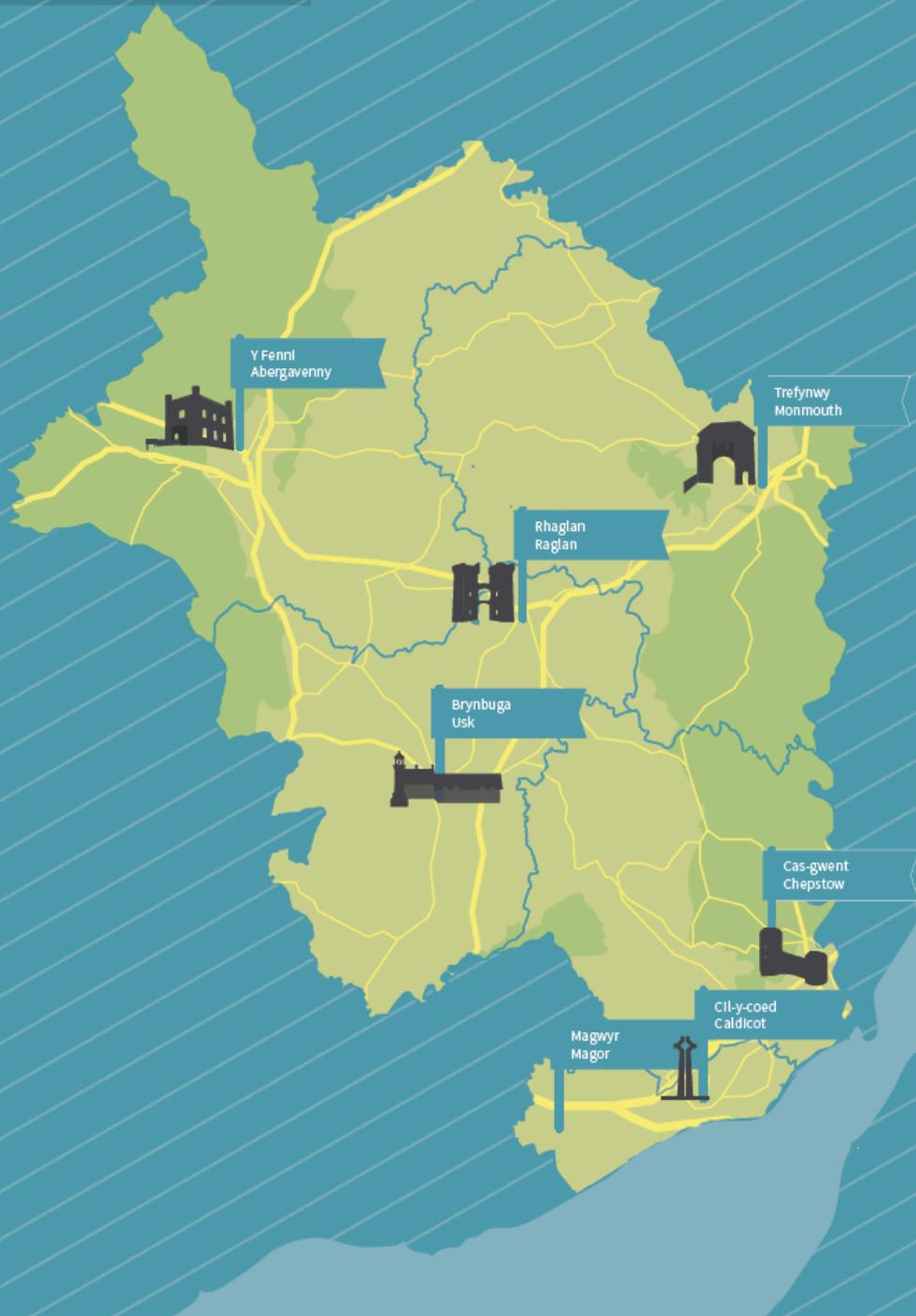


SIR FYNWY

MONMOUTHSHIRE



Monmouthshire  
Public Services Board  
Well-being Plan  
Annual Report 2022



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# Public Services Board Well-being Plan

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In May 2018, the Public Services Board, Monmouthshire’s strategic partnership of public bodies, adopted their Well-being Plan in line with the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. They agreed the shared purpose of **building sustainable and resilient communities**, three cross-cutting aspirations that would apply to all objectives and steps, and four well-being objectives – two about people and two about the place, as shown in the following table:

Purpose	Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities	
<b>Our aspiration is to:</b>	Reduce inequalities between communities and within communities Support and protect vulnerable people Realise the benefits that the natural environment has to offer	
<b>Our Well-being Objectives are:</b>	<i>People / Citizens</i>	<i>Place / Communities</i>
	Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life	Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change
	Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change	Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.

This is the fourth annual report, reporting on the progress towards delivering the objectives set out in the Well-being Plan. During 2021/22 the Monmouthshire Public Services Board merged with the other four Public Services Board in Gwent to form a Gwent-Wide Public Service Board. The Monmouthshire well-being plan sets the direction until 2023 when a new Gwent-wide well-being plan will be agreed.

The ‘steps’ within the well-being plan aim to address some of the most significant challenges and opportunities for well-being in Monmouthshire. As a result, they are often complex and there are no quick solutions to address them. Each of the 19 steps was allocated a lead partner organisation whose responsibility has been to explore the step further, identify more specific action plans and oversee delivery of these.

The Coronavirus pandemic has posed an unprecedented challenge to our way of life. Public services have been at the forefront of efforts to preserve life, reduce the spread of the virus while continuing to provide vital support to communities in Monmouthshire. Public services in Monmouthshire have continued to deliver services and adapt and establish new services that support residents and businesses, assist community activity and support well-being.

With a substantial focus of PSB partners on the pandemic there has been a lessened focus on progressing some of the PSB’s well-being objectives with partners activity focussed on supporting well-being through the pandemic. This report provides an update on the activity delivered by the

PSB during 2021/22 on the steps in its well-being plan, this includes activity partners have delivered, adapted or changed through the pandemic.

## Applying the five ways of working

The five ways of working described in the well-being of Future Generations Act have continued to be used to shape the development of actions.

### **Long term**

By their very nature, the steps set out in the Well-being plan are often complex issues that cannot be solved in the short-term. The Well-being plan aims to focus on these longer-term challenges whilst ensuring the ability of future generations to meet their own needs is not compromised. While this has been a challenge for PSB partners as they have had to respond immediately to the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, planning to address long term challenges remains the focus of the PSB.

### **Involvement and Collaboration**

Involvement is key to developing the steps in the Well-being Plan. All steps require partners to involve communities, service users and organisations. The Monmouthshire PSB has merged with the other PSBs in Gwent to form a Gwent-wide PSB. This collaboration will assist the PSB in contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals and improving the well-being of people across Gwent. It also provides the catalyst for a regional well-being assessment and well-being plan that maintains local delivery and accountability and involves a range of engagement and consultation.

### **Prevention**

Prevention is fundamental to the steps in the Well-being Plan. Partners have explored and sought to understand the root causes of issues in each step, to aim to prevent them from occurring or to prevent escalation of the issues. It is vital that solutions are instigated at the right time, seeking early action rather than waiting for crisis trigger points to be reached. The PSB has spent a great deal of time understanding organisational operations and systems, which aims to give insight into where practice change can maximise impact and outcomes for individuals across the county.

### **Integration**

The Programme Board is a group of senior officers that sits below, and reports to, the PSB. The Programme Board are well placed to see integration across well-being objective steps and if there are any conflicts, how will these be resolved, managed and mitigated. Work to progress each of the steps will impact on other steps, and some of the steps are being progressed together to ensure a joined-up approach. The table on the following page shows how each of the steps integrates with other steps:

	ACES	Obesity	Well-being in Schools	Mental Health	Housing	Intergenerational living	Active citizenship	Model of care	Networks of support	Ecosystem resilience	Design and Planning	Renewables	Active/Sustainable travel	Sustainability education	City Deal	Education business links	Rural transport	Business networks	Centres of excellence
ACES	■		■	■															
Obesity		■								■	■		■	■					
Well-being in Schools	■		■	■										■		■			■
Mental Health	■		■	■										■					
Housing					■	■		■	■		■	■	■		■				
Intergenerational living					■	■	■	■	■		■								
Active citizenship						■	■	■	■	■				■		■	■		
Model of care					■	■	■	■	■										
Networks of support					■	■	■	■	■										
Ecosystem resilience		■					■			■	■	■	■	■					■
Design and Planning		■			■	■				■	■	■	■				■		
Renewables					■					■	■	■	■	■			■	■	
Active/Sustainable travel		■			■					■	■	■	■	■	■		■		
Sustainability education		■	■	■			■			■		■	■	■	■	■			
City Deal					■								■		■	■	■	■	■
Education business links			■				■							■	■	■			■
Rural transport							■				■	■	■		■		■		
Centres of excellence			■							■					■	■		■	■

# Well-being Objectives – Progress so far

The PSB Well-being objectives and steps are set out in the tables below and detail of progress made on each of these steps is provided. The Well-being plan sets out in detail the evidence that was used to “discover” the evidence for each objective and “define” the response.



## Well-being Objective 1 - Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life

Well-being goals contributed to						
Prosperous Wales (1)	Resilient Wales (2)	Healthier Wales (3)	More equal Wales (4)	Wales of cohesive communities (5)	Vibrant culture & thriving Welsh language (6)	Globally responsible Wales (7)
<p>It is crucial that young people are able to develop the skills they need for the future to secure employment and contribute to Prosperous Wales. Their physical and mental health are key to them developing their potential and becoming healthy adults as part of a Healthier Wales, whilst increasing participation in sport contributes to a Vibrant Culture. It is essential all children and young people have equal access to education, opportunities and the best possible start in life. This will help young people to contribute to their community positively as they become adults, helping to develop Cohesive Communities.</p>						
Delivering the Solution						
The PSB will focus on:	Objective links	Goals	Impact			
<b>Tackling the causes of Adverse Childhood Experiences and the perpetuation of generational problems in families.</b>	 	1, 3, 4, 5	Long Term			
<b>Working to tackle physical inactivity and obesity in order to increase the health and well-being of future generations</b>	  	3, 5, 6	Long Term			
<b>Working to ensure that schools and services for children focus on well-being and a more rounded approach than purely academic results.</b>	 	1, 3, 4	Medium Term			
<b>Supporting the resilience of children and young people in relation to their mental health and emotional well-being.</b>	  	3, 4	Short Term			

**Progress summary all steps combined:**

The partnership approach continues across Monmouthshire to better understand the impact of and reduce the risks associated with ACES across various themes. Using funding and wider programme development a range of information has been utilised to inform service delivery for children & families across the county. The Building Strong Families programme has been working closely with the wider partners through the Monmouthshire Well-being partnership. This partnership incorporates Head Teacher's, Healthy Schools leads, Cluster Coordinators, and Educational Psychology leads amongst wider partner representation. The partnership explores how to strengthen approaches to the issues raised by young people through the School Health Research Network (SHRN) report, such as emotional health and well-being, addressing bullying and poverty related struggles and using wider data and evidence alongside SHRN data to address issues both inside and outside of the school environment, recognising that *'it takes a village to raise a child'* and that children and young people are part of their wider communities when outside of the school settings.

Partnerships have remained strong over the last 12mths adapting their approaches to place-based working within the community. Whilst this work is still very much in development, place-based working is now being aligned more closely with the Integrated Services Partnership Board (ISPB) agenda for Well-being and the Information Advice and Assistance (IAA) approach, whereby prevention social workers are now working in the community space to identify and channel referrals to the appropriate early help and prevention services. This approach allows for a timelier and more appropriate link with the community where solutions are best addressed at that level, keeping children, families, and adults away from the front door of statutory services, where possible, particularly where solution to address need can be better served within their community.

In addition to this, the introduction of an advice line for families in need of help and support was introduced during the initial lockdown period of Covid. This has proven to be invaluable to families in the county, being the first point of contact for those seeking information, advice, and assistance. The issues coming through the advice line range from parenting support to mental health issues, to asking for resources for young carers and their families.

In the last 12mths the advice line has received 297 phone calls and the line has proven to be a successful as it is an easily accessible mechanism for families to seek the help and information they need at the earliest point.

All schools across the county have begun working towards 'embedding a whole school approach to mental health and well-being' which encompasses mental health support. In the pilot phase of this work, two of the secondary schools and four primary schools have taken part. This rollout will continue in-light of the confirmed grant funding for a further 3 years. To support more schools, we have developed a phased approach which will provide all schools with this offer by the end of the terms of the grant.

In-line with the needs of pupils, access to other broader (LA wide) offers of support have been made available, including the Education Literacy Support Assistants (ELSA) provision and School Based Counselling, which have offered more intensive support and engagement with individual learners. Furthermore, all secondary schools now have a Link Educational Psychologist who provides support for individuals who have mental health needs, as well as training and raising awareness around specific issues. Training that has gone into schools this last year includes the Youth Mental Health First Aid in Schools training, trauma informed schools training and suicide and self-harm prevention training has also been made available and accessed by secondary schools. The service has also developed a training package to support learners with Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA). This has been of vital importance following the return to school of learner's post pandemic.

Work has also continued to provide other sources of support for children & young people via Monmouthshire's Early Help Panel and agencies such as the Youth Service and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services' (CAMHS) In Reach programme.

Beyond the schools Monmouthshire Youth Service has provided the Shift project, which has offered non-clinical support to young people aged 11-25 in Monmouthshire who were experiencing issues which were impacting on their mental health and/or emotional Well-being. This support was carried out on a one-to-one basis by qualified and EWC registered Youth Workers, over a 6–8-week period, using Youth Work approaches and methodologies including listening, supporting, mentoring, advocating, and signposting. The one-to-one support was provided in Secondary Schools, Y6 Primary School, Youth Centres, the Community and via digital technology, ensuring that service was meeting the user where they were.

In addition to this, partnership working with schools was extended with third sector services. MIND Monmouthshire were commissioned to offer targeted support to young people with emerging mental health concerns.

Also, with transition being a key point in a young person's life, several programmes that support the transition needs of year 6 pupils were introduced, these included:

- Youth Service Transition Project
- Year 6 Transition Group work as part of the Play Therapy Team
- Sports Development Play Maker Award and Ambassadors Schemes
- Inspire 2 Achieve
- ALN Cross Phase Transition: Moving On, Moving Up

In the last year, work has also been undertaken with the Young Carers Service. The delivery model was changed in-light of the rise in cases of identified young carers. The adapted delivery framework allowed for a more bespoke model of delivery for young carers. This included a range of open access activities, trips, and opportunities to not only have time away for caring, but also additional support for young carers who may be struggling with specific issues, such as educational attendance, emotional well-being, self-confidence and advocacy with adults' services, health, or other agencies as necessary.

A significant development in the last year has been the establishment of young carers groups, both in primary and secondary settings. These have provided opportunities for young carers to meet others with caring responsibilities, which has been significant in terms of improving the self-confidence and self-esteem of the young people attending. It has also been a useful opportunity to identify more young carers that were not known previously but who have started to attend the group sessions. This now allows for the services to be extended to newly identified young carers and to ensure their well-being is fully supported.

In addition to this, to support the delivery of its '*Heathy Weight: Healthy Wales*' Strategy, Welsh Government has provided Local Public Health Teams with capacity to address a whole-systems approach to Healthy Weight, recognising the complex nature of this health issue and highlighting the role of a wide range of stakeholders in delivering solutions. In the last year, Aneurin Bevan Gwent Public Health Team (ABGPHT) has recruited a Principal and Senior Public Health Practitioner and Team Support Officer to co-ordinate this work across Gwent, this will cover both the food and physical activity environments. The whole-systems approach consists of nine evidence-based steps and is informed by earlier work of Public Health England and Leeds Beckett University. ABGPHT are currently implementing the early steps in the approach, including governance, defining, and mapping the system, and developing a narrative for stakeholders and communities.

In addition to this, the newly formed Gwent Public Services Board has commissioned Professor Sir Michael Marmot and the University College London Institute of Health Equity to inform the development of the Gwent Well-being Plan 2023-28 with the aim of reducing inequalities between our communities across Gwent. Recognising that a strong collaborative focus is needed, Gwent becoming a 'Marmot region' will include initial attention on early years, healthy weight (including engagement in the whole-systems approach) and smoke-free.

The most recent data from Public Health Wales' 'Child Measurement Programme' reinforces Gwent PSB's decision to become a 'Marmot region' given that in 2020/21 an estimated 1,097 4–5-year-olds in Gwent started school already obese, which is a 6.5 percentage point increase from 2018/19.

During the last year, step leads have sought to better align programmes, funding, and resources, investing, and collaborating jointly to deliver better outcomes for children, young people, and their families. In addition to this, the place based working model and stronger engagement with the community has continued to develop. The voice of children and young people in service design is now more natural and becoming standard practice across all areas of work, with the emphasis now being placed on early help and prevention, which is paramount to practice, programme design and delivery.



Well-being Objective 2 - Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change

**Well-being goals contributed to**

Prosperous Wales (1)	Resilient Wales (2)	Healthier Wales (3)	More equal Wales (4)	Wales of cohesive communities (5)	Vibrant culture & thriving Welsh language (6)	Globally responsible Wales (7)
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To have Cohesive Communities with equal opportunities for people of all ages to be able to live and work in Monmouthshire, it is crucial that there is suitable and affordable housing for all. A Cohesive Community will have facilities in place to look after all ages. Although paid employment is key for a Prosperous Wales, volunteering and active citizenship also have a key role to play and contribute to building communities and improving health.

**Delivering the Solution**

The PSB will focus on:	Objective links	Goals	Impact
<b>Readdressing the supply and mix of housing stock to ensure suitable and affordable housing is available to all demographic groups</b>	  	1, 3, 4, 5	Long Term
<b>Learning from good practise elsewhere to explore the potential for intergenerational living, now and for the future</b>		4, 5	Medium Term
<b>Promoting active citizenship through volunteering, time-banking, person to person skill swap and corporate social responsibility</b>	  	1, 3, 5	Short Term
<b>Developing a model of care built on well-being and looking after each other rather than through formal care provision</b>	 	3, 4, 5	Medium Term
<b>Developing networks for all ages that support people's well-being in their local communities, including social prescribing</b>	  	1, 3, 4, 5	Short Term

**Progress summary all steps combined:**

In 2021-2022 a total of 361 dwelling completions were constructed in Monmouthshire of which 35 (10%) were affordable dwellings. The majority (21) of these affordable homes completed are located on the Church Road, Caldicot site, which was approved under the Council's previous 'unallocated sites' policy. In addition, £23k was received in commuted sum payments towards affordable housing from small sites. These were completed within the existing Adopted Local Development Plan (LDP) framework. Over the same period a total of 39 affordable homes were permitted, all of which are to be located at the Vinegar Hill, Undy Adopted LDP Strategic Site (policy compliant at 25%). Permission was granted for a total of 155 homes at the Vinegar Hill site, the remaining 116 will be market homes. In addition, a further 59 market homes were permitted on small sites elsewhere in the County. Appropriate commuted sums will have been secured.

Work is ongoing on the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP), consultation on the Preferred Strategy and the Second Call for Candidate Sites took place in Summer 2021. The Candidate Sites process invites landowners, developers and the public to put land forward to be considered for development, redevelopment or protection in the RLDP. Of all Candidate Sites received approximately 125 Candidate Sites proposed a residential use, with one additional proposal specifically for residential care. The assessment of these sites is ongoing to ensure sites included in the RLDP are sustainable, deliverable, and viable to meet the needs of communities of Monmouthshire.

Primary considerations for the RLDP are addressing inequality, delivery of affordable housing, an appropriate housing mix and tackling climate change. Local communities and organisations are consulted throughout the RLDP process and will be involved in future development of the RLDP to ensure their feedback and information received is reflected in development proposals and incorporates what communities want.

The RLDP will provide the local planning policy framework to deliver affordable housing within the County. A report will be taken to Council in September 2022 to seek a decision on how to proceed with the RLDP in light of a Welsh Government letter on the Preferred Strategy. The new administration's manifesto to deliver 50% affordable housing on all new sites will be a key consideration in how we progress with the RLDP.

In terms of intergenerational living, work on this strand was impacted due to the pandemic. There remains a need to revisit where there may be opportunities within the RLDP to further explore greater collaboration and targeting through community development, the home-share concept, particularly as the restrictions imposed during the pandemic have eased and life has returned to normal. Work will be on-going into 2022 – 2023

The learning in the previous year, highlighted what would be needed to effectively progress this work, this included:

- To have a commitment of resources alongside the shaping of an action plan as attempting to secure those resources following the scoping of the problem and potential solutions can be restrictive.
- To secure more firmly a degree of engagement in delivering the progress from key teams and staff/officers who sit under the PSB/Monmouthshire Local Delivery Group (Programme Board)

Models of care, networks for all ages and active citizenship across the county have seen a great deal of progress in the last year, as opportunities to work more closely with communities during the pandemic, were capitalized upon. The Community Support Network model for place-based working has adapted during 2021/22, to include a 'pilot programme' funded through the Gwent

Transformation Fund, and Integrated Care Fund, under the Regional Partnership Board. The pilot positioned a Community & Partnership Development Lead Social Work Practitioner role, 2 x Community and Partnership Link-Workers, and 2 x Well-being and Enterprise Coordinators within a central team coordinating the place-based approach.

The pilot made available expert advice to all residents in the county regardless of any defining characteristic or presenting issues, providing support for the most complex of situations and individuals. It aimed to build on the work and opportunities presented to us during the pandemic, by placing social work support at the earliest point, putting prevention and early help into the heart of the community. This enabled us to find community-led solutions and support for individuals who were struggling for a variety of reasons but would not be at the threshold for statutory care or support. It recognised the need to keep people well for longer within their communities and build on place-based relationships and community support.

The place-based model was a ‘whole system’ approach to early intervention and prevention, dovetailing with statutory services that enabled key community workers to engage and have conversations with people in our community that require some form of help or support, to maintain their Well-being. The approach was aligned to the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 (WBFG), and the sustainable development principle of involvement. It recognised the importance of involving people in decisions that affect them’ involving the people and communities whose well-being we were seeking to improve. Likewise, the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (SSaWB) calls for more integration between services together with a locally based approach to the care and support of people, with a greater focus on well-being, early intervention, and prevention.

- By placing individual well-being needs within the wider context of asset-based community development and active citizenship was an innovative whole system approach to placed based preventive work. Working alongside individuals can be a fragile and nuanced process requiring not only the traditional interpersonal skills of reflective and active listening but those that enable us to arrive at bespoke solutions based upon interdependency and friendship. It fostered the following:
- Natural associations and connections, providing a structure of support for people to live enjoyable and fulfilled lives.
- Bringing people together via shared interests/circumstances, to begin supporting one another independently of external support or interventions. In other words, people make people happy.
- The need to be occupied, attached, and included. These are fundamental to an individual’s well-being.
- People wanting to be active participants, not passive recipients; it is through contribution and involvement that people achieve a greater sense of purpose and identity.
- People volunteering to build better communities.
- The right conversations with the right people; recalibrating relationships, creating new opportunities, and developing new responses to need

The partnership working aligned to Social Care to deliver this proof of concept was based upon multiple elements working together from a shared understanding of well-being and with the unifying feature of ‘place’. It was not exclusive to specific individuals, services, organisations,

funding streams, or policy drivers and was co-ordinated to deliver the key principles of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the Social Services and Well-being Act namely.

- Changing the way people's care and support needs are met (putting an individual, and their needs, at the centre and giving voice choice and control over the way personal outcomes are achieved)
- Helping people to maximise their well-being
- Rebalancing the focus of care and support to earlier intervention
- Increasing preventative services within the community
- Developing strong partnership working and collaboration between organisations
- Recognising the wider community is already part of the solution but one size does not fit all, people are different, and communities are different so solutions will have to be different.

This model is built on a wealth of learning through our social care and health colleagues, who inspired the Integrated Networks of Care model, which evidences, *‘Increased resilience and the sustainability of preventative approaches is gained if we regard ourselves as a place, not an organisation by creating place-based well-being teams designed to develop creative ways of working, which overcome departmental or agency silos to make the best use of the resources available within the area in question.’*

The proof of concept and place-based approach has provided a springboard to access additional funding, via the Regional Transformation fund, Integrated Care fund and Housing Support Grant, with the support of the Welsh Government, to be innovative and test the methodology of putting dedicated resource and expertise within the heart of the community, working in a fully integrated way with wider partners to develop a ‘whole system’ approach to community development and individual well-being in a place keeping our residents and communities at the heart of this practice, with the aim of building sustainable and resilient communities for current and future generations



## Well-being Objective 3 - Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change

Well-being goals contributed to						
Prosperous Wales (1)	Resilient Wales (2)	Healthier Wales (3)	More equal Wales (4)	Wales of cohesive communities (5)	Vibrant culture & thriving Welsh language (6)	Globally responsible Wales (7)
<p>As well as being key to environmental well-being, a Resilient Environment is essential to the local economy, to physical and mental health and building Cohesive Communities. To be Globally Responsible, we need to work together to reduce the carbon and pollution we emit by tackling sustainable transport and our energy use and generation. Key to this objective is working with children and young people to help them understand their role in looking after our environment, reducing our environmental impact and recognising the importance of “thinking globally and acting locally”.</p>						
Delivering the Solution						
The PSB will focus on:		Objective links	Goals	Impact		
Improving the resilience of ecosystems by working at a larger scale (landscape) to manage biodiversity and maximise benefits such as natural flood risk management			1, 2, 3	Long Term		
Ensuring design and planning policy supports strong, vibrant and healthy communities that are good for people and the environment.			1, 2, 3, 5, 7	Long Term		
Enabling renewable energy schemes, especially community-owned schemes, and developing new solutions including storage, smart energy, heat and local supply.			1, 5, 7	Short Term		
Enabling active travel and sustainable transport to improve air quality and give other health benefits.			1, 5, 6, 7	Medium Term		
Working with children and young people to improve their awareness, understanding and action for sustainable development and make them responsible global citizens of the future.			1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Long Term		
<p><b>Progress Summary all steps combined:</b>            Monmouthshire Public Service Board (PSB) commissioned JBA Consulting to explore opportunities for joint working by Monmouthshire PSB partners to best respond to the climate and nature emergency locally.</p>						

The project aimed to explore current working practices and recommend opportunities for PSB collaboration to best respond to the climate and nature emergency.

The project objectives set were:

- To identify current practice and ambition for responding to the nature and climate emergency for each PSB partner organisations
- To identify specific opportunities where PSB partners can collaborate to share assets to reduce carbon emissions
- To seek out new opportunities that deliver better outcomes, or ways of increasing capacity, by working in a more joined-up way, and.
- To strengthen collective understanding of partnership delivery with regard to responding to the Climate and Nature Emergency across the PSB partnership.

Four key operational areas were chosen as a focus for this project. These were agreed by the PSB Programme Board and ratified by the Monmouthshire PSB at that time. The chosen areas for focus were areas within which, it was agreed, that collaboration could improve the impact of activity to address the climate and nature emergency:

The opportunities were explored under four key operational themes for which opportunities for addressing the climate and nature emergency were identified. The four main strategic objectives are:

- Buildings: Reduce the carbon footprint of our buildings through shared assets and agile working
- Fleet: Facilitate the shift to electric vehicle fleet through the development of a shared EV charging network
- Greenspace: Maximise the carbon mitigation and adaptation potential of green infrastructure assets
- Procurement: Explore opportunities for joint procurement to best utilise local supply chains and reduce embodied carbon

These objectives were intended to be multifaceted in their nature, delivering where possible multiple benefits in response to the climate and nature emergency. For example, the emphasis on green infrastructure will not only have the benefits of carbon sequestration, addressing the cause of climate change, but will also have additional benefits in providing habitat to improve biodiversity and contributing towards flood alleviation and cooling.

Looking to the future, with the creation of a Gwent wide PSB, the collaborative blueprint set out here lends itself to wider implementation. Many of the actions can be taken forwards on a much larger scale and could provide a sound basis for a Gwent wide approach to tackling the climate and nature emergency.

In the last year, a series of recommendations have been developed for how a more collaborative approach in relation to buildings, fleet, greenspace, and procurement could be adopted among the PSB partners.

Some of the general recommendations the PSB agreed were to:

- Re-establish the PSB Environment Partnership Board (EPB) with a clear remit for coordinating a collaborative response to the nature and climate emergency locally
- Develop a PSB wide climate change and natural asset risk assessment to understand key risks and identify opportunities to enhance climate resilience

- Enhance publicity and wider public engagement to increase visibility of the PSB’s environmental actions and invite wider partnership and collaboration towards a response to the climate and nature emergency in Monmouthshire

The re-establishment of a Local Environment Partnership Board was recommended to provide governance and accountability for the development of collaboration actions to respond to the nature and climate emergency. The EPB has established a core group initially, that has the remit to facilitate implementation of recommendations within this report, bringing together relevant personnel from each partner organisation for collaboration and escalating proposals for agreement. This work is on-going in the county and wider partners contribution is being considered to allow for collective action.

In addition to this Monmouthshire’s PSB partners have continued to collaborate on a regional footprint through both the Climate Ready Gwent and Gwent Greed grid programmes. The Climate Ready Gwent network, initiated through the Gwent Strategic Well-being Action Group (GSWAG) and led by Natural Resources Wales, continues to facilitate change on the regional scale. By working together, this diverse network aims to accelerate public sector activities around collaborative decarbonisation and climate adaptation, equipping people and places with the means to overcome the challenges ahead. By prioritising Climate Action in this way, public bodies in the Gwent area have chosen to approach this challenge in a way that contributes to multiple well-being goals and objectives, seeking to ensure the needs of future generations are not compromised by the actions or inaction of today.

Over the last 2yrs, there has been greater understanding of climate change risks and opportunities and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Gwent specific Carbon Literacy training was co-developed and rolled out across Gwent public sector organisations, including chief executives and elected members, who received training. In addition to this, the training was expanded to include a “train the trainer” programme in 21/22. The carbon Literacy training increased the capacity of organisations through trained individuals to ensure that they have the tools, skills, and guidance necessary to allow them to adapt their personal and professional practice to the impacts of climate change and reduce and eliminate greenhouse gas emissions across Gwent.

The Gwent Green Grid Partnership (GGGP) is a three-year project running from March 2020 to March 2023. The partnership includes the five Local Authorities of Gwent (Monmouthshire, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Newport and Torfaen), as well as Natural Resources Wales, Forest Research and Severn Wye Energy Agency. The partnership brings to life the Gwent Public Service Board’s commitment to implementing the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act and the environment (Wales) Act through improved collaboration with partners, involving local citizens and delivering across all seven well-being goals. It is also a delivery mechanism for the South-East Wales Area Statement working with Natural Resources Wales.

The GGGP aims to improve green infrastructure in the Gwent area, providing real benefits to local communities. Green infrastructure has a crucial role to play in addressing nature, climate, and health emergencies. The GGGP has 5 key workstreams that Monmouthshire are a key partner in the delivery of, these are:

- Workstream 1: Regional GI Strategy and Partnership
- Workstream 2: Gwent Green Corridors
- Workstream 3: Gwent i-Tree Eco Study Pilot Areas
- Workstream 4: Gwent GI Projects
- Workstream 5: Pollinator Friendly Gwent

Alongside the climate workstreams, the approach to ensure design and planning policy supports strong, vibrant, and healthy communities that are good for people and the environment, is part of the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) which has three core objectives: addressing climate change, delivering desperately needed affordable housing, and aiming to retain and attract young people to rebalance the County's ageing demographic. The latter is important to ensure our communities are socially and economically sustainable.

Placemaking and green infrastructure are at the forefront of decision-making as per Planning Policy Wales (ed11) (PPW). Officers have developed a report structure that is based on PPW and fully takes into account the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The RLDP policy framework will focus on delivering sustainable, affordable homes and jobs while taking into account climate change. The Preferred Strategy was subject to public consultation in July and August 2021 and is currently being reviewed to ensure it aligns with the new Administration's policy objectives, to consider the Welsh Government's objection letter and its implications for outcomes and the soundness of the Plan, and to respond to the issue of phosphates and water quality affecting the upper Usk and upper Wye River catchments. The Welsh Government's objection letter realises the concerns with Future Wales 2040 expressed by the PSB in its concerns about that document, specifically the lack of policy ambition for the South-East region of Wales. There is continued discussion with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) on how the RLDP will impact on health infrastructure to ensure development proposals are sustainable. The RLDP will be accompanied by an Infrastructure Plan.

The Council is developing Section 106 supplementary planning guidance that will ensure that the correct infrastructure is in place for development proposals. The Green Infrastructure Strategy was adopted in December 2019 and the NRW Area Statements were published March 2020.

Work is underway to identify employment land requirements that fit the council's economic ambition to ensure we have the right land in the right places to create jobs. Work is complete on the Landscape study and is ongoing on a renewable energy strategy. Evidence work on green wedge review and future greenbelt has commenced on a sub-regional basis, and work has commenced on a revised Local Transport Plan. Active Travel priority routes have been identified following consultation, and significant Welsh Government grant secured towards design and delivery, with routes to schools and employment being priority. The Network Maps take into account strategic options for growth in the RLDP.

In terms of Active Travel, this refers to making short purposeful journeys via walking, cycling, or wheeling instead of driving. In Monmouthshire we have aligned our strategic focus to concentrate on journeys to education, employment, retail, health, and bus / rail stations.

Over the past 2 years, significant progress has been made on Active Travel within Monmouthshire, with Welsh Government awarded grant funding rising from £465k in 19/20, £1.8m in 20/21, £3m in 21/22 and an initial award of £3.9m being secured for 22/23. The dedicated Active Travel team has doubled in size, with a Project Support Officer joining the team, furthering the work which can be delivered and aligning with our continued ambition in this key area of work.

As part of the awarded grant funding during 21/22, recent impacts have included:

- A large statutory consultation process on Active Travel routes across the county was completed, which culminated in the production of the Active Travel Network Maps (ATNM). This multi-phase consultation exercise has identified almost 400 routes which either meet national standards (100) or have been prioritised for future improvements.

- Two phases of infrastructure works have been completed on Williams Field Lane, Monmouth to aid active travel journeys. This new 3m wide shared path passes Overmonnow Primary school, which has received improved cycle parking infrastructure through AT monies.
- Within Caldicot, Church Rd and The Cross have seen infrastructure improvements to aid active travel journeys.
- In Abergavenny, a contraflow cycle lane has been installed in Lion Street, allowing for easier bicycle movements.
- Improved infrastructure at schools and town centres to improve the end-to-end facilities of AT journeys. 15 schools have been supported with increased infrastructure and capacity for an additional 163 bikes across our town centres, with 12 public bike pumps also installed.
- Enhanced the impact of the messaging around active travel and modal shift, through an improved AT website, settlement maps and social media messaging.

Through the continued funding during 22/23, we aim to:

- Construct phase 1 of Caldicot Links and phase 2 of Church Rd, Caldicot this year, further improving the network.
- Develop the other strategic schemes in progress in Abergavenny, Caldicot and Monmouth in line with WelTAG processes, ready for construction in future years (subject to funding).
- Provide feedback to major planning applications, ensuring Active Travel is embedded in all future build schemes.
- Develop an increased level of public facing information to support awareness for members, colleagues, and the public.
- Improve several future ATNM routes to meet national standards through a “Quick Win” project of improvements.
- Remove barriers to Active Travel journeys, such as gates, stiles, and bollards, ensuring accessibility for all.

Additional work, led by South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, has included working with wider PSB partners and has continued to deliver work with young people through various initiatives and programmes that help young people to be globally responsible citizens of the future. These programmes have continued to explore the expansion of this workstream by aligning with other steps under the objective to ‘give young people the best possible start in life’. Some of the programmes delivered by South Wales Fire and Rescue Service are as follows:

#### School Talks

Community Safety Teams and Operational Crews visit schools to conduct special assemblies often working in partnership with other agencies such as the Police. Includes work of grass fires and Operation Bang (Fireworks and Bonfires), this work aims to address how young people view and respect the environment and use outdoor spaces safely and respectfully.

#### Phoenix Project

A 5-day youth intervention program using fire service-related activity aimed at addressing issues within young people (aged 11 to 25) ranging from low self-esteem and lack of confidence to antisocial behaviour and or fire-related issues – work with Pupil Referral Units, Probation Services and Alternative Education Providers. Young People can also achieve an Agored Qualification. This work again aims to promote positive behaviours in young people, particularly in relation to antisocial behaviour, fire crime and criminal damage within communities; it focusses on building

confidence and helping young people to understand what the fire service does and how it engages with its wider community to keep people safe and well.

#### Crimes and Consequences Project

A Firefighter for a Day or individual 1-hour workshops providing education aimed at reducing young peoples' likelihood of involvement in starting deliberate fires and fire service anti- social or offending behaviour - Work with Pupil Referral Units, Probation Services, and Alternative Education Providers etc. Currently on hold, planned to start in coming months.

#### Fire Cadet Scheme

The focus of Fire Cadets is to enhance key citizenship skills and build confidence whilst developing transferable, practical skills for future training or employment. This is a 2-year programme where cadets can achieve a nationally recognised BTEC Level 2 Award in Fire and Rescue Services in the Community. Cadets can apply to stay on for a 3rd year as part of our Fire Cadet Ambassador Programme for which there is a full selection process. The scheme actively encourages the use the natural environment with camping and events taking place in the outdoors, allowing young people to immerse themselves in the natural environment through activities, competitions, events, and day trips.

#### Fire setting Intervention Scheme

The project offers services to children, young people and their families and any agency that might be involved where there is concern about a child or young person with fire setting behaviour. There are 3 levels of intervention: Home Visit; The Safe Programme; The Fire Safe Programme  
Currently put on hold planned to start in coming months.

Other work undertaken by PSB partners focussing on global citizenship during 2021/22 includes:

- Supporting schools to learn more about Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight
- Working with partners to help raise awareness amongst young people about sustainable period products and the impact of plastic period pollution.
- Workshops are being run for young people through Sustainable You, Sustainable Me, and sustainable and reusable products are being distributed



## Well-being Objective 4 - Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.

### Well-being goals contributed to

Prosperous Wales (1)	Resilient Wales (2)	Healthier Wales (3)	More equal Wales (4)	Wales of cohesive communities (5)	Vibrant culture & thriving Welsh language (6)	Globally responsible Wales (7)
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In order to contribute to a Prosperous Wales, links need to be made between education and business to ensure young people are equipped for the jobs of the future. City Deal will be a key contributor to a Prosperous Wales, but it will also be key to build on the strengths of our local economy, heritage and culture to maximise the contribution they bring to the economy. Sustainable transport infrastructure will be key to ensuring that everyone can access jobs and training, as well as reducing carbon emissions.

### Delivering the Solution

The nature of economic development means that the picture often moves swiftly and public services need to be adaptive and responsive to this changing landscape. The Public Service Board is currently reviewing the steps it will focus on under this objective in consideration of the latest evidence of economic well-being in the county and the latest developments in economic development locally, regionally and nationally. Any subsequent changes to the steps the Board will focus on under this objective will be made in the Public Service Boards well-being plan.

The PSB will focus on:	Objective links	Goals	Impact
<b>Maximising opportunities for Monmouthshire as part of the City Deal</b>	  	1, 4, 5	<b>Medium Term</b>
<b>Better understanding the future of work and ensure training and education links with business to identify the skills needed in the Monmouthshire workforce now and in the future</b>	 	1	<b>Medium Term</b>
<b>Developing new technologies for improving rural transport</b>	  	1, 4, 5, 7	<b>Med Term</b>
<b>Facilitate better business networking to share knowledge and access to technology and regional opportunities to enable businesses to grow</b>		1	<b>Short Term</b>
<b>Exploring the potential for specialist centres of excellence in Monmouthshire e.g.</b>	  	1, 2, 6	<b>Med Term</b>

<b>food/hospitality, agriculture, tourism and technology</b>			
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**Progress Summary all Steps Combined:**

Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) City Deal has streamlined its governance in order to aid delivery of key priorities for the region around skills, transport, strategic development, planning and business growth.

The Council has approved the Cardiff Capital Region Five-Year Strategic Business Plan, which has been formally approved by the members of all 10 local authority partners.

The CCR Cabinet has also set out its Industrial and Economic Plan, Investment Framework, and Investment Fund with three investment priorities which focus on infrastructure, innovation and challenge.

Following the COVID-19 Pandemic, the CCR updated its Regional Industrial and Economic Growth Plan and its Investment and Intervention Framework to convert the ten priorities into a clear addendum act as a guide to set out the ways in which CCR is best able to make a help mitigate some of the worse effects on the economy and businesses in the region as a result of the crisis and its ongoing impact.

Work to support delivery of the step, *the future of work and ensure training and education links with business to identify the skills needed in the Monmouthshire workforce now and in the future* includes:

- Database of employers has been developed to support enterprise events and creating work placement and employment opportunities.
- Improved links with existing business enterprise partnerships, training providers and employers to create new training and employment opportunities.
- Increased engagement between young people, adults and local business in stimulating future career pathways and local employment opportunities.
- Implemented a coordinated approach in providing work experience/placement opportunities across the local authority.
- Approval of the Apprenticeship, Internship and Graduate Strategy to develop a corporate offer of traineeship, apprenticeship and internship opportunities meeting local need.
- Communities for Work Plus programme; - this programme has been reducing the number of people in or at risk of poverty, improving employability, level of skills and training amongst participants and providing access to higher paid employment/reducing in work poverty.
- Approval of the Foundational Economy Care Apprenticeship Programme.

In addition to this, Monmouthshire County Council has also been holding regular meetings with WG Regeneration colleagues to discuss next steps for town centre development, which will support better business networking.

A digital transport platform was developed with funding from the UK Government GovTech Catalyst programme. This was a challenge fund to incentivise private companies to solve some of the biggest problems facing public services. In rural areas, the lack of transport, limiting job opportunities and access to social activities is one such challenge and the idea is that solutions can be tested in Monmouthshire before being scaled elsewhere in the UK.

The Thrive transport module was developed by Transport Design International (formally Box Clever Digital). Thrive brought together local travel information into a single portal. It allowed up-to-date information from Google's world-leading travel journey planner to be conveniently presented alongside details of locally supported transport schemes. Thrive Transport Information brought the power of internet-based travel information into a portal integrated with other means of transport.

Thrive was created to power community-based transport schemes, and to reduce the coordination burden often associated with their operation. Some of the key features of this are as follows:

- Passengers can search for local schemes
- Complex journey planning to support additional passengers, and multiple stops
- Automated registration of drivers with ID and legal document approval and verification
- Automated driver identification and notification
- Optimised route calculation for drivers
- Automated accurate fare calculation

The Thrive platform can support demand-responsive travel as well as pre-scheduled services and supports demand consolidation to increase sustainability and reduce subsidy. These features will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local transport offers allowing for better utilisation and maximising individuals who can access services.

Difficulties with overseas software developers have hampered the progress of the roll-out process with limited testing being undertaken to date. There has been a renewed commitment by the development company, TDI, and Monmouthshire County Council to ensure that the system can be fully tested and embedded with a continual feedback loop for necessary improvements.

The Food Development Action Plan was approved by Cabinet in March 2021. The Action Plan formed part of a suite of documents that supported the overarching third phase revision of the Social Justice Strategy, other documents included the Tackling Poverty Action Plan and the Homeless Transition Plan.

A Monmouthshire Sustainable Food Partnership has been established and a Sustainable Food Partnership Coordinator has been appointed to work with partners to drive forward the sustainable food agenda including the development of a Sustainable Food Strategy for the County.

The potential for a partnership with Hartpury University's Agri-tech Centre is being explored to help farming businesses to adopt industry specific digital technology solutions and to build on a regional cluster of innovative farm businesses with high growth potential.

## Scrutiny of Well-being Objectives

The Well-being of Future Generations Act relies predominantly on the role of local government scrutiny to secure continuous improvement. In Monmouthshire, a dedicated Public Services Board Select Committee has undertaken this role.

The Committee has broadened its remit to focus on collaborative activity including but not limited to the PSB. This means it will scrutinise and constructively challenge, where powers allow, the work and effectiveness of strategic partnerships (including the Public Service Board) and other public service providers to ensure public accountability of collaborative services and improved outcomes for people in Monmouthshire.

During 2021/22, the work the Committee has scrutinised includes:

- The proposals developed to move to a Gwent-wide Public Service Board and the process for developing the next Well-being Assessment and Well-being Plan.
- The progress made towards delivering the board's well-being objectives during 2020-21, including partnership activity delivered through the coronavirus pandemic in the PSB annual report
- The assessment of care and support needs of the population in Gwent and the extent to which the needs are reflective of Monmouthshire in the Gwent Regional Partnership Board Population Needs Assessment.
- The assessment of well-being in Gwent, Monmouthshire and five local areas within Monmouthshire in the well-being assessment and provided feedback as part of the consultation process.

Reports and copies of minutes from the Select Committee can be found at <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/home/democracy-councillors/>

# Community & Town Councils - update

Monmouthshire County Council’s Strategic Partnership Team have continued to work closely with Community & Town Councils over the last year. As the county and delivery of services resumed post pandemic, Community & Town Councils have continued to be responsive to needs within their communities. The table below provides some examples of the work carried out by our Community & Town Councils over the last 12 months; demonstrating how they have continued to work collaboratively and at pace responding to some of the challenges within their respective communities. It is worth noting, that this list is not exhaustive and is merely a ‘snapshot’ of the excellent work of our civic partners.

<b>Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life</b>	
Abergavenny Town Council	<p><b>Give Children and Young People the Best Start in Life</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide additional emotional support to young people - Continued support for the MCC led SHIFT project to increase the number of hours available in Abergavenny to support young people experiencing emotional wellbeing issues.</li> <li>• Continued support for the MCC led SHIFT project to increase the number of hours available in Abergavenny to support young people experiencing emotional wellbeing issues - Supporting the MCC summer playscheme, and match funding given towards purchase of a new Youth Cabin in 2021</li> <li>• To provide summer activities for under 11 years - Continuing to contribute £12,000 towards the summer playscheme in Abergavenny.</li> <li>• To improve facilities for outdoor activity - Resurfaced hard-court area in Bailey Park.</li> </ul> <p><b>Address the Challenges of Demographic Change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support community organisations that offer activities for all generations and offer a supportive and welcoming environment - The Town Council renewed their multi-year funding agreement with Abergavenny Community Trust, and this contributes to staffing and running costs which enabled the community centre to run a limited programme of activities including subsidised lunches and coffee mornings.</li> <li>• Abergavenny Town Council continues to support Abergavenny Community Enterprise Partnership which offers support and advice to residents, particularly those living in north Abergavenny, and provides family trip and fun days with the funding from the Town Council for those who may not be able to afford to access such things.</li> </ul>

- To improve dialogue with town-based groups - Bringing together all environmental groups for early discussions around the Abergavenny in Bloom provision, and many volunteers now assisting across the areas in the town.
- The Town Council in 2021 set up an Events online meeting once a month to enable event organisers and local businesses to share information and raise awareness of events coming back after covid.
- Sponsoring the Abergavenny Writing Festival - A new audience was drawn to this in 2020 when the event was held online, and in 2021 the Town Council supported the organiser to create a new workshop for younger people was facilitated at the Melville Centre for the Arts to bring authors together to support young people in developing their writing skills.
- Pop up speaker events around various locations within the town including the library and local art and craft studios encouraged different demographics to come along and listen to speakers they may not ordinarily have had the opportunity to interact with. Both these enabled a wider audience to discover more about writing and the careers that can span from the industry which people of all ages found this to be a useful and informative festival.

**Communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county**

- To set up an Abergavenny Town Centre Action Group - This has evolved to a new Events Group with a mailing list to share any knowledge of events in the town and bring everyone together at regular intervals online to enable forward planning and better advertising and collaboration to capitalise on increased footfall for events.
- To contribute towards an economically thriving town centre - The Town Council encourages tourism through its many actions, namely financial support of the Tourist Information Centre, contributing towards the Visit Abergavenny publication, staging of free events, Christmas Lights and the associated switch on event, financial support for the various festivals held in the town. In 2021-22, a new Christmas Lighting ornament was introduced – our “Sit-on Squashed Reindeer” and we went with a virtual switch on. Through a Transforming Towns Grant, the Town Council filmed this and circulated this on multiple platforms to showcase safer shopping in the run up to Christmas and enable businesses to let the public know they were open for business.
- The Town Council continues to provide services which create a more pleasant and accessible town centre, namely a significant contribution to MCC to provide public toilets and CCTV plus all year-round planting and maintenance of the permanent town centre planters. Independent

	<p>shopping precinct has taken note of this strategy of year-round planting and is developing implementation of adopting a similar scheme.</p> <p><b>Protect &amp; Enhance Our Natural Environment and Minimise the Impact of Climate Change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To increase the use of pollinator friendly planting in the town centre planters - The Town Council continues to encourage the use of native species through its planting schemes which many local residents now comment on and praise.</li> <li>• To support volunteer groups that contribute to the upkeep of the town parks - The Town Council has signed multiyear agreements with Friends of Bailey Park and Friends of Castle Meadows to support ongoing projects over the next three years.</li> <li>• To create new habitats by replanting areas of town where the current planting is poor and of little value for biodiversity - Woodland corridor at Castle Meadows is fully planted with the assistance of children from Our Lady and St Michaels RC Primary School as of March 2021.</li> <li>• To prepare a report setting out how the Town Council is meeting its obligations under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act - Revision of the Strategy &amp; Action Plan to incorporate actions to maintain, enhance and promote biodiversity will be carried out Sept 2022. A new Climate Policy was agreed upon in early 2021 which will be uploaded once translated into Welsh to the website. All cooperation agreements now ask for groups to include steps towards promotion of biodiversity as per obligations set out in Section 6 of the Environment Act.</li> <li>• To continue to promote Abergavenny Refill initiative - The Refill project has lost Government Funding, but the Town Council is still promoting this initiative via the TIC and throughout the building to ensure people know that water bottles can be refilled at various points in the building.</li> <li>• To continue discussions with staff and pupils at King Henry School to find out more about what young people want - Due to the King Henry School redevelopment to a 3-19 school, and new head teacher yet to be appointed there has been no further action on this point at this time.</li> </ul>
Monmouth Town Council	<p><b>Give Children and Young People the Best Start in Life STEP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide activities for 5–11-year-olds during school holidays - Monmouth Town Council committed £8000 to the MCC to support the numerous events that were held across Monmouth during the school holidays.</li> <li>• Access to local events and amenities Monmouth Town Council in partnership with Savoy Theatre has provided free monthly visits for all primary school aged children to watch a film at the Savoy Theatre. Furthermore, the partnership agreement with the Monmouth Carnival will ensure that a local event aimed specifically at bringing children of Monmouth together will take place. The Christmas Lantern Parade</li> </ul>

organised and funded by Monmouth Town Council allows children to explore and express their creativity through lantern making workshops.

- Councillors as School Governors - The 3 state primary schools and the Haberdashers schools had representatives of the Council on each of the board of Governors, therefore, ensuring the Council was aware of the progress and support local schools may need.
- Involvement of school children in Council groups - The Monmouth Town Council Litter Group has been working closely with students at Monmouth Comprehensive School to support their campaign against litter. The Council have provided funding to the students for prizes for their litter competitions as well as the printing of stickers supporting their “Love Monmouth Hate Litter” campaign that were then supplied to businesses around Monmouth.

#### **Address the Challenges of Demographic Change**

- To support community organisations that offer activities for all generations and offer a supportive and welcoming environment - Through the Council’s Community Grants Scheme a number of local charities and groups that support all generations are funded. This is sometimes for the running costs of such groups or specific projects that allow a group to improve. Furthermore, the continued financial support to Mind Monmouthshire as part of the partnership agreement means that local support groups and counselling as well as the rural workers support can continue in Monmouth.
- Supply of an all-access defibrillator - The Town Council continues to fund and maintain a defibrillator in Agincourt Square that is accessible 24/7.

#### **Communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county**

- Development of Monnow Street - Supporting the Monnow Street improvements to encourage tourism and local shoppers to the area following the COVID 19 pandemic working in consultation with the Monmouth Chamber and Monmouthshire County Council.
- To contribute towards an economically thriving town centre - The Town Council encourages tourism via several means. The Council hosted 2 free Christmas events; a Christmas market (in collaboration with the Chamber) and the Christmas Lantern Parade. The Town Council funds the hire and erection of the Christmas Lights and financially supports various festivals held in the town including Beictown, the Future Festival and the Carnival. The Town Council also provides services which create a more pleasant and accessible town centre, namely a significant contribution to MCC to provide public toilets, street cleaning and CCTV and all year-round planting and maintenance of the permanent town centre planters. The Town Council paid for new history banners that are displayed throughout Monnow Street and Priory Street that demonstrates the rich history of Monmouth which attracts local tourists.
- To support local business through Planning Applications - The Planning Committee has been keen to encourage new businesses to Monmouth

	<p>during the pandemic approving many changes of use for buildings and approving advertisement consent when applicable.</p> <p><b>Protect &amp; Enhance Our Natural Environment and Minimise the Impact of Climate Change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To increase the use of pollinator friendly planting in the town centre planters - The Town Council supported the successful application made to make Monmouth a Bee Town. As a result, all planters in Monmouth are planted with bee-friendly plants and peat free compost.</li> <li>• To support volunteer groups that contribute to the upkeep of the town parks - The Town Council has entered into a partnership agreement with ACE Monmouth who brings a focus and emphasis on Action on Climate Emergency through festivals, regular meetings, support, and guidance. Furthermore, the Council has a Working Group to maintain the Bee Town status working with groups such as Transition Monmouth and Bees for Development.</li> <li>• To prepare a report setting out how the Town Council is meeting its obligations under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act - This report is included as part of the Council’s Annual Report and has been uploaded to their website.</li> <li>• To support county-wide initiatives - The Town Council continues to support the Nature Isn’t Neat initiative and the “No Mow May” initiative championed by MCC. Furthermore, the Council is responsible for providing and emptying 41 dog waste bins in Monmouth and works closely with MCC with their “Give Dog Fouling the Red Card” initiative as well the local Drop It, Bag It, Bin It group.</li> <li>• To continue discussions with staff and pupils at Monmouth Comprehensive School to find out more about what young people want in terms of their future and the town’s biodiversity. - Young people have been working closely with the Monmouth Town Council Litter Group to continue the promotion of their “Love Monmouth, Hate Litter” Campaign which includes organised litter picks, competitions using the litter from the picks and asking local businesses to support the campaign through displaying their campaign stickers.</li> </ul>
<p>Chepstow Town Council</p>	<p><b>Give Children and Young People the Best Start in Life</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide summer activities for 5- to 11-year-olds - Funding support of £20,000 was made available towards the delivery of an open access play scheme which is delivered by MCC.</li> <li>• To tackle the concerns regarding holiday hunger - This is an ongoing conversation with MCC to find ways in which to offer support in this area.</li> <li>• To support those children whose families are impacted by the Covid 19 Pandemic- The Town Council continued to support the schools in this area with an additional £5k to the Schools Cluster PTA to start a used uniform bank, £1,538 to Basecamp who have created a Safe Space Garden to be used as a therapeutic space throughout the year, St Mary’s Primary School for the purchase of gazebos to extend their outdoor space ensuring that community groups can keep offering their support and to</li> </ul>

	<p>MCC for a local marketing campaign to support residents experiencing financial hardship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillors as School Governors - Councillors take on this role giving their time, skills, and expertise in a voluntary capacity to help their schools provide children with the best possible education.</li> <li>• Community Events - Supports community events and encourages engagement with young people.</li> <li>• Youth Centre - Funding to cover the costs of venue hire and equipment</li> </ul> <p><b>Address the Challenges of Demographic Change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure easy access community defibrillators across the five wards of Chepstow - Defibrillator to be installed at Beaufort Square. All units logged on apps and batteries and pads regularly checked.</li> <li>• Financially supporting the Drill Hall and Bulwark Community Centre which are seen as local hubs of community activity where people can be active and supported - Both Centres received £8,000 in funding in 21/22 with members representing the Council at meetings.</li> <li>• Financial support was provided to several organisations supporting older people - Grant funding was provided to The Palmer Centre to purchase kitchen equipment enabling them to continue to provide the much-needed service to those who may otherwise be isolated, lonely, and unable to meet friends due to the Covid-19 pandemic.</li> <li>• Community Centre reopening post Covid - Continued to supply all community centres with the required PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) enabling them to open safely.</li> <li>• Continued support to the Chepstow Citizens Advice Bureau - Enabling residents of all ages to obtain free advice and support on a wide range of matters.</li> <li>• Representatives on committees - Provided Council representation on several outside committees including the Palmer Centre Trust, Senior Citizens Welfare Trust, Chepstow Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, CCTV, Air Quality.</li> <li>• Partnership working MIND Monmouthshire - Partnership commenced May 2020 with the agreement that they would provide Well-being and resilience sessions to adult individuals which will support families to cope with life's challenges</li> <li>• Whole Place Plan - The Place Plan has given the opportunity for local people working together with the Town Council to consider the needs and aspirations for the future and several projects which the Town Council may wish to work towards have been formed. This will also allow the development of services, projects and initiatives which meet current needs but will embed and improve foundations for future development within our community.</li> <li>• Partnership working MCC - The Town Council has continued its discussions with MCC and supported the initiative to set up a local marketing campaign to assist residents experiencing financial hardship by signposting them to the appropriate support.</li> </ul>
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**Communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county**

- Whole Place Plan - The final stage whereby all consultation information has been received and collated has resulted in a summary report and ideas for next steps to be taken.
- Work with other organisations / local business who bring trade into the area - The Town Council offer support where needed and have provided free car parking spaces over the Christmas and New Year period to encourage people into the town.
- Supportive of events in and around the Town - The Town Council undertake to arrange Bands on the Bandstand every Summer. It supports the events produced by the Chepstow Events Team. Works in partnership with Green Top Events to provide a weekly market between March and December on Sundays encouraging local people to have stalls

**Protect & Enhance Our Natural Environment and Minimise the Impact of Climate Change**

- Climate emergency - A Chepstow Energy report was commissioned which will have several projects contained within it that the Town Council can look to work with community stakeholders to take forward.
- Biodiversity - The Town Council secured grant funding to access a 'butterfly garden' package in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy for planting at Chepstow Bus Station. This has been expanded with the support of the partnership arrangement with MCC and the Town Crew and has now provided a much-needed visual improvement to the bus station area whilst encouraging biodiversity.
- Street Cleansing - The Town Council works in partnership with Monmouthshire County Council to provide a full street cleansing service to Chepstow. This includes cleaning the town, emptying waste bins, grounds maintenance, bench maintenance and replacement and any other ad-hoc duties which are required.
- Transition Chepstow / Plastic Free Chepstow - Continue to financially support both groups.
- Litter Picks - The Town Council supports and promotes the litter picks which take place across the town.
- Monmouthshire County Council's "Give Dog Fouling the Red Card" initiative - The Town Council is currently responsible for the emptying of 35 dog waste bins across Chepstow and work with the County Council under their Give Dog Fouling the Red Card scheme to educate residents about the risk of dog waste.
- Chewing Gum Littering - The Town Council has installed six Gum Ball Bins at locations found to have gum littering hot spots to encourage the public to reduce gum littering in a way that encourages a circular economy. The location of the bins is regularly under review and bins moved dependent on demand.
- Reducing energy bills across all Council owned / managed buildings - The Gatehouse utilities have been renewed with part green energy. A survey

	<p>has been undertaken on all Council owned/leased properties and work will commence in 22/23 on the recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Applications - All planning applications are considered for their environmental impact as well as business requirements and the historic character of the town.</li> <li>• Water Fountains (state ‘drinking water fountains’) - The water fountain at the Dell Park will be refurbished in the coming year along with a new fountain to be installed at the Riverbank.</li> <li>• Recycling Bins at Riverbank - Recycling bins are now stored at the Riverbank for use initially during events however this has been extended out to being used throughout the year. A more permanent arrangement is currently being worked on due to the success of the recycling.</li> <li>• Green roof eurobin store - Green roof eurobin store has been installed in Bank Square which combines a tidy bin storage for local residents with the potential for a flourishing, wildlife friendly, growing space, that attracts butterflies, bees, and other wildlife.</li> <li>• To increase the use of pollinator friendly planning in the town - Additional planters have been placed throughout the town planted with pollinator friendly plants. The town’s floral contractor sources plants from a peat free nursery, reuses hanging basket liners and all soil at the end of the summer is recycled</li> <li>• Street Cleansing ways of working - In an effort to encourage biodiversity opportunities and support pollinators the County Council has agreed to an area of wild planting at the Riverbank. Additionally, within the Town Crew Street Cleansing partnership agreement MCC will investigate the provision of an electric pick-up truck and non-evasive weed removal.</li> <li>• Energy Survey of the Town - Project ongoing – a survey has been commissioned by the Centre of Alternative Technology (CAT) to deliver a report providing information such as existing baseline and CO2 emissions, existing renewable energy capacity, energy efficiency and renewable energy generation but can be tailored to suit the needs of Chepstow. A council working party has been formed to consider projects that may be taken forward.</li> </ul>
Caldicot Town Council	<p><b>Give Children and Young People the Best Start in Life</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authority appointed representatives on school governing boards.</li> <li>• Financial support and prize presentations at Summer Reading Challenge.</li> <li>• Working with schools and Community Hub.</li> <li>• Financial support to playscheme and youth service in Caldicot</li> <li>• Management of play area and provision of play equipment</li> <li>• Continued commitment to ensure Town Council representatives on governing bodies.</li> <li>• Development of MUGA project (Multi Use Games Area) to extend play provision in the town</li> </ul> <p><b>Address the Challenges of Demographic Change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosting support groups to improve and promote health and Well-being</li> <li>• Working in partnership to help to reduce loneliness and isolation</li> </ul>

- Supporting events which improve health and well being
- Financial support to MIND Monmouthshire 2022/23 to ensure provision of support service for Caldicot residents
- Financial support to Citizens Advice Bureau
- Working with partner organisations, free use of Town Council building for support groups (advice, assistance, preventing isolation and loneliness)
- Partnership working with organizations, AA, Foodbank, Bridges Centre, U3A
- Community projects, installation of benches around the Town for community use

**Communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county**

- Working in partnerships with groups, organisations, and community volunteers.
- Supporting community economy and activities for residents.
- Financial contribution to community events, Christmas Lights, Carnival, Fireworks ➤ Provision of Christmas lights and remote switch on system
- Keeping the Town Centre clean, through support of Mon CC street cleaning service
- Provision of CCTV throughout the Town
- Devolution of services in maintaining public toilets, planting/maintenance of Town Centre displays
- Support to volunteer groups to assist in providing services to the community
- Maintaining relationship with the community, through regular civic (Mayor/Deputy Mayor) attendance at events

**Protect & Enhance Our Natural Environment and Minimise the Impact of Climate Change**

- Wildflowers and planting
- Keep Wales tidy – litter hub, green flag
- Monitoring the need for alternative energy source.
- Duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to maintain and enhance biodiversity
- Litter hub for loaning equipment, during and post pandemic – engaging with the public to undertake activities as part of the daily exercise
- Increased tree planting (queens jubilee and post pandemic)
- Continually exploring alternative energy solutions, particularly in relation to efficient operation of the Town Council premises
- Consultant ecologist appointed, to assist and advise with duty relating to biodiversity
- Dialogue with Mon CC to ensure climate change aims/objectives are aligned
- Annual reporting on duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

## Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change

Abergavenny Town Council	<p><b>Developing networks for all ages that support people’s Well-being in their local communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported community organisations that offered activities for all generations and offered a supportive and welcoming environment - The Town Council’s multi-year funding agreement with Abergavenny Community Trust contributes to staffing and running costs which enabled the community centre to run a limited programme of activities including subsidised lunches and coffee mornings when covid restrictions eased in the summer/early Autumn.</li> <li>• Abergavenny Town Council supported Abergavenny Community Enterprise Partnership which offered support and advice to residents, particularly those living in north Abergavenny</li> <li>• Improved dialogue with town based groups. Many groups had stopped meeting during 2020-21, however there has been ongoing discussions with environmental groups regarding greater collaborative working.</li> </ul> <p><b>Exploring the potential to develop good relationships between people of different ages</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduced and piloted ‘Adopt a Garden’ scheme in Abergavenny - Development work was underway to ensure all the backroom processes were in place. Promoted through the Our Monmouthshire platform, ‘Adopt a Garden’ matches ‘would-be’ gardeners with people who own a lot garden space, preferably living close to each other. The garden owner allows the gardener to use a part of their garden to grow food or flowers, and in return, that part of their garden is cared for. This takes away the worry and anxiety of not being able to manage the gardening. The gardener may wish to share some of their produce with the owner, or help to keep another part of the garden looking nice, but this was not a condition of the scheme. This project aims to facilitate friendships across generations, between predominantly younger gardeners and older garden owners.</li> </ul>
Monmouth Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established a working partnership with Mind Monmouthshire to ensure the long term provision of mental health support for Monmouth residents including the provision of a “Well-being Officer”.</li> <li>• Responded as a consultee for the Local Development Plan for Monmouthshire and Councillors attendance at workshops for the same.</li> <li>• Supported local groups that focused on reducing loneliness and isolation and encouraged community engagement through the community grant scheme.</li> <li>• Supported the Citizens Advice which in turn provided support to the community on a range of issues.</li> <li>• Worked with local police officers to ensure an understanding of how demographic change has an impact on crime in Monmouth.</li> </ul>

<p>Chepstow Town Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensured easy access community defibrillators across the five wards of Chepstow – Adopted old phone boxes in Denbigh Drive and Beaufort Square to install public access defibrillators. Installation of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) outside Chepstow Community Hospital.</li> <li>• Financially supported the Drill Hall and Bulwark Community Centre which are seen as local hubs of community activity where people can be active and supported - both Centres received £8,000 in funding in 20/21 with members representing the Council at meetings.</li> <li>• Financial support was provided to a number of organisations supporting older people - grant funding was provided to The Palmer Centre to enable them to continue to provide the much-needed service to those who may otherwise be isolated, lonely and unable to meet friends due to the Covid-19 pandemic.</li> <li>• Community Centre reopening post Covid - supplied all community centres with the required PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) to enable them to reopen safely.</li> <li>• Continued support to the Chepstow Citizens Advice Bureau - Enabling residents of all ages to obtain free advice and support on a wide range of matters.</li> <li>• Representatives on committees - provided Council representation on a number of outside committees including the Palmer Centre Trust, Senior Citizens Welfare Trust, Chepstow Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, CCTV, Air Quality.</li> <li>• Partnership working MIND Monmouthshire - partnership commenced May 2020 with the agreement that they would provide Well-being and resilience sessions to adult individuals which will support families to cope with life's challenges</li> <li>• Whole Place Plan for Chepstow which will act as Supplementary Planning Guidance in the County Council's Local Development Plan allowing the community to positively influence the type of future developments in Chepstow. In addition, this plan will act as a vehicle through which the Town Council can engage with the local community to discover the needs and aspirations of the residents and use this evidence based approach to understand how best to fulfil projects within the community to align with the Councils responsibilities under the Well-being of Future Generations Act.</li> </ul>
<p>Caldicot Town Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosted support groups to improve and promote health and Well-being.</li> <li>• Worked in partnership to help to reduce loneliness and isolation.</li> <li>• Supported events which improve health and well-being.</li> </ul>

**Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change**

<p>Abergavenny Town Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased the use of pollinator friendly planting in the town centre planters. The Town Council was successful in its application for Local Places for Nature funding. This has enabled 2 large beds to be replanted with pollinator friendly planting, 30 bird boxes to be made by school children and installed in the town, production of a biodiversity trail and leaflet, planting of a wildlife corridor on Castle Meadows</li> <li>• Supported volunteer groups that contribute to the upkeep of the town parks - The Town Council agreed a budget for multi-year funding to enhance the work of the volunteer groups that contribute to the upkeep of the town greenspaces. This will enable them to plan their work programme with more certainty.</li> <li>• Created new habitats by replanting areas of town where the current planting is poor and of little value for biodiversity. The first phase of replanting was carried out in 2020-21 in collaboration with Monmouthshire County council. Further planting will be carried out in Autumn 2021.</li> <li>• Prepared a report setting out how the Town Council is meeting its obligations under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act. Report prepared and uploaded to the Town Council’s website. Further information is included in the Council’s Annual report delivered to all households and in the Strategy &amp; Action Plan progress report available on the Council’s website. The revised Strategy &amp; Action Plan incorporates actions to maintain, enhance and promote biodiversity.</li> <li>• Continued to promote Abergavenny Refill initiative - There has been limited progress during 2020/21 due to the pandemic, however it remains a commitment.</li> <li>• Continued discussions with staff and pupils at King Henry School to understand what young people want in their community. Young people were keen to engage with the Town Council particularly around the plastic free agenda. There has been initial discussions between the Deputy Head of King Henry VIII High School and the Town Council regarding the use of a digital democracy platform vocaleyes, however as a result of the pandemic work have been limited, but remains aa a commitment.</li> </ul>
<p>Monmouth Town Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued project work required for Nature Isn’t Neat.</li> <li>• Supported Monmouth as a Bee Town initiative by changing the planting scheme in all local planters and flower beds to perennial, bee-friendly plants.</li> <li>• Supported the “No Mow May” initiative and wildflower planting in open spaces around the town.</li> <li>• Continued the project work undertaken by the ACE Monmouth Working Group which included the Bee Festival and Dr Bike event.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued support for the Plastic Free Working Group, Active Travel Working Group and the Litter Working Group which all focus on the protection of our natural environment.</li> <li>• A willow arch created for the Christmas event was a natural material which comes from a sustainable source and can be reused for future events.</li> </ul>
Chepstow Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate emergency; the Town Council previously declared a climate emergency and has been exploring ways of reducing carbon dioxide emissions to net zero by 2030. A number of initiatives continue to be investigated.</li> <li>• Biodiversity; The Town Council secured grant funding to access a ‘butterfly garden’ package in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy for planting at Chepstow Bus Station. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions in place around the Covid 19 pandemic it has been unable to involve the local primary schools and Transition Chepstow therefore representatives from Keep Wales Tidy planted the area and the Town Council will maintain until such times as restrictions are lifted.</li> <li>• Street Cleansing; The Town Council works in partnership with Monmouthshire County Council to provide a full street cleansing service to Chepstow. This includes cleaning the Town, emptying waste bins, grounds maintenance, bench maintenance and replacement and any other ad-hoc duties which are required.</li> <li>• Transition Chepstow / Plastic Free Chepstow; both groups continued to be supported financially</li> <li>• Litter Picks; The Town Council supports and promotes the litter picks which take place across the town</li> <li>• Monmouthshire County Council’s “Give Dog Fouling the Red Card” initiative; The Town Council has taken responsibility for the emptying of 35 dog waste bins across Chepstow and work with the County Council under their Give Dog Fouling the Red Card scheme to educate residents about the risk of dog waste</li> <li>• Chewing Gum Littering; The Town Council installed six Gum Ball Bins at locations found to have gum littering hot spots to encourage the public to reduce gum littering in a way that encourages a circular economy.</li> <li>• Reducing energy bills across all Council owned / managed buildings; The Gatehouse utilities have been renewed with part green energy.</li> <li>• Planning Applications; Planning applications were considered for their environmental impact as well as business requirements and the historic character of the town.</li> <li>• Water Fountains; Investigating restoring the water fountain in the Dell and also the provision of a water fountain at the Riverbank.</li> <li>• Bicycle Racks; The Town Council worked with Monmouthshire County Council resulting in a number of bicycle racks and a bicycle repair station</li> </ul>

	<p>being installed throughout the town and Bulwark to encourage more active travel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Barrier A48; A submission to the Forest of Dean DC for S106 funding to cover the costs associated with installing a green barrier along a section of the A48 to provide a barrier to diesel particulates as well as increasing biodiversity opportunities and reduce water surface run off.</li> <li>• Recycling Bins at Riverbank; Recycling bins are now stored at the Riverbank for use initially during events however this has been extended out to being used throughout the summer months.</li> <li>• Green roof eurobin store; Project ongoing to install a green roof eurobin store.</li> <li>• Increased the use of pollinator friendly planning in the town. Additional planters have been placed throughout the town planted with pollinator friendly plants. The town's floral contractor sources plants from a peat free nursery, reuses hanging basket liners and all soil at the end of the summer is recycled.</li> <li>• Street Cleansing ways of working; in an effort to encourage biodiversity opportunities and support pollinators the County Council agreed to an area of wild planting at the Riverbank. Additionally, within the Town Crew Street Cleansing partnership agreement MCC investigate the option of an electric pick-up truck and non-evasive weed removal.</li> <li>• Energy Survey of the Town; Project ongoing; a survey was been commissioned by the Centre of Alternative Technology (CAT) to deliver a report providing information such as existing baseline and CO2 emissions, existing renewable energy capacity, energy efficiency and renewable energy generation but can be tailored to suit the needs of Chepstow.</li> </ul>
Caldicot Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildflowers and planting.</li> <li>• Keep wales tidy, litter hub, green flag.</li> <li>• Monitoring the need for alternative energy source.</li> <li>• Duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to maintain and enhance biodiversity.</li> </ul>

**Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county**

Abergavenny Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up an Abergavenny Town Centre Action Group; limited progress due to Covid, but remains committed</li> <li>• Contributed towards an economically thriving town centre. The Town Council encourages tourism through its many actions, namely financial support of the Tourist Information Centre, contributing towards the Visit Abergavenny publication, staging of free events, Christmas Lights and the associated switch on event, financial support for the various festivals held in the town. In 2020-</li> </ul>
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	<p>21, a new Christmas Lighting scheme was introduced with a virtual switch on. Only two of the many town festivals supported by the Town Council went ahead on a virtual platform.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Town Council also provides services which create a more pleasant and accessible town centre, namely a significant contribution to MCC to provide public toilets, street cleaning and CCTV and all year round planting and maintenance of the permanent town centre planters.</li> <li>• The Town Council contributed to the new fixtures and fittings for the Tourist Information Centre when relocating to the Town Hall and contributed towards the painting of the exterior woodwork at the Town hall following an extensive internal refurbishment.</li> </ul>
Monmouth Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed partnerships with Monmouth Savoy Trust, Monmouth Rotary Community Champions and Citizen's Advice.</li> <li>• Supported Monnow Street improvements to encourage tourism and local shoppers to the area following the COVID 19 pandemic.</li> <li>• Financially supported community based projects through the community grant scheme.</li> <li>• The Christmas lights and associated Christmas events bring the community out to enjoy all the town has to offer and encourages support of the local economy.</li> <li>• The Planning Committee has been keen to encourage new businesses to Monmouth during the pandemic approving many changes of use for buildings and approving advertisement consent when applicable.</li> </ul>
Chepstow Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whole Place Plan; Due to the pandemic this project was delayed by a few months. It is however now proceeding with us currently as the stage of inviting community groups to be involved in online stakeholder events. Residents have also been asked to become involved in shaping the future of Chepstow.</li> <li>• Work with other organisations / local business who bring trade into the area; Relationship with Chepstow Racecourse established with a view of greater partnership working to bring visitors into Chepstow. Grant funding to the Tourist Information Centre allowing them to remain open.</li> <li>• Supportive of events in and around the Town. The Town Council undertake to arrange Bands on the Bandstand every summer. Supporting the events produced by the Chepstow Events Team. Worked in partnership with Green Top Events to provide a weekly market between April and December on Sunday's encouraging local people to have stalls.</li> </ul>
Caldicot Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worked in partnership with groups, organisations and community volunteers.</li> <li>• Supported community economy and activities for residents.</li> </ul>

The Town Councils, who are under the Act, have prepared more detailed annual reports, highlighting the work they have been doing to date to help achieve the aspirations of the Well-being plan. These reports can be requested from Monmouthshire County Council's Strategic Partnerships Team by e-mailing: [partnerships@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:partnerships@monmouthshire.gov.uk) The reports highlight how the Community & Town Councils are embedding the 5 ways of working, remaining true to the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The Strategic Partnerships Team will continue to work closely with Town Councils to ensure relationships remain strong and that opportunities are identified at an earlier point and maximised through true collaborative working, ensuring that local communities are at the heart of any activity. Community & Town Councils and the Monmouthshire Local Delivery Group, which is an official locality sub-group of the Gwent PSB, will continue to work closely in 22/23 and ensure that effective communication, strong collaboration and genuine community involvement are at the heart of partnership working in Monmouthshire.

# How are we doing?

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## National Indicators

The Welsh Government has published 46 national indicators which have an important role in helping to measure the progress made towards achieving the well-being goals. The indicators have been used in Monmouthshire to help the Public Services Board understand economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being.

While the national indicators will not measure the performance of individual public bodies or Public Services Boards, they must be considered by the PSB to track the progress being made against the well-being goals and where local level data is available the progress made in Monmouthshire.

Some of the national indicators that are particularly relevant to our objectives were identified in the well-being plan. The latest data for these indicators, where an update is available at a county level, is in Table 1 below. It can also be useful to compare Monmouthshire with other authorities with similar characteristics. Comparisons are based on the Data Cymru Comparable Authorities tool for Welsh local authorities and variables selected to relate to the subject covered by the indicator. Not all of the indicators will have data available to make this comparison.

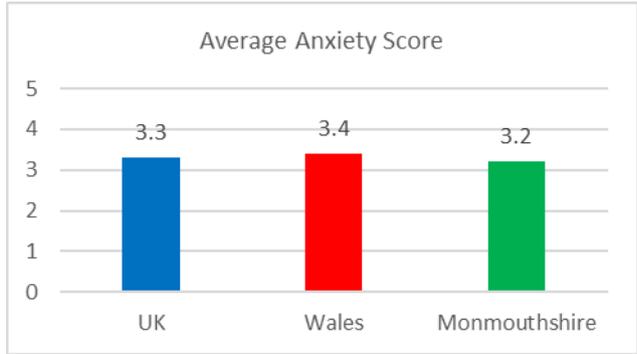
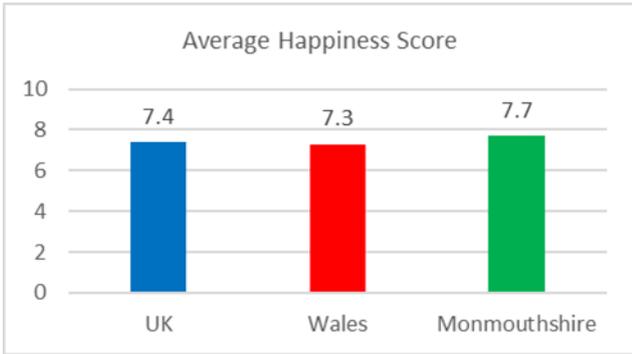
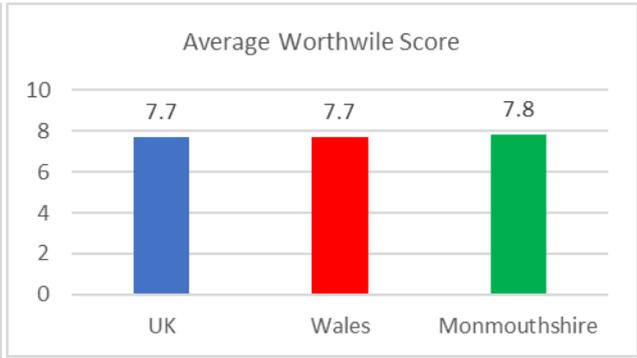
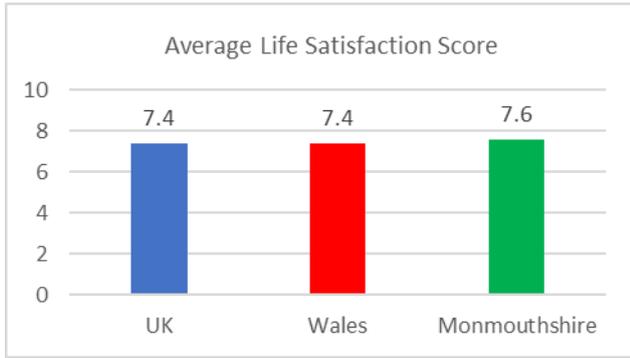
The time period of data covered in this update varies by indicator, some indicators will cover the period of the pandemic while others will be prior to the pandemic.

## ONS Measuring National Well-being

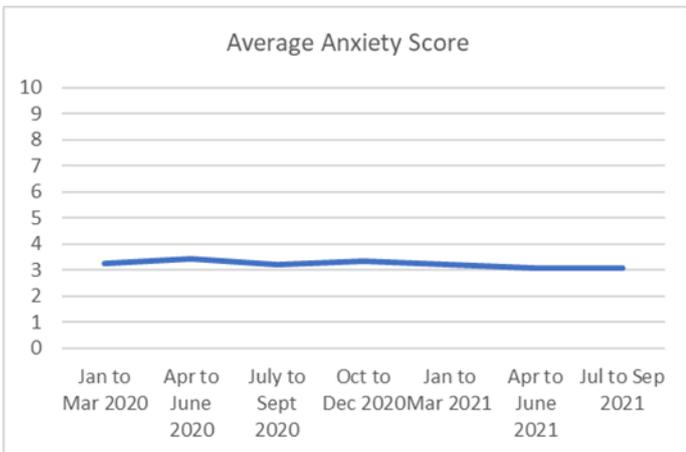
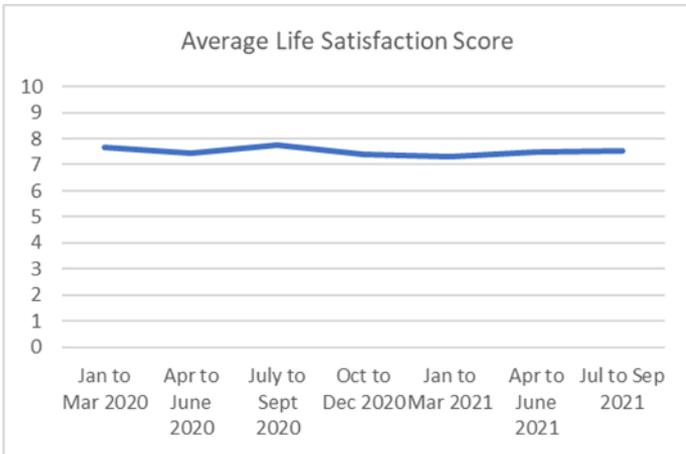
The Office of National Statistic's Measuring National Well-being programme also assesses personal well-being as part of the Annual Population Survey. The survey asks the questions:

- Life Satisfaction - Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?
- Worthwhile - Overall, to what extent do you feel that the things you do in your life are worthwhile?
- Happiness - Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?
- Anxiety - on a scale where 0 is "not at all anxious" and 10 is "completely anxious", overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?

The latest full annual results for Monmouthshire (from 2020/21) for these questions are shown in the graphs below alongside the UK and Wales averages. This shows that Monmouthshire residents' responses score slightly higher than both the UK and Wales for all measures, which includes a slightly lower score for anxiety.



An example of people’s views being captured on individual well-being as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is the ONS survey on the impact of the coronavirus on day-to-day life in Great Britain. It shows the impact of the pandemic on well-being; data for Great Britain from March 2020 to September 2021 and shows scores were similar to pre-pandemic levels:



## Well-being Assessment update

As part of the development of a regional Gwent PSB an integrated and collaborative approach has been undertaken to produce an updated Well-being Assessment in 2022. This assesses the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the area and people in it currently and in the future.

The assessment is made up of a Gwent-wide assessment, an assessment of Monmouthshire as a whole and five local areas within Monmouthshire: Abergavenny and surrounding area; Monmouth and surrounding area; the heart of Monmouthshire which includes Usk and Raglan; Chepstow and the Lower Wye Valley and Severnside which includes Caldicot and Magor.

The assessment uses a wide range of data, academic research, evidence and people's views, from an engagement exercise, to help understand current and future well-being in the region, Monmouthshire and five local areas that make up Monmouthshire.

The Gwent and Monmouthshire assessments are available to view on <http://www.gwentpsb.org/en/well-being-plan/well-being-assessment/>

<b>Table 1: National indicators</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Link to Objective</b>	<b>Wales</b>	<b>Similar comparable areas</b>	<b>Monmouthshire Previous</b>	<b>Monmouthshire Current</b>
Percentage of adults who have fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours (not smoking, healthy weight, eat five fruit or vegetables a day, not drinking above guidelines and meet the physical activity guidelines)	<a href="#">National Survey for Wales</a>	Obj 1 & 2	10% (2018/19 & 2019/20)	11% (Ceredigion)  8% (Gwynedd)  11% (Wrexham)	6% (2017/18 & 2018/19)	7% (2018/19 & 2019/20)
Average capped 9 points score of pupils (interim)  (This interim measure was introduced in 2019, and supersedes the old measure of capped 8 points score)	<a href="#">Welsh Examination database</a>	Obj 1 & 4	354.4 (2019)	362.4 (Gwynedd)  382.5 (Ceredigion)  358.8 (Powys)	unavailable	367.4 (2019)
Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked (relative to the UK average)	<a href="#">ONS Regional Economic Analysis: Sub-regional productivity indicators</a>	Obj 4	84.1 (2019)	90.5 (Vale of Glamorgan & Cardiff)	85.4 (2018 - Monmouthshire and Newport)	85.5 (2019 - Monmouthshire and Newport)
Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked (£) (Not a national indicator, included as further context to the “relative to the UK average” national indicator)	<a href="#">ONS Regional Economic Analysis: Sub-regional productivity indicators</a>	Obj 4	£29.6 (2019)	£31.8 (Vale of Glamorgan & Cardiff)	£29.7 (2018 – Monmouthshire and Newport)	£30.1 (2019 – Monmouthshire and Newport)
Gross Disposable Household Income per head	<a href="#">ONS, gross disposable household income per head</a>	Obj 4	£17,263 (2019)	£19,987 (Vale of Glamorgan)  £18,287 (Powys)  £15,941 (Gwynedd)	£21,707 (2018)	£21,392 (2019)

<b>Table 1: National indicators</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Link to Objective</b>	<b>Wales</b>	<b>Similar comparable areas</b>	<b>Monmouthshire Previous</b>	<b>Monmouthshire Current</b>
Percentage of people in employment.	<a href="#">ONS, Annual Population Survey</a>	Obj 4	72.2% (year ending 31 March 2021)	72.9% (Vale of Glamorgan)  75.3% (Powys)  69.8% (Gwynedd)	79.4% (year ending 31 March 2020)	78.3% (year ending 31 March 2021)
Percentage of people living in households in material deprivation.	<a href="#">National Survey for Wales</a>	Obj 1, 2 & 4	13% (2019/20)	8% (Vale Of Glamorgan)  10% (Powys)  11% (Gwynedd)	9% (2018/19)	10% (2019/20)
Levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO2) pollution in the air.	<a href="#">Department for Environment, food and rural affairs</a>	Obj 3	9 (2019)	6 (Denbighshire)  4 (Ceredigion)  7 (Conwy)	8 (2018)	8 (2019)
Capacity (in MW) of renewable energy equipment installed	<a href="#">Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy</a>	Obj 2 & 3	3515.5 (2019)	244.5 (Denbighshire)  187.7 (Ceredigion)  754.7 (Conwy)	85.3 (2018)	85.4 (2019)

<b>Table 1: National indicators</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Link to Objective</b>	<b>Wales</b>	<b>Similar comparable areas</b>	<b>Monmouthshire Previous</b>	<b>Monmouthshire Current</b>
Percentage of people satisfied with their ability to get to/ access the facilities and services they need.	<a href="#">National Survey for Wales</a>	Obj 1, 2, 3 & 4	87% (2020/21)	91% (Pembrokeshire)  84% (Isle of Anglesey)  88% (Gwynedd)	79% (2018/19)	88% (2020/21)
Percentage of people satisfied with the local area as a place to live.	<a href="#">National Survey for Wales</a>	Obj 1, 2, 3 & 4	87% (2020/21)	86% (Pembrokeshire)  94% (Isle of Anglesey)  93% (Gwynedd)	92% (2018/19)	84% (2020/21)
Percentage of people who Volunteer.	<a href="#">National Survey for Wales</a>	Obj 1, 2, 3 & 4	26% (2019/20)	32% (Pembrokeshire)  28% (Isle of Anglesey)  33% (Gwynedd)	36% (2016/17)	32% (2019/20)
Percentage of people participating in sporting activities three or more times a week.	<a href="#">Adult – National Survey for Wales</a>	Obj 2 & 3	32% (2019/20)	34% (Ceredigion) 33% (Gwynedd) 34% (Wrexham)	38% (2018/19)	36% (2019/20)

<b>Table 1: National indicators</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Link to Objective</b>	<b>Wales</b>	<b>Similar comparable areas</b>	<b>Monmouthshire Previous</b>	<b>Monmouthshire Current</b>
	<a href="#"><u>Children – Sport Wales, school sport survey</u></a>	Obj 1 & 3	47.6% (2018)	52.5% (Ceredigion) 48.8% (Gwynedd) 44.2% (Wrexham)	48.8% (2015)	45.0% (2018)

# Next Steps

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The existing Monmouthshire well-being plan sets the objectives and steps for partnership working in the County up until 2023. There is a need to continue to focus on the delivery of these to improve well-being in Monmouthshire. This plan will continue to be delivered by local partnership arrangements in Monmouthshire.

The formation of the Gwent PSB provides the opportunity to improve the well-being of people across Gwent by improving collaborative working. Integral to the approach being developed is maintaining local delivery and accountability and a continued focus on working in partnership on projects that are specific to well-being in Monmouthshire. Arrangements for partnership and collaborative working in Monmouthshire will need to continue and evolve. The further development of the local partnership arrangements will be aligned accordingly to regional arrangements, ensuring the ethos of the Well-being of Future Generations Act remains at the heart of this structure.

A regional well-being assessment, that includes an assessment of well-being in Monmouthshire and the local communities within it has been developed. Informed by this a new Gwent Well-being Plan is being developed by 2023 in line with the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. This will set overarching well-being objectives which will be met by regional and local activity. There are likely also to be local actions, reflecting the differences in needs for well-being across different areas in Gwent, which will be particular to a locality and determined by more local evidence in the well-being assessment.

The Programme Board in Monmouthshire (Local Delivery Partnerships) will be tasked with contributing to the regional actions as well as delivering any specific local activity. The Board will lead Monmouthshire's role in local delivery of regional actions as well as delivering activity specific to Monmouthshire, ensuring the well-being needs of Monmouthshire are prioritised locally and integrated with regional delivery as appropriate.