

SUBJECT: CALL-IN RELATING TO ESTABLISHING A GWENT WIDE SOCIAL CARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

MEETING: PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 8th October 2026

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To provide the People Scrutiny Committee with the Call-in Request to scrutinise the decision taken by Cabinet on 16th September 2026 concerning the 'Establishing a Gwent-wide Social Care Workforce Development Service'.
- 1.2 The decision was called in on 23rd September 2026 by five councillors who have requested that People Scrutiny Committee scrutinises the decision in line with the Call-in procedure outlined in the Council's constitution.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That People Scrutiny Committee scrutinises the decision and agrees one of the following options outlined in paragraph 3.2:
 - i) To accept the Cabinet Decision made on 16th September 2026
 - ii) To refer the matter back to the Cabinet with reasons; or
 - iii) To refer the decision to full Council for consideration with reasons.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The Council's Constitution gives scrutiny committees the right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the Cabinet. This is one of the ways in which the executive can be held to account.
- 3.2 The Constitution requires that a Scrutiny meeting is held within 15 working days of the receipt of a call-in of an Executive decision to consider the call-in request. Following debate of the issue, the Committee can either:
 - Accept the Cabinet decision; or
 - Refer the matter back to the Cabinet with reasons; or
 - Refer the matter to full Council for consideration with reasons.
- 3.3 On 16th September 2026, Cabinet considered a report relating to 'Establishing a Gwent-wide Social Care Workforce Development Service' hosted by Caerphilly County Borough Council. The decision resolved by Cabinet was to accept the recommendations as set out below:
 - (i) That Cabinet approve the proposal for Monmouthshire to be part of a Gwent-Wide Social Care Workforce Development Service, a shared service, that includes five Local Authorities hosted and managed by Caerphilly County Borough Council.

- (ii) That Cabinet delegates authority to the director of Social Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Social Care, to progress implementation arrangements including the TUPE transfer (Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006) of staff and the transfer of the SCWWDP (Social Care Wales Workforce Development Programme) grant funding and associated local authority match funding to support the new regional service.

3.4 The decision was subsequently called in for the following reasons:

- Fundamental concerns raised within the document (staff implications TUPE).
- Was excluded from scrutiny.
- Was not placed on the forward planner.
- Decision at partner Councils have been taken to full Council for debate.
- Significant decision (Members have a duty to understand the opportunity, also the risks associated with this decision.
- The decision is well over the threshold of the amount set in the constitution.
- There are no discussions with service users

3.5 The Special People Scrutiny Committee is being held to consider the call-in of this decision and the Members who have called in the decision will outline their reasons for doing so. The Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Accessible Health has been invited to attend and provide responses.

3.6 The Cabinet decision report provides full context of the key issues relating to the decision taken on 16th September 2026, outlined in section 3 together with an options appraisal provided under section 5, accessed via [Agenda for Cabinet on Wednesday, 16th September, 2026, 5.00 pm - Modern Council](#) . A full impact assessment accompanies the original cabinet paper.

4.0 EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

4.1 Through the examination of policies, strategies and service performance, scrutiny provides independent challenge and assurance that decisions have considered the needs of people with protected characteristics, helped identify any unintended adverse impacts, and promoted fair and equitable access to services. Scrutiny also supports the sustainable development principle by challenging report authors, and therefore decision-makers, to take a longer-term view and involve communities in shaping services in line with the council's commitment to work with and alongside communities. As a result, scrutiny strengthens transparency, accountability and evidence-based decision-making. Please note that a full impact assessment was produced for this decision and accompanied the original cabinet paper.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

5.1 Not applicable.

6. REASONS:

6.1 To table the Cabinet's decision taken on 16th September 2026 on 'Establishing a Gwent-wide Social Care Workforce Development Service' to the People Scrutiny Committee for scrutiny in line with Council's Call-in procedure outlined in its Constitution.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

7.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from this report.

8. CONSULTEES:

Chief Officer People, Performance and Partnerships
Deputy Chief Executive
Monitoring Officer

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Cabinet Decision report for 'Establishing a Gwent-wide Social Care Workforce Development Service' dated 16th September 2026 [Agenda for Cabinet on Wednesday, 16th September, 2026, 5.00 pm - Modern Council](#) .

10. AUTHOR:

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