a pilot scheme two years ago in Raglan Primary to bring together older people and children from foundation phase classes to enjoy arts, crafts and exercises for one and a half hours. This shared activity benefits both parties and the scheme has since expanded to include Usk Primary as well as Kymin View Primary and Osbaston Primary in Monmouth. Last year, the scheme was nominated for an Aneurin Bevan University Health Board staff recognition award and has been recognised in local and national media.

Instigated by occupational therapists and physiotherapists at Monmouthshire's integrated health and social care team based in Monmouth's Monnow Vale, the Owls and Acorns project benefitted from an additional £12,000 of funding from the National Lottery and Monmouthshire Housing Association in 2020.

When coronavirus lockdown measures are relaxed the Owls & Acorns team will return to work in Raglan, Usk and Monmouth, and in addition the cash boost will allow them to establish new projects in Monmouthshire where intergenerational opportunities are limited, either in line with existing schemes or in a manner that best fits new locations.

Tackling Poverty and Inequality: Supporting families through the summer holidays

Prior to Covid, free school meal provision did not normally extend through the school holidays and the problem of 'holiday hunger' had been highlighted by a number of charitable campaigning organisations. Several organisations within Monmouthshire had responded to this issue, offering their own bespoke programmes (including the MCC delivered School Holiday Enrichment Programme – or 'SHEP' – social landlord run community picnics, and projects run by local community groups).

Whilst each of these projects was valuable on its own terms, the Financial, Economic and Digital Inclusion Partnership (FEDIP) identified that there was considerable duplication in some areas, whilst other parts of the county were less well served. As a result of this, several partners collaborated for the first time to jointly provide expanded programmes which were able to provide breakfast clubs as well as family picnics whilst also connecting families with a range of additional support, such as employment and benefits advice.

4. Phase Three

Whilst the Aim of the Strategy will remain the same i.e. 'To put Social Justice at the heart of what we do' rather than a broad programme of work, this third phase of the Strategy will provide policy coherence for targeted individual action plans. The Action Plans have been produced following consideration of the recently changing societal picture as a direct result of the Covid 19 pandemic, however they will continue to help promote equitable prosperity in Monmouthshire.

The Strategy also demonstrates integration with the recently approved Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024 and also follows a number of social justice guiding principles (possibly forming the basis of a pledge or charter in the future):

- Co-production /participation: working with our communities as equal partners and recognising them as experts in their own lives.
- Equity: ensuring people have what they need in order to be able to fairly access opportunities.
- Reducing disadvantage: removing the barriers that prevent people helping themselves and being able to live a good life.
- Inter-generational justice (including Ageing Well, CYP and future generations): ensuring that no-one is disadvantaged because of when they were born, whilst working to make sure that future generations have a life that is at least as good as we enjoy today.

The individual action plans now contained within the Strategy namely the Tackling Poverty and Inequality Action Plan, the Homeless Transition Plan and the Food Development Action Plan provide the detailed activities for the next two years and the targets by which we will measure our success to ensure that we achieve our goal – putting social justice at the heart of what we do in Monmouthshire. It is also the ambition to develop two additional action plans

in 2021 namely the Mental Health/Well-being/Social Isolation Action Plan and the Digital Inclusion Action Plan.

5. The Continuing Case for Change

Monmouthshire is often perceived to be leafy and affluent and in many aspects it is. However some of the differences within and between communities are stark, especially when they exist side-by-side. There are:

- wide variations in exam results between people from different social backgrounds who attend the same schools;
- Numerous high earners living in our County but wages available locally are lower than other parts of Wales with many people experiencing in-work poverty;
- Many of our citizens are getting older, suffering ill health and at risk of becoming lonely and isolated;
- The costs of living in our rural county and accessing very basic services, such as transport and health provision, are greater than the costs for people living in urban conurbations.

6. Evidence of Inequality

The Well-being Assessment and the Population Needs Assessment undertaken by the Council in March 2017 both highlighted the strengths and opportunities within our communities and used an extensive evidence base to draw out some of the challenges individuals and communities will face in the future. We also know that the effects of the pandemic have not been felt evenly across our population, with those who already experienced disadvantage likely to be most affected. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation characterise this with the saying that “we are all in the same storm, but we are not all in the same boat”. This differential impact requires that we revisit our social justice priorities to ensure that they are sharply focused on the area in which the need is greatest. For example:

- Over 9,000 people were furloughed in Monmouthshire during the first lockdown;
- During April and May 2020 claims for Universal Credit in the county more than doubled due to the high levels of self-employed;
- Sectors identified by the Resolution Foundation as being particularly at risk of job losses are accommodation, non-food retail, pubs and restaurants, and arts and leisure – all of which are significant local employment sectors;
- As at December 2020, 129 households were in temporary accommodation in Monmouthshire, many of them single people;
- Since March 2020, the level of housing association vacancies has dropped significantly due to tenants not moving and the availability of operatives to prepare voids ready for re-letting;
- As at October 2020, there were ,3,387 live applications registered with Homesearch;
- During the Covid-19 crisis, the UK Food Bank network reported its busiest time ever with 81% more emergency food parcels being given out across the UK, including 122% more parcels going to families with children, compared to the same period in 2019;
- 1,379 children in Monmouthshire are currently registered to receive free school meals.



7. Our Aim – to put Social Justice at the of what we do

Monmouthshire County Council has a clear purpose.

We want to help build sustainable and resilient communities that support the well-being of current and future generations.

This purpose gives focus to everything we do to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Monmouthshire and is in line with the goals and ambitions of our public service partners who form the Monmouthshire Public Service Board (PSB).

8. Our Corporate Plan

Monmouthshire County Council's Corporate Business Plan sets out the things we will be working on in the medium term. The plan sets out our five Organisational Goals (also our well-being objectives) supported by the 22 commitments to action we will make and the ways in which they will be measured in the run-up to 2022. This Strategy has been aligned to the direction set in the Corporate Plan and is underpinned by a clear policy framework that sets out, in more detail, our work to enable the delivery of the plan (see appendices). The aspiration and objectives set for Monmouthshire by the Public Services Board (PSB) and Council are:

Purpose	Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities	
PSB aspiration is to:	Reduce inequalities between communities and within communities Support and protect vulnerable people Consider our impact on the environment	
PSB Well-being Objectives	<i>People / Citizens</i>	<i>Place / Communities</i>
	Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change	Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.
MCC well-being Objectives	The best possible start in life	Maximise the potential of the natural and built environment
	Lifelong well-being	Thriving and well-connected county
Future-focused Council		

9. Our Continuing Commitment to Social Justice

Monmouthshire County Council is committed to aligning evidence based policy, programmes of work and resources with the aim of supporting people and communities to fulfil their potential and live the lives they want to live. The Council has made some commitments to action in relation to the organisational goals in the Corporate Plan and this Strategy seeks to specifically address the following:

Council Commitment	How we're going to do it	Who is accountable
Lifelong Well-being		
6) THE COUNCIL DEVELOPS AND DELIVERS A NEW ECONOMY AND ENTERPRISE STRATEGY	Raise the profile of Monmouthshire, support and grow the foundational economy including developing proposals for shorter supply chains to benefit consumers and growers. (New – Food Development Action Plan)	Cabinet Member for Social Justice and Community Development
15) THE COUNCIL ENABLES CONNECTED AND CARING COMMUNITIES SUPPORTING PEOPLE TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY	<p>Maximise the opportunities for all people to live the lives they want to live and the positive outcomes they identify.</p> <p>Co-produce our approaches to well-being, care and support.</p> <p>Develop opportunities for people to be involved in their local communities reducing isolation and loneliness.</p> <p>Improve opportunities for people with care and support to actively contribute through employment and volunteering.</p>	Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health
16) THE COUNCIL WORKS COLLECTIVELY TO DELIVER ON SOCIAL JUSTICE, ENABLING PROSPERITY AND REDUCING INEQUALITY BETWEEN COMMUNITIES AND WITHIN COMMUNITIES	<p>Continue to develop programmes to tackle poverty addressing worklessness and in-work poverty through schemes such as the Skills at Work programme.</p> <p>Ensure that all council policies services are focused on ensuring equity of access</p> <p>Promote equality and diversity and ensure opportunities are genuinely available to all</p> <p>Support and enable the development of community-led plans and placed-based working to improve well-being and increase prosperity.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Social Justice and Community Development</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health</p>
17) THE COUNCIL ENABLES BETTER LOCAL SERVICES THROUGH SUPPORTING	Ensure meaningful community engagement to understand the assets and priorities in each locality	Cabinet Member for Social Care,

VOLUNTEERS AND SOCIAL ACTION	<p>Approve volunteering policy, develop volunteering opportunities and continue to support the Be.Community Leadership Programme increasing the skills and knowledge of community volunteers</p> <p>Re-launch the Monmouthshire Made Open Platform to promote opportunities to engage with communities and improve well-being.</p>	<p>Safeguarding and Health</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Social Justice</p>
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10. Alignment to the Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024

The Council has a long standing commitment to equality and diversity and although the publication of strategic equality objectives is a legal requirement under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is motivated by the belief of putting social justice at the heart of everything we do and are committed to a fair and equal society.

The 2020-2024 Strategic Equality Plan builds on the work delivered in the previous strategic equality plans and whilst it includes responsibility for equalities, there is a clear synergy with this Social Justice Strategy. Also built on extensive evidence from the Well-Being Assessment and the Population Needs Assessment the Plan used the Equality and Human Rights Commission's "Is Wales Fairer 2018" report to highlight many issues that are pertinent to Monmouthshire. The Plan also includes poverty as part of the impact assessments undertaken on all council policy decisions – ahead of the new socio-economic duty, which will come into force in April 2021, alongside developed cumulative impact assessments of the Council's annual budget process looking at the combined impact of budget decisions on different households. The Socio-economic Duty will require the Council to consider how our decisions might help reduce the inequalities associated with socio-economic disadvantage when making strategic decisions such as deciding priorities and setting objectives.

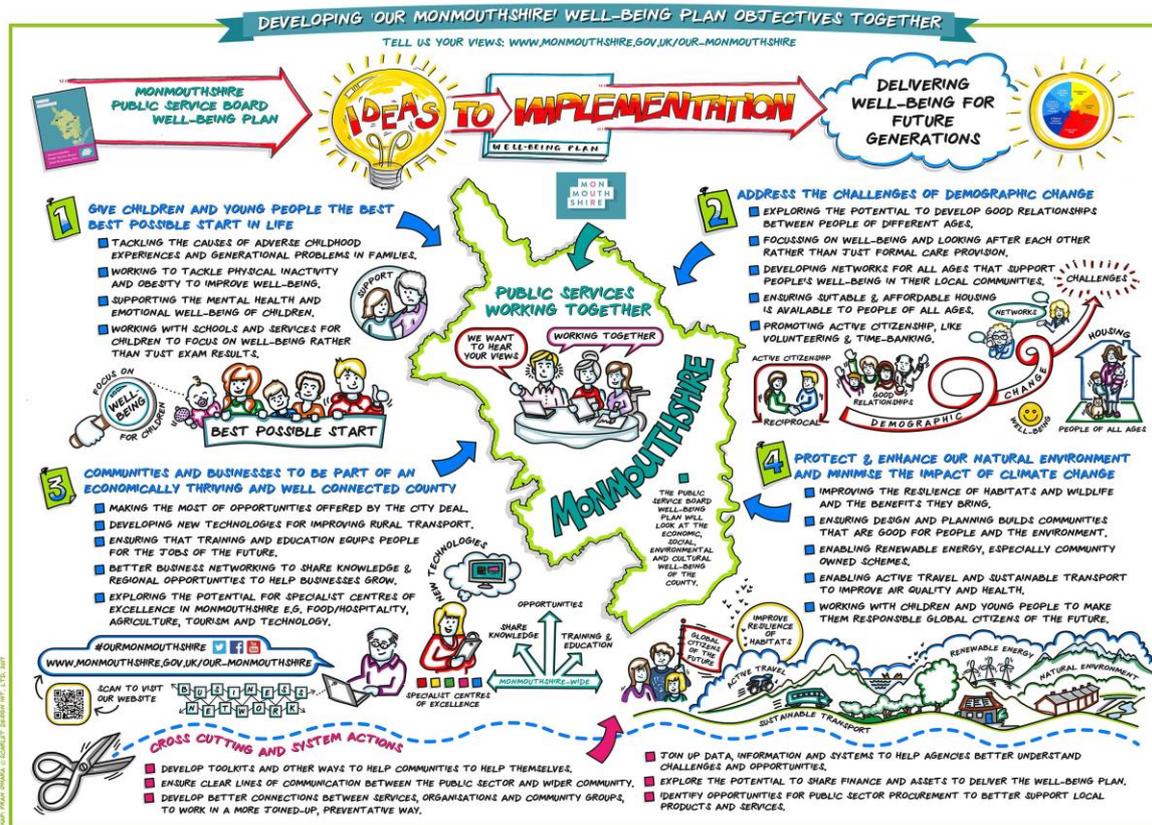
The Strategic Equality Plan, together with this Social Justice Strategy clearly demonstrates the Council's whole-hearted and unambiguous commitment to fairness and equality for the people and communities of Monmouthshire.

11. The Well-being of Future Generations Act

The Well-being of Future Generations Act is the fundamental legislation that requires us to carry out sustainable development, further details of which can be found [here](#). The five ways of working, set out in the act i.e. Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future; Working together with other partners to deliver objectives; Involving those with an interest and seeking their views; Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse; and Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies, have all been considered when developing the Corporate Plan and the ambitions for the Social Justice Strategy.

12. Our Priorities for Social Justice and how we will deliver them

In May 2017, the Administration set out in its Political Manifesto, priorities and commitments, one of which was to support **Social Justice** – working towards a fair and equal society, respecting and upholding diversity within our communities, addressing child poverty and worklessness. The strategic priority for Social Justice is to keep the community at the heart of what we do'. We will continue to do this by taking a 'place based approach', working with communities to identify their own strengths and areas for development and well-being. We bring together public services, community leaders, business, schools and all residents to address the issues that matter to that community as we evidenced when developing our Well-Being plan objectives as depicted in the graphic below:



By working together around a place, we can achieve so much more than individual partners and community groups working in isolation. Bringing together support networks, aligning resources and assets, funding, development opportunities and people with a common sense of purpose, will really help to build sustainable and resilient communities. By working collaboratively with the people who live and work locally, we seek to highlight the strengths, capacity and knowledge of those involved for the greater good.

13. Our Community Response to the 2020 Covid19 Pandemic

When the Covid 19 pandemic hit in March 2020 and the UK went into lockdown, a substantial programme of direct community support was instigated via the Community Partnership and Development Team (the Social Justice 'Engine Room') who refocussed themselves and partnered with other Service areas, to provide much needed support to individuals and those who were shielding. Activities included:

- With Our Communities – a support structure for volunteer action;
- A COVID-19 Volunteer Action Group Virtual Network established with colleagues across many service areas focussed on residents need;
- A Volunteer Safe Recruitment Team to equip volunteers for community action;
- A 'Need Team' to ensure the right support was put in place in a very sensitive and professional way to support individual needs;

In addition:

- Our Social Services Team screened individuals applying to provide a collective support approach;
- Our Monmouthshire digital community exchange connected people across our county;
- Third sector partnership relationships were built upon to ensure our volunteer action groups had specialist support and could continue to flourish.

And it worked well. The refocussed networked, place based model provided a clear purpose and delivered what the communities and Council needed;

- 76 committed colleagues from 15 different teams and three external organisations worked together;
- There were no barriers, no silos, just the right people working in the right way:
 - Over 800 contacts were made;
 - Over 227 volunteers recruited; and over
 - 550 direct requests for help were addressed.

At the same time the Public Service Board (PSB) also started to evolve and are now supporting area based working for prevention and early intervention and providing governance and direction to steer the place based teams which comprise of multi-agency staff from across the PSB partner organisations. Staff are now working in a more networked/virtual way becoming part of the place based area teams across the county, working to mutually agreed hyper local delivery plans.

14. The Resulting Impact of Covid 19 and its corresponding impact on the Social Justice Strategy

Whilst the Community Support Network has always had a focus on Tackling Poverty and Inequality the lived experience of many individuals, families and households who experience very real financial hardship have been thrown into very sharp focus with the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic-related economic downturn.

As a result in July 2020, Members resolved to create two dedicated roles to lead and coordinate the Tackling Poverty and Inequality agenda for Monmouthshire. Since then a revised Action Plan has been developed which now sits under the umbrella of this phase three of the Social Justice Strategy to support the progression of the Council's work on this agenda.

The Covid 19 pandemic also resulted in a significant increase in homeless citizens needing to be housed, as lockdown rules stated citizens were no longer able to stay with friends or live on the streets. In response, Welsh Government produced three phase planning guidance and a plan for Homelessness and Housing Related support:

- Phase 1: March to August 20 – Covid-19 crisis management;
- Phase 2: July 20 to March 21 – Response to crisis and transition; and
- Phase 3: January 21 to March 22 – Move to 'New Norm' (Vision)

The Council's Housing Team are currently in Phase 2 of the Homeless Transition plan however during this time, it has become apparent that there is a need to take a more joined up strategic approach in order to ensure that the Council provides the right service to the right person; reduces duplication; improves budget efficiency; and importantly identifies future needs to enable the Council to plan longer term. The Social Justice Strategy will therefore also provide strategic context for the Homeless Transition Plan.

A demonstrable increase in food poverty and food insecurity has also been exacerbated by Covid 19, in recognition of this the Council has now produced its first Food Development Action Plan that sets out the complex challenges the County faces and activities that will increase the variety and equitable access to locally produced food for Monmouthshire's communities. This is therefore the third Action Plan that will form part of the overarching revised Social Justice Strategy.

15. Revised Priorities: Targeted Action Plans

As an evolving programme of work, this Strategy has previously set out a very broad programme of work that stretched across many services in the Council. This was the right approach at the outset, as this Social Justice Strategy was the first of its kind and therefore sought to understand how social justice principles could be applied across the Council. However, in light of the lessons learned throughout the Covid 19 pandemic, we now have a clearer sense of the how targeted action can create the greatest impact. Also, in terms of the previous set of Key Performance Indicators many were already being reported in to other Scrutiny Committees for example Children and Young People's Committee and therefore effort was being duplicated. Similarly, the risks identified in previous versions of the Strategy are also being monitored centrally and have therefore been removed from this Phase Three of the Strategy.

Therefore, in order to assess progress more clearly rather than a list of activity, this Phase Three of the Social Justice Strategy now provides the overarching policy coherence for the Tackling Poverty and Inequality Action Plan, the Homeless Transition Plan and the Food Development Action Plan.

As discussed in the section above, these areas have been selected as areas for priority action as a result of the Covid19 pandemic. The pandemic itself and the effects of the resulting lockdowns have shone a light on and exacerbated these underlying issues in our county. As a Council we are now subject to an enhanced set of duties around reducing homelessness which – while welcome – pose considerable challenges in implementation. The lockdowns and other Covid-related restrictions have served to crystallise the central importance of equitable access to affordable, high quality food. The economic effects of the pandemic have already been considerable and, in terms of personal and household finances, there is in all probability worse to come. We are committed to doing everything we can to protect our citizens from the resulting poverty and its effects.

Whilst the full Action Plans have been attached in the appendices for information, the ‘Plan on a Page’ summary documents for the Tackling Poverty and Inequality Action Plan, the Food Development Action Plan and the Homeless Transition Plan follow which provide an overview of:

- Why the Activity is important
- Who we will work with the achieve or aims and objectives;
- What we will do; and
- How we will measure progress

16. How will we measure progress?

In order to evaluate progress and ensure transparency and accountability as part of our governance arrangements, each individual Action Plan has its own performance measures which will be monitored through the appropriate mechanism e.g. Tackling Poverty and Inequality Action Group, the Monmouthshire Food Partnership and the Social Justice Advisory Group who will monitor the progress of the overarching Social Justice Strategy. Regular progress reports will also presented to Strong Communities and Children and Young People’s Select Committees for scrutiny purposes.

There is also evidence that we learn and develop most effectively through the sharing of stories therefore at a qualitative level of evaluation, we are committed to working with partners who can provide evaluative support to ensure that the impact of approaches and interventions can be effectively measured overtime (recognising some change will be generational) as well as understanding short term effectiveness. The Social Justice Advisory Group will therefore continue to oversee and direct the implementation of the Strategy using the following questions as a guide to evaluate progress,

- What changes (good and bad) have come about as a result of the work we are doing?
- What does good collaboration look like and have we achieved it?

- What are the enablers and inhibitors to effective collaborative working around well-being across Monmouthshire?

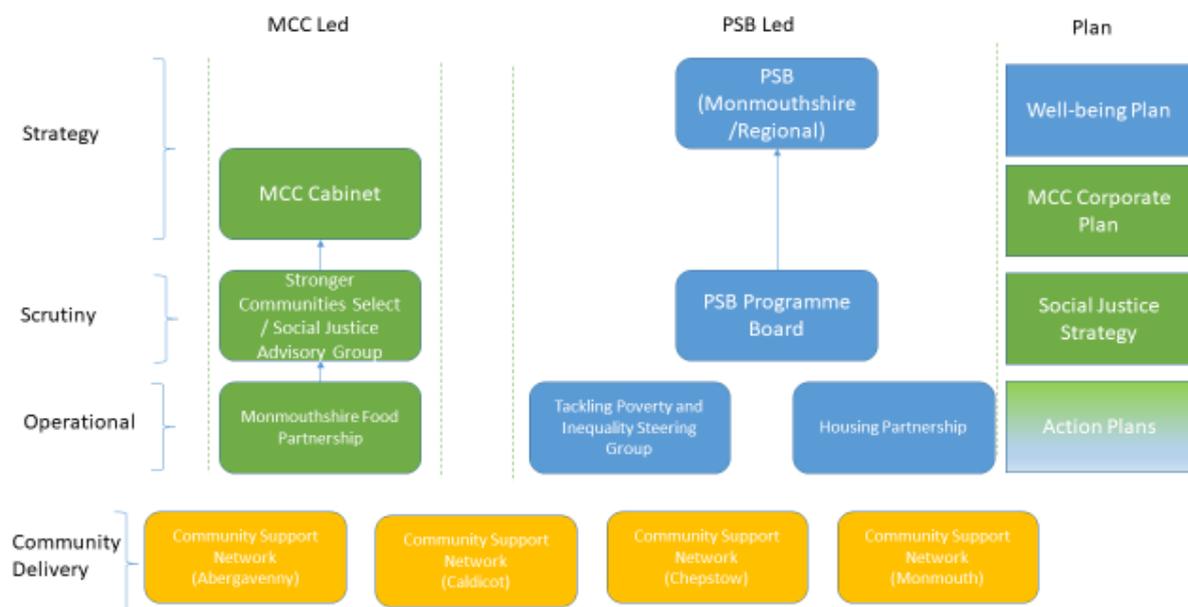
The reasons for using this particular methodology are:

- It fits with the 'spirit' of partnership with a strong focus on participation and stories;
- The use of stories and facilitated conversations will support the development of relationships between participants and a common understanding and purpose regarding the concept of well-being;
- The answers to the questions are difficult to predict and will emerge with many unanticipated findings and outcomes;
- The main focus is on learning and development rather than accountability;
- This is a social change programme with a before, middle and after.

17. Governance Overview

Diagram Two below provides an illustration of the governance arrangements for the Strategy from a strategic, scrutiny and operational perspective.

Diagram Two –Governance Overview



18. Further challenges – looking ahead

It is anticipated that further phases of the Strategy will include a Digital Inclusion Action Plan and a Mental Health/Well Being/Social Isolation Action Plan. Integration will also be sought with the Council's Community Volunteering Framework to provide a mechanism which will enable staff to volunteer in Monmouthshire's communities as part of the wider Community Support Network activities.

In addition, the Community Support Network will continue to provide support by:

- Maintaining cross directorate working via Virtual Network;
- Maintaining the momentum of service delivery based on community need rather than traditional service delivery restraints – targeted, evidence based, community interventions;
- Providing teams with permission, structure and support; and
- Building supercharged, hyper local, place based multi-agency networks that work bottom up tackling real community issues

The Tackling Poverty and Inequality Action Plan: Plan of a Page

Why is this Activity Important?	Who will we work with?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nobody is immune from poverty and the causes of poverty can quickly become consequences, trapping people in a cycle from which they need help to emerge. Poverty can affect us all and issues such as education, crime, health, environment or employment can be exacerbated by poverty. • In attempting to define poverty in Monmouthshire we recognise the tension between objective/precise/quantifiable definitions which can be easily measured and tracked, yet can be considered a blunt instrument when capturing the lived experience of poverty. However, when more subjective/loose/qualitative measures are used they may provide a truer and more nuanced reflection but are much harder to measure. Monmouthshire has therefore chosen to adopt the Joseph Rowntree Foundation definition: i.e. 'when your resources are well below your minimum needs'. • We will work together to promote equitable prosperity in Monmouthshire and wherever possible to prevent our citizens experiencing poverty. However, we recognise that despite our efforts, there will be points in people's lives at which they experience financial hardship. When this does occur services will come together to provide support to make that experience as brief, as infrequent and as manageable as possible, helping people to emerge from that experience with greater levels of resilience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will work with partners on a range of footprints, through our county's Public Services Board, and at a community level through our neighbourhood networks, to impact upon the causes of poverty and inequality at every level. • In addition to our PSB partners, we will also work alongside: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local organisations such as Food Banks (linking to Food Development Action Plan), Covid Support groups and faith organisations e.g. Christians Against Poverty; ○ County-wide providers such as Mind Monmouthshire, GAVO, Citizens Advice, Gateway Credit Union, Registered Social Landlords; and ○ Regional and National partners including Department for Work and Pensions, Welsh Government and Cardiff Capital Region City Deal.
What will we do?	How will we measure success?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty is a result of both individual circumstances (e.g. life events/transition points) and circumstances over which individuals and households have limited control (such as the availability of local employment). • We will take a multi-layered approach, supporting individuals and households who need specific help, whilst also striving to create neighbourhoods, communities and systems within which everybody has the opportunity to flourish. Activities will therefore include coordinated support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Employability skills and employment; ○ Children and young people disadvantaged by poverty; ○ Mental health /emotional support/ coping skills; ○ Isolated poverty cases (including private renters); and ○ Crisis prevention: helping people to access support at earliest opportunity, and support to navigate available offer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will use a basket of measures to help us build and deepen our understanding of poverty and inequality in Monmouthshire. Measures will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of households below 50% and below 60% GB median income (statistical definition of poverty) ○ Number of people in receipt of Universal Credit: in employment and not in employment ○ Number of Housing Gateway Referrals ○ Number of live applications on housing register ○ Number of food bank vouchers issued by MCC • Because we also know that poverty is fundamentally a qualitative experience, we will also work with our communities to develop story-telling and narrative that captures the lived experiences of those living in and on the edge of poverty in our county.

Food Development Action Plan – ‘Plan on a Page’ Why is this Activity Important?	Who will we work with?
<p>Although referred to as the ‘Food Capital of Wales, due to its excellent reputation for quality food and drink, issues exist within the County which this Action Plan seeks to address, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lack of continuity, volume, quality and connectivity in local food supply chains; • A lack of infrastructure and strategic coherence in sustainable land use and food production to help the County to supply and sustain itself; • A lack of opportunities to bring smaller producers into the current ‘public plate’ offer due to their current inability to provide continuous volume, at a competitive price; • Current public sector procurement pricing strategies focusing on value for money rather than local wealth creation; • A demonstrable increase in food poverty and food insecurity exacerbated by Covid 19; • A need to address the decarbonisation agenda through a reduction in food miles and a greater focus on the sustainable food agenda. 	<p>We will work with a range of partners at all levels to address the sustainable food agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional and National partners including Welsh Government, Menter a Busnes, NFU, FUW, Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, Sustainable Food Network, Food Manifesto Wales, National Resources Wales • Local Producers and suppliers • Local organisations such as Food Banks (linking to the Tackling Poverty and Inequality Action Plan), farmers, food producers, private sector organisations; • County-wide providers such as Registered Social Landlords, Community Trusts etc. • Schools, Health Board, PSB, catering educationalists and academia to influence change
What will we do?	How will we measure success?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monmouthshire Food Resilience Data Mapping And Analysis Exercise; • Test Farm to grow and test the profitability of small scale ecological farming techniques; • Increase internal local food procurement through liaison with local suppliers to identify local, sustainable supply chains and business support needs; • Community Wealth Building Through Progressive Procurement/PSB; • Engagement with primary schools for circular pilot project to encompass all phases of food production; • Expansion of community pantry programme; • SHEP – School Holiday Enrichment Programme; • Extension of Healthy Schools/Healthy Eating Programme to implement scratch cooking across all catering outlets/services in the Council; • Monmouthshire Food Partnership share information on the development of the Food Agenda and shape future support for the county. • Maximising additional RDP funding opportunities for food and food tourism businesses. 	<p>The key indicators to be monitored will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in no. of food businesses engaged to 15; • Increase in no. of local food suppliers regularly supplying produce to MCC -15; • Increase in MCC local food procurement from 20% to 25%; • Establishment of Strategic Food Partnership – moving towards Monmouthshire as a recognised “Sustainable Food Place”; • No. of school children engaged in reducing school food waste 10 in pilot programme – x 2 school clusters; • No. of MCC catering staff trained in ‘scratch’ cooking – 20; • Reduction of food waste by 10% in schools

Homeless Transition Plan

Why is this Activity Important?	Who will we work with?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New WG guidance for local authorities on responding to homeless and introducing new standards for temporary accommodation; • At 23rd November 2020 there were 117 households (mainly single people) in temporary accommodation, that need moving to other accommodation, with 66 households in B & B This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16/17 year olds – 2 (1 pending) • 18-24 year olds – 29 (3 pending) • Young people in B & B – 15 • Young people in Shared Housing - 15 • Many homeless applicants have a need for both specialist accommodation and specialist housing support; • Not all support needs can be met through the current Housing Support Grant Programme (recommissioning scheduled for April 2023); • Supporting applicants has been extremely challenging for the Housing Option Team due to staff capacity issues over the last six months. • The lack of 1 bed social housing stock • A reduction in the availability of social housing vacancies due to tenants not moving. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Government; • Registered Social landlords; • Public Service Board Partners; • MCC Service Teams e.g. Community Support Network, Flexible Funding Team; Social Services; Estates • Housing Intervention Panel • Housing Support Providers
What will we do?	How will we measure success?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give priority to developing services for Young People and those with Multiple Needs and strengthening homeless staffing • Increase the range and number of units of temporary accommodation including the provision of on-site support; • Introduce designated/ring-fenced permanent move-on accommodation; • Increase the type of specialist housing support for homeless people; • Increase other specialist support e.g. health related, in addition to housing support; • Strengthen the management of placements to reduce the risk of placement failure. This will also benefit the priorities of other statutory agencies; • Support the well-being of staff; • Support proposals which will provide cost benefits and help to mitigate against particular areas of expenditure e.g. B & B use. • Adopt a psychologically and trauma informed approach to delivering and commissioning homeless services 	<p>The number of households in temporary accommodation and specifically B & B</p> <p>The range and number of temporary accommodation available;</p> <p>The percentage of homelessness successfully prevented;</p> <p>The percentage of additional units of affordable housing delivered against the annual LDP target of 96</p> <p>The percentage of increase in the number of Monmouthshire Lettings Units</p>

Appendices

The Tackling Poverty and Inequality Action Plan



Draft Tackling
Poverty Action Plan :

The Food Development Action Plan



Food Development
Action Plan Draft 20

The Homeless Transition Plan



201116 Draft
Homeless Transition