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Y Rhadyr
Brynbuga
NP15 1GA

Dydd Llun, 11 Ionawr 2021

Hysbysiad o gyfarfod

Pwyllgor Craffu Plant a Phobl Ifanc

Dydd Mawrth, 19eg Ionawr, 2021 at 10.00 am
Remote Meeting

AGENDA

**BYDD CYFARFOD CYN I AELODAU'R PWYLLGOR 30 COFNODION CYN I'R
CYCHWYN Y CYFARFOD**

Eitem ddim	Eitem	Tudalennau
1.	Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb	
2.	Datganiadau o Fuddiant	
3.	Fforwm Agored i'r Cyhoedd	
4.	Monitro Cyllideb: Craffu ar sefyllfa monitro cyfalaf a reffeniw'r gyllideb ym Mis 7, gan osod y cyd-destun ar gyfer craffu ar gynigion cyllidebol.	
5.	Craffu ar y Gyllideb: Craffu ar gynigion y gyllideb ar gyfer 2021/22. Defnyddiwch y ddolen hon i gyrchu'r papurau ar gyfer yr eitem hon, os gwelwch yn dda - ar gael fel rhan o agenda'r Cabinet 20 ^{fed} Ionawr 2021. Cliciwch Yma	
7.	Cynllun Gwaith Ymlaen y Pwyllgor Dethol Plant a Phobl Ifanc	1 - 2
8.	Cynlluniwr Gwaith Cabinet a Chyngor	3 - 18
9.	Cadarnhau cofnodion y cyfarfod blaenorol <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cyfarfod Arbennig a gynhaliwyd ar 25^{ain} Tachwedd 20208fed Rhagfyr 2020	19 - 32

10.	Cadarnhau dyddiad ac amser y cyfarfod nesaf	
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Paul Matthews

Prif Weithredwr

CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

MAE CYFANSODDIAD Y PWYLLGOR FEL SY'N DILYN:

Cynghorwyr Sir:

L.Brown
M.Groucutt
L.Jones
M.Lane
M. Powell
T.Thomas
J.Watkins
F. Taylor

Gwybodaeth Gyhoeddus

Mynediad i gopiâu papur o agendâu ac adroddiadau

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

Edrych ar y cyfarfod ar-lein

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

Y Gymraeg

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

Nodau a Gwerthoedd Cyngor Sir Fynwy

Cymunedau Cynaliadwy a Chryf

Canlyniadau y gweithiwn i'w cyflawni

Neb yn cael ei adael ar ôl

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

Pobl yn hyderus, galluog ac yn cymryd rhan

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

Ein sir yn ffynnu

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

Ein blaenoriaethau

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

Ein gwerthoedd

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

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2021

Children and Young People's Select Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
19 th January 2021	Budget Monitoring	Scrutiny of the budget monitoring capital and revenue position at Month 7, setting the context for scrutiny of budget proposals.	Peter Davies	Budget monitoring
	Budget Scrutiny	Scrutiny of the budget proposals for 2021/22.	Peter Davies	Budget Scrutiny
28 th January 2021 2pm	WORKSHOP		Sharon Randall Smith Will Mclean	Member Workshop
	Welsh Medium Education			
Special Meeting 11 th February 2021 2pm	EAS Business Plan 2021/2022	To consult the committee on the EAS Business Plan prior to Cabinet agreement in April.	Education Achievement Service (EAS)	Consultation
	Free School Meals Strategy	Pre-decision scrutiny of the council's strategy.	Sharon Randall Smith Will Mclean	Pre-decision Scrutiny
25 th March 2021				
20 th April 2021				

Future Agreed Work Programme Items:

Schools items:

- **Inclusion updates** – wellbeing/attitudes to learning/supporting the pupil voice
- **Post 16 education provision/Apprenticeships/Engagement and progression and support for those Not in Education or Employment**

Non-education issues:

- **Support for Foster Carers** ~ Edge of Care Team and BASE. Bringing in Foster Carers
- **Engage with the Youth Forum** ~ Discuss their priorities and key concerns
- **Young Carers Strategy Update**
- **Childcare sufficiency** – annual update

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2021

- **Well-being reporting (obesity, eating disorders etc)**
- **Family Support Services ~ Young People's Mental Health Support in Schools:** Chair to liaise with Chief Officer
- **Children with Complex Needs and play provision.**

Suggestions from the Chief Officer:

- **ADL Transformation ~ new legislation and practice early next year. Regional leads to provide and input. Readiness assessments**
- **Ongoing Transformation between health board and regional partnership boards. Intermediate Care funding and in particular, supporting wellbeing needs.**
- **Inclusion in schools (primary and secondary), Behaviour policy. CAMS support ~ early presentation.**
- **Risk areas, financial position and budgetary pressures, Schools Finance Forum work**
- **2 years' delivery plan for Children's Services ~ understanding good practice and the significant drivers on schools and social services**
- **Chief Officer Annual Reports and Corporate Parenting**

Cabinet, Council and Individual Cabinet Member Decisions (ICMD) Forward Plan

Monmouthshire County Council is required to publish a forward plan of all key decisions to be taken. Council and Cabinet items will only be considered for decision if they have been included on the planner no later than the month preceding the meeting, unless the item is considered urgent.

Committee / Decision Maker	Meeting date / Decision due	Subject	Purpose	Author	Date item added to the planner	Date item originally scheduled for decision
Council	01/10/23	LDP for Adoption		Mark Hand	23/01/20	
Council	01/02/23	LDP submission for examination		Mark Hand	23/01/20	
Council	01/07/22	LDP Deposit Plan endorsement for consultation	Endorsement of Deposit Plan	Mark Hand	23/01/20	
Cabinet	01/09/21	LDP Preferred Strategy endorsement post consultation		Mark Hand	20/05/20	
Cabinet	02/06/21	Budget Monitoring outturn report	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the forecast outturn position of the Authority at end of month reporting for 2020/21 financial year	Peter Davies/Jon Davies	02/04/20	
Cabinet	05/05/21	Active Travel Network Maps		Paul Sullivan	13/11/20	
Council	01/05/21	LDP Preferred Strategy endorsement for consultation		Mark Hand	21/09/20	
Cabinet	14/04/21	Welsh Church Fund Working Group meeting	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2020/21 - meeting 9 held on 4th March 2021	Dave Jarrett	02/04/20	

Council	11/03/21	Council Tax Resolution Report		Ruth Donovan	02/04/20	
Council	11/03/21	Treasury Strategy report		Jon Davies	15/12/20	
Council	11/03/21	Constitution Review		Matt Phillips	14/08/19	
Cabinet	03/03/21	Play Sufficiency Action Plan		Mike Moran	14/10/20	
Cabinet	03/03/21	•EAS Business Plan		Sharon Randall Smith	21/09/20	
Council	03/03/21	Final revenue and capital budget proposals		Peter Davies	21/09/20	
Cabinet	03/03/21	Longterm Homelessness Solutions	Deferred from 2/9/20	Mark Hand	07:00	
Cabinet	03/03/21	Social Justice Strategy Update		Cath Fallon	17/09/20	
ICMD	24/02/21	SPG S106 Supplementary Planning Guidance	To clarify how S106 contributions are calculated/ deferred FROM 13/01/21	Phil Thomas / Mark Hand	01/05/19	
Cabinet	03/02/21	Abergavenny CRC (Racecourse Farm)		Mike Moran	14/10/20	

Cabinet	03/02/21	Welsh Church Fund Working Group meeting	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2020/21 - meeting 8 held on 14th January 2021	Dave Jarrett	02/04/20	
Cabinet	03/02/21	Apprenticeship Pay Rates		Gareth James	08/01/21	
Cabinet	03/02/21	Land at Bencroft Lane, Knollbury		Mike Moran	26/08/20	
Cabinet	03/02/21	Outdoor Adventure Provision at Gilwern		Marie Bartlett	30/11/20	30/11/20
Cabinet	03/02/21	Review of Monmouthshire's Destination Management Plan 2017-2020	Purpose: to approve the revised Destination Development Plan	Matthew Lewis	22/09/20	
Cabinet	03/02/21	Proposed Disposal of MCC Cottages		Nicola Howells	15/12/20	
ICMD	27/01/21	Approval on Local Government (Wales) Act 1994 - The Local Authorities (Precepts) (Wales) Regulations 1995	Deferred from 13/1 to 27/1	Jon Davies		
Cabinet	20/01/21	•Draft revenue and capital budget proposals for consultation		Peter Davies	21/09/20	
Cabinet	20/01/21	Chippenham Mead Play Area, Monmouth		Mike Moran	15/12/20	
Cabinet	20/01/21	Play Area Assessments and Future Play Area Policy	to advise members of play area assessments carried out last year and suggest a rationalisation of provision	Matthew Lewis	22/09/20	

Cabinet	20/01/21	BUS EMERGENCY SCHEME (BES) – REQUEST TO ALL COUNCILS TO SIGN UP TO THE BES2 SCHEME		Roger Hoggins	24/12/20	
Council	14/01/21	Council Diary 2021/22		Nicola Perry		
Council	14/01/21	Council Tax Reduction Scheme		Ruth Donovan	07/04/20	
Council	14/01/21	Annual Safeguarding Report		Jane Rodgers	21/09/20	
ICMD	13/01/21	Minerals Regional Technical Statement Second Revision (RTS2)		Rachel Lewis	17/12/20	
ICMD	13/01/21	Museum Service Collection Review	To propose the deaccessioning of and disposal actions for the proposed items in line with Section 4 of the Museums Association Disposal Toolkit	Matthew Lewis/Rachael Rogers	22/09/20	
ICMD	13/01/21	Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards in the Private Rented Sector		Gareth Walters	15/12/21	
ICMD	13/01/21	Staffing Changes: Business Support	To seek approval for the voluntary redundancy of the Chief Executive's Personal Assistant, reducing the cost of administrative support arrangements for the senior management team and contribute to budget savings during the 2021-22 financial year./Paul Jordan	Matt Gatehouse	15/12/21	
Cabinet	06/01/21	Budget Monitoring Report - month 7 (period 2)	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the forecast outturn position of the Authority at end of month reporting for 2020/21 financial year.	Peter Davies/Jon Davies	02/04/20	
Cabinet	06/01/21	RIPA Policy		Matt Phillips	21/10/20	

Cabinet	06/01/21	Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2020		Mark Hand	23/06/20	
ICMD	23/12/20	Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2020-2025	To approve the review of the Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2020-2025 Deferred awaiting new date	Matthew Lewis	22/09/2020/	
Cabinet	16/12/20	Welsh Church Fund Working Group meeting	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2020/21 - meeting 7 held on 3rd December 2020	Dave Jarrett	02/04/20	
Cabinet	16/12/20	Proposal to pause work on a proposed Development Company		Deb Hill Howells	21/10/20	
Cabinet	16/12/20	Local Housing Market Assessment Update		Mark Hand	04/11/20	
Cabinet	16/12/20	Growth Options to Cabinet for endorsement for non-statutory consultation		Mark Hand	21/09/20	
Cabinet	16/12/20	Review of school places in Caldicot town		Matthew Jones	21/10/20	
ICMD	09/12/20	Shire Hall/Monmouth Museum	Paul Jordan	Matthew Lewis	deferred from 11/11	
IMCD	09/12/20	Consultation on Local Government (Wales) Act 1994 - The Local Authorities (Precepts) (Wales) Regulations 1995	To seek Member approval of the proposals for consultation purposes regarding payments to precepting authorities during the 2021/22 financial year as required by statute.	Jon Davies		
IMCD	09/12/20	Council Tax base and associated matters	To agree the Council Tax Base figure for submission to the Welsh Government, together with the collection rate to be applied for 2021/22 and to make other necessary related statutory decisions	Ruth Donovan	02/04/20	

Council	03/12/20	Corporate Joint Committee: Consultation Response'	To discuss and endorse a council response to consultation about draft regulations which will create four regional Corporate Joint Committees. These are a statutory mechanism for regional collaboration by local government.	Matt Gatehouse	16/10/20	
Council	03/12/20	Updated Asset Investment Policy		Peter Davies	21/09/20	
Council	03/12/20	Statutory Director of Social Services annual report		Julie Boothroyd	14/08/20	
Cabinet	02/12/20	InFuSe		Cath Fallon	10/11/20	
Cabinet	02/12/20	Clydach Ironworks Enhancement Scheme Revision/S106 Funding, Cae Meldon		Matthew Lewis	22/09/20	
ICMD	25/11/20	Homesearch Allocations Policy and Amendments	INCLUDED ON 11/11 AGENDA	Louise Corbett	22/10/20	
ICMD	11/11/20	WELSH LANGUAGE COMMISSIONER'S MONITORING WORK 2019-20		Matt Gatehouse		
ICMD	11/11/20	LDP Annual Monitoring Report/ and Annual Performance Report for Planning Service		Rachel Lewis/Phil Thomas	19/10/20	
ICMD	11/11/20	Housing Register Review		Mark Hand	23/06/20	
Cabinet	04/11/20	Outdoor Adventure Service		Marie Bartlett/Ian Saunders	13/10/20	

Cabinet	04/11/20	Public Service Ombudsman's annual letter	To provide Cabinet with a copy of the Public Service Ombudsman's annual letter to inform understanding of the council's performance in handling complaints	Matt Gatehouse	09/09/20	
Cabinet	04/11/20	Welsh Church Fund working group	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2020/21 - meeting 4 held on 22nd October 2020	Dave Jarrett	02/04/20	
Cabinet	04/11/20	Three Fields Site Magor – Lease Arrangements		Mike Moran	14/10/20	
Cabinet	04/11/20	Coronavirus Strategic Aims: Progress and Next Steps	To provide an overview of progress against the strategic aims set by Cabinet in July, and communicate an updated version of the plan on a page	Matt Gatehouse	26/08/20	
Cabinet	04/11/20	Section 106 Funding – The Hill, Abergavenny		Mike Moran	20/02/19	
Council	22/10/20	Corporate Plan Annual Report 2019/20		Richard Jones	25/08/20	
Council	22/10/20	MCC Audited Accounts (formal approval)	To notify Council of completed Audit process and resultant accounts - To go to Audit Committee	Peter Davies/Jon Davies	02/04/20	
Council	22/10/20	ISA 260 report - MCC Accounts - attachment above	Deferred from september	Peter Davies/Jon Davies	02/04/20	
Council	22/10/20	Future Data Hall and Data Hosting Arrangements		Peter Davies	16/09/20	
Council	22/10/20	LDP revised Delivery Agreement including LDP timetable and community involvement strategy		Craig O'Connor	03/07/20	

Cabinet	21/10/20	Revenue and Capital Monitoring 2020/21 Forecast Outturn Statement – Month 5		Peter Davies	16/09/20	
Cabinet	21/10/20	MTFP and Budget Process 2021/22 to 2024/25		Peter Davies	16/09/20	
Cabinet	21/10/20	Review of Garden Waste Service		Laura Carter	23/07/20	
ICMD	14/10/20	PUBLIC TOILET PROVISION - GRANTS TO LOCAL COUNCILS AND FUTURE PROVISION IN ABERGAVENNY	DEFERRED	Roger Hoggins	25/09/20	
ICMD	14/10/20	Closure of Capita Gwent Consultancy and distribution of Reserves		Roger Hoggins	25/09/20	
ICMD	14/10/20	Extension of PSPO	To seek approval to extend three Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) in respect of Bailey Park,	Andrew Mason	23/09/20	
Cabinet	07/10/20	Future Data Hall and Data Hosting Arrangements		Peter Davies	16/09/20	
Cabinet	07/10/20	Welsh Church Fund Working Group	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2020/21 - meeting 2 held on 28th July 2020 and meeting 3 held on 10th September 2020.	Dave Jarrett	02/04/20	
Cabinet	07/10/20	Future Provision of HWRCs including the closure of Usk recycling centre		Carl Touhig	14/09/20	
ICMD	23/09/20	SCM Collaboration with TCBC Heritage Services		Amy Longford	24/08/20	

ICMD	23/09/20	SCM Collaboration with TCBC Heritage Services		Amy Longford	24/08/20	
Council	10/09/20	Audit Committee Annual Report		Philip White	11/08/20	
Cabinet	29/07/20	Digital Infrastructure Action Plan		Cath Fallon	08/07/20	
Cabinet	29/07/20	'Revenue and Capital Monitoring 2020/21 Forecast Outturn Statement – Month 2		Jonathan S Davies	12/06/20	
Cabinet	29/07/20	Coronavirus Risk Management Update'		Peter Davies	10/07/20	
Cabinet	29/07/20	Welsh Church Fund Working Group meeting	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2020/21 - meeting 1 held on 30th June 2020	Dave Jarrett	02/04/20	
Cabinet	29/07/20	Outdoor Education - Service Update		Marie Bartlett	09/07/20	
Cabinet	29/07/20	Public Toilets				
Cabinet	29/07/20	5G Rural test bed		Cath Fallon/Frances O'Brien		
Council	16/07/20	Climate Emergency Update		Hazel Clatworthy	10/06/20	

Council	16/07/20	CEx Report		Matt Phillips	18/06/20	
Council	16/07/20	Cabinet decision re Gilwern		Matt Phillips	27/05/20	
ICMD	08/07/20	Archaeology Planning Advice	Adoption post-guidance	Mark Hand	19/09/19	Deferred
Cabinet	01/07/20	COVID-19 Evaluation of Recovery Phase and Establishing Aims for Response Stage			17/06/20	
Cabinet	01/07/20	Home to School Transport Policy	Deferred		20/05/20	
Cabinet	01/07/20	Household Waste Recycling Centres	Deferred		20/05/20	
Cabinet	17/06/20	Revenue and Capital Monitoring Outturn	To provide Members with information on the outturn position of the Authority for the financial year	Peter Davies/Jon Davies	02/02/20	
Council	04/06/20	Licensing Act Policy		Linda O'Gorman		
Council	04/06/20	Estyn Report		Will Mclean		
Council	04/06/20	Safeguarding Covid19 Position Statement		Julie Boothroyd		

Council	04/06/20	Chief Officer, CYP Annual Report'		Will Mclean	11/03/20	
Council	04/06/20	Refit Programme		Ian Hoccom	28/02/20	
Cabinet	27/05/20	Safeguarding		Julie Boothroyd		
Cabinet	27/05/20	Active Travel and Town Centres		Paul Sullivan		
Cabinet	06/05/20	Welsh Church Fund Working Group	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2020/21 - meeting 1 held on 2nd April 2020	Dave Jarrett	02/04/20	
ICMD	08/04/20	GUARANTEED INTERVIEWS FOR CARE LEAVERS		Gareth James	23/03/20	
ICMD	08/04/20	Momouthshire Registration Service Collaborative Working Agreement		Jennifer Walton	23/03/20	
Cabinet	01/04/20	Staffing re-alignment: Community Hubs and Contact Centre		Matt Gatehouse	11/03/20	
Cabinet	01/04/20	EAS Business Plan		Will Mclean	04/03/20	
Cabinet	01/04/20	Guaranteed Interview Scheme for Care Leavers		Gareth James	28/02/20	

ICMD	25/03/20	Non Domestic Rates: High Street and Retail Rate Relief 2020/21	for approval of the adoption of a High Street and Retail Rate Relief Scheme for 2020/21, in accordance with Welsh Government guidance.	Ruth Donovan	12/02/20	
ICMD	25/03/20	Contract Extension		Tracey Harry	14/02/20	
Council	05/03/20	Pay Policy		Sally Thomas	23/01/20	
Council	05/03/20	Annual Safeguarding Report		Julie Boothroyd	06/02/20	
Council	05/03/20	Strategic Equality Plan		Alan Burkitt	26/09/19	
Council	05/03/20	LDP Preferred Strategy	Endorsement to consult on Preferred Strategy	Mark Hand	23/01/20	
Council	05/03/20	Council Tax Resolution	To set budget and Council Tax	Ruth Donovan	18/04/19	
Council	05/03/20	Mid Term Review of the Corporate Plan		Matt Gatehouse		
Cabinet	04/03/20	Investment Committee		Peter Davies	13/02/20	
ICMD	26/02/20	CHARGING APPLICANTS FOR THE MONITORING OF SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS		Phil Thomas	06/02/20	

ICMD	26/02/20	Non Domestic Rates - Application for Hardship Relief		Ruth Donovan	14/01/20	
Cabinet	19/02/20	2020/21 Education and Welsh Church Trust Funds Investment and Fund Strategies	The purpose of this report is to present to Cabinet for approval the 2020/21 Investment and Fund Strategy for Trust Funds for which the Authority acts as sole or custodian trustee for adoption and to approve the 2019/20 grant allocation to Local Authority beneficiaries of the Welsh Church Fund.	Dave Jarrett	18/04/19	
Cabinet	19/02/20	Mid Term Review of the Corporate Plan		Matt Gatehouse		
Cabinet	19/02/20	Welsh Church Fund Working Group	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2019/20, meeting 7 held on 5th December 2019	Dave Jarrett	18/04/19	
Cabinet	19/02/20	Consideration of Final Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals		Peter Davies	03/10/19	
Cabinet	19/02/20	Proposal to change the school funding formula.		Nikki Wellington		
Cabinet	19/02/20	Strategic Review of Outdoor Education		Marie Bartlett	18/10/20	
Cabinet	19/02/20	Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) review/ Policy Statement - Results of statutory consultation and proposed Final Plan	To seek approval of the Review of the ROWIP and associated policies	Matthew Lewis	18/07/19	
Cabinet	17/02/20	*Final revenue and capital budget proposals		Peter Davies	21/09/20	

ICMD	29/01/20	Various roads, county wide Amendment No. 1 of consolidation order 2019 (part 2)		Paul Keeble	13/01/20	
Council	16/01/20	Council Tax Reduction Scheme		Ruth Donovan	18/04/19	
Council	16/01/20	Mid Term Review of the Corporate Plan		Peter Davies	26/09/19	
Council	16/01/20	Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy		Mark Hand	06/09/19	
Council	16/01/20	Constitution Review		Matt Phillips	14/08/19	
Council	16/01/20	Safeguarding - Annual Report to Council		Jane Rodgers	20/06/19	
Council	16/01/20	Proposed Development Company		Deb Hill-Howells	16/09/19	Deferred
Cabinet	08/01/20	Ethical Employment code of practice - Approval Paper Draft		Scott James	08/11/19	
Cabinet	08/01/20	Budget Monitoring report - month 7 (period 2)	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the forecast outturn position of the Authority at end of month reporting for 2019/20 financial year.	Mark Howcroft	18/04/19	
Cabinet	08/01/20	Redundancy implications within MonLife		Marie Bartlett	07/11/20	

Cabinet	08/01/20	Homelessness Report		Deb Hill-Howells	07/11/19	
Cabinet	08/01/20	Primary School Places Reiview in Caldicot		Matthew Jones	02/10/19	
Cabinet	06/01/20	Fixed Play Provision		Mike Moran	26/08/20	

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Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

Meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at Remote Meeting on Wednesday, 25th November, 2020 at 10.00 am

Councillors Present

County Councillor T.Thomas (Chairman)

County Councillors: L.Brown, M.Groucutt, M.Lane, M. Powell and J.Watkins

Officers in Attendance

Robert McGowan, Policy and Scrutiny Officer
Will McLean, Chief Officer for Children and Young People

Sharon Randall-Smith, Head of Achievement and Attainment

Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager

Ian Bakewell, Housing & Regeneration Manager

APOLOGIES: E. Thomas, Church in Wales

1. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Jo Watkins declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest as a parent of a child in Caldicot SRB. Maggie Harris declared an interest as a governor at Deri View.

2. Homeless Briefing Report and emerging proposals for future delivery of homelessness

Officer Ian Bakewell presented the report and presentation, and answered the members' questions.

Challenge:

Many of the applicants need specialist accommodation and specialist support, which is not currently available. What are we doing for people with severe needs?

Safeguarding is at the forefront of everything that we do. Many of the placements are linked to that. It is still a challenge, but we are reasonably confident about the levels of placements we do that reflect risk assessments and involvement of other agencies. The problem is that, for example, we might have put someone in B&B for safeguarding reasons who otherwise might have been in shared accommodation or Solas. The outcome might not be the ideal placement, but it has been informed by a risk assessment or a safeguarding consideration. We move people quite often, when issues arise. This is an absolute priority for us but working within the parameters that we have is extremely challenging.

Is Welsh Government giving any funding to back up its new, and encouraging, proactive stance on homelessness?

We have Phase 2 homeless funding for a number of short term projects until April. For example, we're funding a drug and alcohol worker through GDAS. After 1st April, Welsh Government says there's nothing available, so we have to wait and see. If there isn't any funding, there will be a big problem across Wales. I would expect that there will be something. We will know next month.

Are things lined up to provide an emergency stopgap with B&Bs?

Yes, the concern is if our B&Bs refuse to give accommodation. If there were a number of them, it would be extremely difficult, and as things stand I don't have an answer to that. We would probably look for assistance to do something like Gilwern again. There is some capacity in the system and we have reassurances from the majority to get us to Christmas, and some to April. We can use Welsh Government Hardship funding to help us on that. It doesn't necessarily give us any guarantees. I'm reasonably confident.

Is the Pobl work to provide temporary accommodation in progress?

Colleagues in the Partnerships team have done a lot of work with Pobl, in terms of remodelling. Unfortunately, in order to cement this arrangement they have had to decommission two services. The Pobl work is due to kick in on 1st April – they have been very flexible and supportive.

Are there fewer B&B bookings now because of Covid, and will that create a problem at a later stage?

Yes, we are in a bit of a luck situation. Prior to Covid, we were only using one B&B in the county. We have been able to benefit from the lack of tourism and take on more local B&Bs. There might be some risk with this, as mentioned above. I think there is a little bit of assurance because we have propped up a number of businesses during this time.

Does the youth need for mental health and substance misuse support need be highlighted to Welsh Government?

Looking at the positives of the situation, it has highlighted opportunities and needs. With Welsh Government's changing view, they are probably using it as an opportunity to tackle rough sleeping and youth homelessness – it looks like we are heading towards a situation where everybody can get assistance for homeless accommodation. It's creating an opportunity to think about the deficiencies and support needs that we have. Welsh Government knows the challenges that we and other local authorities have. All local authorities have been given a relationships manager, so our dialogue with Welsh Government is now more regular. It's going in the right direction.

Should social housing landlords do more to provide accommodation?

Yes, our social landlords are massive partners in this. So far, they are being supportive but they are only geared up for low need applicants. I'm hopeful that they will change and be more aligned with the reality of the situation. At the moment, they are looking at our Housing Support Grant programme. I'm not sure how that will unravel. From a regulatory perspective, I know that Welsh Government has this on its radar as well, and they ask us for feedback about how housing associations are supporting us. I'm reasonably confident about our housing association partners but there are lots more conversations for us to have.

What is the thinking around the Strategic Housing piece and this new regional board? Has that been on the backburner? What is the housing team's input into that?

Yes, this needs to be a whole systems approach and the situation has highlighted the need to build more affordable homes. We have had that conversation internally and at informal Cabinet yesterday. This is something that I am very interested in. The concern, going forward, is new homes coming online, from whatever source.

What discussions are we having in relation to the council's Poverty Plan and the PSB, and the Mental Health service?

Yes, Judith Langdon and I have made connections in regards to the Poverty plan. Homelessness is not a distinct priority of the plan, but I have suggested that homelessness and housing is a theme to run through all aspects of that plan. As you have said, if we get housing right then other benefits will follow. The next step in that regard is to talk to other housing organisations to identify whether there are more opportunities where we can link with other agencies to support this agenda. As an example, many of the young people that we work with have nothing behind them – no bank accounts or savings, and therefore no way to look forward to acquiring property of their own. I am keen to have this sort of conversation. The role of health: this situation has shown that a lot of support needs are above Housing. We currently accommodate a number of people where medical circumstances are appropriate. If we can facilitate with that, we will. I've had conversations with various different sections of the community mental health team. Health now has a Housing person who is our 'go-to'. The work that we are currently doing with GDAS is very interesting and there are more conversations to have with them.

To what extent has training support been given to your team when dealing with people with a lot of problems, particularly around addiction?

Relatively little. Staff have been through drug awareness training in the past, but this probably needs refreshing. We need to work towards a psychologically and trauma aware service, as noted by Councillor Groucott. This will involve training and thinking differently. Perhaps there are parts of the service that are traditional, and we have ambitions (regardless of Welsh Government guidance) to operate the Homeless service in a very different way. Staff needs to understand this area better, and have greater links with the services that provide that support. The GDAS worker that we have is a completely new relationship and is very positive, though in its infancy.

Given the lack of housing, we need properties with single flats for young people – a whole house might not be needed.

One bedroom accommodation is the emerging priority. It is our focus, and young people will benefit from that.

Chair's Summary:

The committee gives its thanks to the team. In terms of the development of children and young people, the provision of decent affordable housing is critical.

Recommendation 1 is supported. Councillor Groucott proposed a recommendation to appoint a specialist officer to support young people who need 24hr help, a specialist officer who is trained in mental health problems, and recommended a psychologically and trauma aware service with clear systems that provide professional external agency support. He also proposed that a Cabinet member with responsibility in this area attends CYP on a 6 monthly basis to give a specific update on support. The committee agreed these recommendations. Councillor Brown requested feedback about what the Officer thinks of these recommendations. Ian Bakewell replied that he is happy with the recommendations, though with the caveat that they will be resource dependent – all of the progress made by the service will be dependent on staffing. The report to Cabinet due in January will cover resources, which should address the issues highlighted by Councillor Groucott's recommendations.

3. Additional Learning Needs Strategy

Officers Will Mclean, Jacquelyn Elias, Morwenna Wagstaff and Lucie Doyle delivered the report and answered the members' questions.

Challenge:

What support will be given to teachers to ensure that this provision, and the teachers, are woven seamlessly into school?

Currently, we call them Special Needs Resource bases but 'Special Needs' is not going to remain the terminology – we are looking at a rebranding of our specialist provision. Schools that host our resource provision must work in partnership with the local authority. Our Special Needs Professional Network group is a really important strand in the development of the relationships/codependencies that we have. These schools provide specialist education for our most vulnerable children; therefore, we need to have quality assurance that that is the best education these children can have and that staff are appropriately supported through training and other initiatives. The culture and ethos of the schools are also extremely important. It is a critical relationship that is growing and is extremely positive. We have over 150 places already across the authority, and it's really important that there's a consistency in practice and in our vision of what we want from these resource bases. We are driving towards ALN Centres of Excellence; this will only be achieved by working in partnership.

Welsh medium teaching has grown in Monmouthshire. Do we now have Welsh-speaking language therapists?

The number of Welsh-speaking professionals in SE Wales is an ongoing issue. How we can address this is a subject of discussions in our consortia. For example, we currently don't have any Welsh-speaking educational psychologists but we know that there are some in Blaenau Gwent. We look at using an original resource to fill that gap while we look proactively for colleagues to learn Welsh, or to recruit those who already do. There's currently one Welsh speaking language therapist in Aneurin Bevan. We will continue to identify this as a priority through our WESP.

Is it intended that the additional provision proposed for Deri View will stay there once Deri View closes, moves to the secondary school site in Abergavenny, and is replaced on that site by the Welsh medium school?

It is our hope that we will be able to create an SNRB facility that will take children from ages 3 to 19, providing continuing support throughout. It would not see an English medium SNRB stay on the Deri View site. We are looking at a new provision that will enhance the capacity in Monmouthshire. Currently, in the north we are beginning to work on an understanding with our parents and schools that there should be a continuation of education from when children start in Overmonnow through to Monmouth Comprehensive. The same in the south of the county between Pembroke and Caldicot. It gives us a great opportunity in Abergavenny to do that on a single site.

The new legislation will see very clear responsibilities from birth to age 24. How can the transition from school into adult life be seen through smoothly?

Regarding early years provision, we are in a strong position with the ALN reform because we have had dedicated early years psychologists for a number of years now. Those processes around supporting pre-school children have been in place for some time. Support through a broader local authority early years ALN team is fairly strong. Post-16 is a new challenge for

Monmouthshire. Until now, the remit was for children with statements until they are 19. There has been a lot of work with this recently. This Friday, we are holding our first post-16 transition steering group where we are piloting the new transition protocol in Monmouth comprehensive this year that was previously trialled in Torfaen, in the hope that in September we will have a proper local understanding of need. We will have adapted the protocol to meet Monmouthshire's comprehensives' needs, and those links with the colleges and work placements so that we will be in a better position to support children with ALNs, and young people beyond the end of school. There is more of a focus on children who don't necessarily have current statements of SEN – it is about picking up all those other children who might have additional learning needs but are being met in the mainstream provision with additional support. *Cabinet indicated previously that they would look at a specialist school covering autism and special educational behaviour disorders. The report mentions 'invest to save' but we spend millions for independent schools or other local authorities to cover children who can't be educated in mainstream. This report doesn't address this concern?*

In the last stages of the Mounton House discussion Cabinet committed itself to ensuring 'provision' was made, which is not necessarily the same thing as a school. We had one very specific type of specialist school when Gwent was disaggregated into the 5 local authorities. When Gwent was in existence, there were more general specialist schools. As a small authority there will always be children whose needs are at such a level, and so demanding, that they have to go to a different setting to receive that level of care and support. What we are looking to do is to create capacity. If you were to visit one of our SNRBs, you would see children with a very high need being supported. They are not necessarily with their peer group all of the time; hopefully, by placing them in those settings, they can access some of that collegiate time. Please don't think that the support isn't there for those children.

In terms of the more complex, and ever-increasing, neurodevelopmental challenges, the strategy document notes a really interesting piece of work being commissioned by the 5 local authorities to track the growing demand of different types of ALN over time. It is growing and we will have to think very carefully about how and where we will provide for it. The renewal of the 3-through-19 school in Abergavenny might provide us with that opportunity; that would become our centre of excellence for that type of provision. We are in discussions with the other directors within the greater Gwent area, and within the health authority, about a site in the south of the county that could have the potential for a regional solution. I am confident that with the work of the leaders that we have, we can develop the provision over time to meet the needs. But there will always be some children who have to go out of county. This is true even for some counties that have special schools: e.g. Torfaen places a significant number of children in an independent school in Monmouthshire. So a single school is not the answer to the challenges. We have a great number of needs in our SNRBs, from children with significant ASDs, physical and mental difficulties; those needs are met very well. Where they can be included with the mainstream learners this is very beneficial, and encouraged. We have a strong model that builds capacities in our mainstream schools, and enhances the skills of mainstream staff. There is a huge amount to celebrate in the work that we are doing – there is more to do, as the strategy document lays out, but we are offering something unique in Monmouthshire, and the facilities and skills of staff are the equal of anything in special schools.

It's very difficult to find the number of pupils who are in each category. The number of statements to 2019 is shown as decreasing, but would the number not have increased due to the individual development plan, and not needing a medical assessment?

We present to DMT every month a detailed breakdown of our ALN and SEN needs so at any point in time we will have that data available should any councillor wish to see it.

Recently, a Caldicot resident wasn't offered a local place for their child, but had to go to Monmouth – do we actually have sufficient capacity for our primary needs, and do we plan to increase it?

There is an imbalance between primary and secondary capacity in terms of the size of the SNRBs. We need to wait and see what the Mastadon review of expected demand coming through the system is, then we can make a good decision about where we invest for future capacity. The opportunity to grow the capacity in Abergavenny, and support the north-west of the authority, is a big step forward. That will be online by 2024, and will displace some of the children who currently have to travel to Monmouth, and hopefully will have the benefit of equalising across the 3 settings. We will continue to ensure that the centres are big enough.

What is our strategy for dealing with children with emotional and social behavioural difficulties, and where are we planning to place them? What about trauma-informed behaviour?

We are on a mission to build the understanding, and therefore the capacity, within our mainstream schools, that behaviour is a communication and is a reflection of an emotional or additional learning need that is perhaps going unmet. We are part of the CAMHS transformation steering group – some of the projects coming out of that include work with community psychology and whole-school approaches to mental health and emotional wellbeing. A lot of the work is promoting understanding and promoting good practice about what the behaviours tell us. The evidence currently shows that relationships are the key to meeting those needs. Lots of that work can be done in mainstream settings.

Some of our children with the most complex level of need, around early relational trauma are supported through the SAPRA programme or having a statement, and have bespoke and flexible provision within Monmouthshire to meet those needs. We are trying very hard to develop capacity in this area. We have been a bit curtailed by the pandemic, so our focus switched a little to supporting children with the lockdown – but this also opened a lot of doors to engage with schools over this understanding of behaviour and emotional states. We have done a cross-directorate proposal, with some money from the Wellbeing grant, to identify a workstream guidance and professional training for staff in dealing with children exhibiting emotionally based school avoidance. We hope to roll that out in January, following consultation with headteachers. Schools need to enhance, and invest in, the relationships with these children, many of whom don't need a specialist provision.

Website information for parents has been a massive issue – how is this being improved?

Yes, website development was picked up by Estyn. It is in our Workstream A. Regionally, a group led by Snap is developing a whole suite of information for parents. This will go to DMT so that colleagues can see what has been developed in collaboration with parents; this will be the beginning of our revised website. All feedback will be extremely welcome.

Is it sensible that we're developing capacity to deal with children with challenging behaviour only after having shut down the specialist school at Mounton House?

The important thing to note is that there have always been children with emotional and social behavioural needs who have not got near the threshold for needing to attend Mounton House. So we are not necessarily talking about the same population as those children that went to Mounton House. We are taking the decision around the principal educational psychology and the wellbeing leads, seeking to ensure that our professionals are as well-equipped and well informed about the latest developments in how we support the much bigger population that have always resided in our schools, so that we can make their school experience better. Our number placed in Mounton House was decreasing, and we weren't able to support all of the children in Monmouthshire because it was a boys-only facility. This is about a much broader set of interventions.

Is it correct that we're only covering children/young people up to 19, rather than 24? If so, why?

In terms of school, our responsibility will be as it is now: up to 19. As part of the post-16 work referred to earlier, there will be other provision that we will look at for those moving into further education at age 19 but we don't know what that will look like at this stage. There will perhaps be pressure on colleges to provide placements for longer than Welsh Government originally thought would be possible. This is an evolving landscape. We will be responsible for the child/young adult's IP up to the age of 24, if that's still appropriate, but it won't be within our schools.

12.i in the strategy, mentions improving capacity but previously it said to reduce capacity. Why?

The change in legislation brings with it significant expectations, including of roles. We now have an early years ALN lead, Drs Doyle and Banks are leads for Wellbeing, and we recently recruited into our educational psychology team. Because of the approach that we are taking, we are now attracting very high quality professionals who want to come to Monmouthshire because of the ethos and approach that we have set out. We are upskilling and creating greater capacity because the Act demands that, but the most significant shift is the piece around relational aspects. It is about us empowering our SNRBs to provide the best that they can, but also that we have a key role in maintaining equity and excellence across those bases.

13, how will we judge if the strategy is successful – are we going to have baseline quantitative data?

Yes, Estyn identified this too. We've been looking at the best I.T. software to help our resource bases make appropriate assessments of our young people, and then be able to plot and report on their progress. Two of our resource bases were already using a tool called B Squared, and we have agreed that all of us will take this forward. RCT have done something similar recently; we have a meeting this Friday to learn more about how they used it.

Also under 13, are we missing a subtlety regarding meeting the needs of the children even if the parents/carers disagree?

There will inevitably be tensions between what professional colleagues identify as a child's needs and what type of setting can meet those needs, and what parents and carers sometimes want to see their children access. That tension works in both ways: sometimes, we have suggested that a child requires an independent specialist setting but the parents very much want their needs to be met in a mainstream school, and vice versa. But having that very clear commitment that parents recognise the levels of skill and capacity in our settings, and understand the route we're taking, is really important. The driving force of the ALN reform is

person-centred practice. At age 16, the child will be asked what they want, and this will drive provision from that point.

As part of the recommendations, can the draft report be updated with figures from the cover report, with an explanation of why they are going up or down?

Yes, we will make sure they are put into further drafts.

Chair's Summary:

We welcome the report and give our thanks to the team. In a broad-ranging discussion, we have covered provision and where the unit from Deri View will move to. The members have highlighted early identification. Maggie Harris has raised the point that some children have flourished from being at home and via blended learning. There seems to be general agreement for this report going forward, with the points that we have raised today. I feel strongly that children need to be supported up to the age of 24-25. As Welsh medium develops, there needs to be specialist support for those young people.

4. Children and Young People Select Committee Forward Work Programme

We will next look at Play provision and Welsh medium provision. Councillor Brown asked to consider other ALN strategies in Gwent as an item for future meetings.

5. To confirm the date and time of the next meeting

There is a potential change in membership to this committee, with David Hughes-Jones possibly stepping down, to be replaced by Frances Taylor.

The next meeting is 8th December, with Budget scrutiny on 19th January. The committee agrees to move meetings to Thursdays.

The meeting ended at **12.42 pm**

Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

Meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at Remote Meeting on Tuesday, 8th December, 2020 at 10.00 am

Councillors Present

County Councillor T.Thomas (Chairman)
County Councillor L.Brown (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: M.Groucutt, M.Lane and M. Powell

Officers in Attendance

Robert McGowan, Policy and Scrutiny Officer
Will McLean, Chief Officer for Children and Young People
Sharon Randall-Smith, Head of Achievement and Attainment
Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager
Mike Moran, Community Infrastructure Coordinator
Matthew Lewis (Countryside), Interim Performance, Evaluation and Programme Development Lead for MonLife
Ian Saunders, Chief Operating Officer, MonLife

APOLOGIES: County Councillors J.Watkins and F. Taylor, and F. Middleton.

1. Declarations of Interest

Chair Councillor Thomas declared a non-prejudicial interest as a governor of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni.

2. Public Open Forum

No members of the public were present.

3. Review of Play Provision: To consider the findings of an assessment of play areas in Monmouthshire and consider the way forward

Officers Mike Moran presented the report and answered the members' questions, with additional responses from Matthew Lewis.

Challenge:

Clearly, there is a lack of resources for keeping play equipment up to scratch. Learning and mixing among pre-school children will be lost with the end of traditional playgrounds, disadvantaging the children as they grow up. It will be a very sad day when alternative uses are implemented.

We don't think the situation is quite as bad as that. There has been some frustration over the years at the lack of a dedicated play budget but the officers see this as a positive way forward because it means we can attract funding to put into those play areas that will remain. Taking Monmouth as an example, we aren't talking about taking out play areas, but a rationalisation process so that we do have good quality neighbourhood play areas with equipment made from

sustainable hardwoods, with a much higher educational value than some of the current equipment.

At last year's Playmaker conference, we asked the year 5 children if they would prefer to play on a fixed space or a green area: the vast majority said they would prefer a green space. We are talking about reducing the number we have and investing in those that remain to make them much better. Many of the areas we inherited in 1996 and 1974 from the predecessor authorities were in a bad state even then. These tend to be on former local authority housing estates – we aren't proposing the removal of these play areas, but investing money to make them better places for children to play, and bringing in sensory planting and landscape features as research shows that these help to encourage autistic children to participate in play. We're trying to link nature with play.

In terms of finance, we are going to spend £110k on the new Chippenham play area, last year we spent £86k in Wyesham, and this year we have accessed another £70k to invest. So this is about having a plan so that when resources become available we can apply for them, and once we have reported on the outcome of the Monmouth pilot we are hopeful that Welsh Government will realise that we're trying to benefit the less well off in our 4 main towns.

Yes, it's very sad to discuss this in the context of a lack of funding. I worry about what we will do with green spaces – these might be requested by year 5 children but what about swings etc. for younger ones?

This is about looking at play through a different lens. It is not to diminish the value of fixed play areas. We have perhaps fallen into the trap in recent years of not creating playable environments in a wider sense. So we are looking at what the value can be of both fixed play and the wider environment, which is perhaps more varied and has opportunities for wild play. We are also approaching this through the lens of 'Play Value', which is a relatively recent concept: in the past, a play area was assessed on whether it had a slide and swing, but there is now a lot of science around the wider value those facilities give to children. There are wider challenges but the focus is more quality rather than quantity, and we're looking to try that in the real world and see where it takes us.

Would it not be better to look at play areas during the planning stage of the estates?

The point about new developments is very important. We do intervene at the planning stage. When the Wonastow estate was developed at Monmouth, using the 6-acre standard 4 play areas would have been needed – we said to the developer that this would be too many and asked if instead they could install 2 or 3 and use the remaining funding to improve existing areas. Although the site manager thought this was a very good idea, the company directors wanted to be able to say they had paid for the new areas. Getting involved at the planning stage to ensure new areas are built but also secure funding for existing areas would be the ideal scenario.

How will the open space areas be maintained? Will local communities and volunteers play a role?

One of the reasons for suggesting the pilot in Monmouth is that there is a group there called Action on Climate Emergency, and Friends groups for local play areas. We anticipate a strong input from the voluntary sector and those organisations.

Does consultation at a local level feature?

We wouldn't seek to do anything without full consultation, the first people we would speak to town councils. They have previously been very supportive. If we can put the argument to them in the right way, they might be willing to contribute to some of the proposals we put forward.

Could you ask for the 2 open space areas to also have a 20-year maintenance? It might be less radical for the developers than 40-year maintenance on 2 standard play areas?

We also ask a community to maintain the green open spaces on estates as well. It's only for 20 years. We would have to consult with legal as to whether we could specify a longer period. We would certainly be in favour of that. We've worked on retaining open spaces in the county, establishing more protected fields than probably any other authority in Wales – we're up to 24 now. Open spaces are becoming more precious now given the pressure from residential developments.

We understand that there might be reticence to close some play areas but we aren't talking about reducing a huge amount. If we reduce across the county 20 or 25 out of 110, and replace them with really good quality play areas that do offer a high level of play value, it wouldn't mean estates going without a play area, it would just mean that the remaining play areas are in good condition, and we have better facilities to maintain them into the future.

Chair's Summary:

As a town and county councillor, I feel reasonably optimistic about this report. Some areas will be closed, but others will be raised to a much higher standard. The overall wish of the committee is for good play provision across the authority, and that all children have fairly close provision. Some members are concerned about the cut in play provision due to austerity. Councillor Powell feels more optimistic, noting that green spaces are good for encouraging children to use their imaginations for play, while agreeing that developers should give their play budget to the council to make a better playground for all ages, rather than putting in a small playground themselves, which is only suitable for toddlers. Councillor Brown raised important issues about play at the planning stage, including the effect that small gardens have on the need for plentiful play provision.

We accept this report but will monitor the matter closely and look for very good play provision in the areas where it remains. We certainly hope there will not be a large cut in the number of areas.

4. Welsh Medium Education: To discuss the strategic plan for Welsh Education

Sharon Randall-Smith delivered the presentation and answered the members' questions with Will McLean.

Challenge:

5.1 of the report mentions a 35% capital contribution from Monmouthshire but isn't the contribution from Welsh Government 100% for Welsh medium schools?

We'll have to verify the Welsh medium position with Welsh Government. Certainly, the element that we submitted for Band B around Abergavenny included Welsh medium provision, which was funded at the 65-35% intervention rate. Since then, Welsh Government has provided grant funding at 100% aside from Band B, for us to provide additional capacity in the Monmouth area and to expand Ysgol Y Ffin in the south of the county. There is funding at 100% but not within the Band B stream.

There are resource implications – Is Welsh Government fully funding these proposals, particularly in light of the problems we have with our budget on a continuous basis?

This is a matter that has been raised in other local authorities: that it does bring potential revenue pressure that isn't funded separately from the capital funding – so they don't fund money for the capital alongside money for the revenue. Money to educate the children is fed to us through our aggregate external finance, and we raise money locally through council tax. It's a matter of us finding a strategic way through that balances where the children are educated and meeting that cost. The difficulty is that if our establishment is for English medium, but then we have a growing population demand for Welsh medium, we have to find the means by which we can fund the move from the English medium to the Welsh medium, without it having too big a head cost in terms of the Welsh medium in the early stages.

Does the 35% capital contribution relate to Abergavenny, and 100% is for Monmouth?

Yes, 100% is for Ysgol Y Ffin and the 65-35% is in regards to Abergavenny.

What provision will be available for ALN pupils who don't make progress – will they automatically go back into the English school?

Yes, it's an important question, especially regarding the availability of services available through the medium of Welsh. The strength of us working regionally: we have made rapid steps over the last 18 months in how we develop and share information. So everything for the new bill (supporting evidence, documentation) is all through the medium of Welsh. Training has been delivered in Welsh for ALN and we are very mindful, through recruitment, that we are looking for people who have the skills needed to help and support children with ALNs, but can do so in Welsh. For example, one of our SpLD team members is Welsh speaking, so can work through both mediums. We are not where we need to be, because of the recruitment issues we face, but we are working on it together as a region. We are trying to establish where we have expertise in certain areas that can be shared. Over time, we will have more Welsh speakers who are skilled and can provide that support.

What are the implications for Welsh-speaking children who choose to go to an English school at secondary level?

We have spoken to lots of parents about transferring from primary into secondary. It's difficult for parents in Caldicot to travel, for example. We now have two Welsh-medium secondary schools that we feed into. The rates of transfer are not as high as we would have hoped. Not everyone is taking the decision to transfer. We hope that as we now have provision in the north and south that is accessible, over time the rates will change, and more parents will be encouraged to take the decision to put their children into Welsh-medium education at the earliest point, and to continue it through to the end of secondary. We're looking to early years and childcare to bolster that as well.

If a child needs advice from a clinician about their learning difficulties, can that be guaranteed yet in Welsh?

The regional approach is strengthening the opportunities to deliver any support and assessment for ALNs in Welsh. The clinicians will also look at how they can do that, too, because there will be more pupils speaking Welsh and expecting to access services in Welsh. The regional work does so closely with the clinicians in order to develop the services, and all of the assessment materials have been completed through the medium of Welsh. So everything will be in place to

support schools. It will take a little more time with clinicians; it is on the agenda, and the regional coordinator will pursue it.

There are a few rare cases where children need hospitalisation because of their needs. During that time, they will receive education in hospital – can that continue to be provided in Welsh, if that's what they are used to?

One of the benefits from the pandemic has been supporting learners at a distance. There are teachers who will be able to support learners in hospital. It's far easier now for children to access learning through English or Welsh wherever they are – we plan to continue to develop that with our regional partners.

Will English remain compulsory?

The consultation is out at the moment: the question from Welsh Government is do we need to make English language compulsory for the foundation phase or can both languages be developed side by side, so that children have confidence in both and can switch between them more easily. The question is, if English doesn't become compulsory until age 7, will that have an impact on standards of English at a later stage – this is the point of the consultation. The consultation closed on 4th December; any information on it will be sent to members.

What will be the impact on border schools i.e. if there's a choice between a local secondary school and one in England?

Schools are concerned about Welsh language; however, being able to speak two languages throughout life is beneficial no matter what someone is doing, not least as it is then easier to learn a third or fourth language. As a local authority, something that we can support schools with is to promote those benefits. We've increased how we promote them (websites, promotional information developed and shared throughout the region, etc.). The information will be available at the point of new housing, as and when those developments are up and running. There are concerns but hopefully they can sort themselves out to a certain extent over time.

Regarding parental demand: what is the consultation on the need and requirement for schools?

The point of WESP for any local authority is that we are there to promote, develop and increase the Welsh language. One of the barriers to some families moving into Wales is if they have a child that is ready to go into reception but they also have a child in Year 2 or 4, they might want them to go into Welsh education but it will be late for that older child as a latecomer. Regionally, we need to find our solution to that.

The evidence in Monmouthshire is mixed. We have two schools very close to the border – Chepstow and Monmouth – and pressures around perception of Welsh education differ in both of those towns. We have had extensive discussions with members of the public in Chepstow over the years about certain aspects of the Welsh curriculum, but in Monmouth, there is a significant influx of learners from England. The dynamic on the border is not a universal one. We want our children to attend Monmouthshire schools whether they are Welsh or English medium.

Presumably, being able to teach in the medium of Welsh and cover a particular subject is quite a high requirement?

Many of our teachers have engaged in the sabbatical, which gives us the opportunity to be able to teach in Welsh, and in a Welsh school. However, we have a huge uptake in professional learning in Welsh as a second language in our schools, and when you visit our schools you can see that. It means that we are able to have confidence that Welsh language is developing. A

recruitment issue could potentially arise if we don't have enough Welsh speakers who enter the teaching profession, particularly at secondary level to deliver certain subjects that are in a shortage area anyway – we will look to support this strongly.

Chair's Summary:

This morning's discussion has highlighted some of the issues. There are quite strong targets to meet in an authority that is predominantly English speaking, sitting close to a border that undoubtedly has an influence. We have covered capital issues and important questions regarding Welsh-medium ALN provision – this is an important area, touching on clinicians within Aneurin Bevan Health Board. This is more difficult than in, say, Cardiff. The transfer from Key Stage 2 into 3 was also addressed: ultimately, this comes down to parental choice. It is heartening to have two thriving Welsh medium schools, with the prospect of a third coming at primary level. There are undoubtedly issues around staffing; teachers in Newport's Welsh schools probably commute in from Cardiff. It is encouraging that staff have engaged in the sabbatical, and that so many teaching colleagues have decided to improve or work on Welsh as a second language. WESP will press us to get up to 30% receiving Welsh medium education by 2031 and 40% by 2050.

5. Children and Young People Select Committee Forward Work Plan

The next meeting is 19th January, looking at Budget scrutiny. There will be a Welsh medium education workshop on 28th January. 11th February, EAS and Free School Meals will be covered. It is agreed that two agenda items per meeting works best.

6. Council and Cabinet Work Planner

7. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

8. To confirm the date and time of the next meeting

19th January 10.00am, with a pre-meeting at 09.30.

The meeting ended at **11.38 am**