

Montgomeryshire

Meeting Venue
**Council Chamber - Neuadd Maldwyn,
Welshpool, Powys**

Meeting date
Wednesday, 2 December 2015

Meeting time
10.00 am



County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 5LG

For further information please contact
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26th November 2015

AGENDA

1.	APOLOGIES	MS57-2015
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To receive apologies for absence.

2.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	MS58-2015
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To receive the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 4th November 2015.
(Pages 3 - 10)

3.	CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	MS59-2015
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To receive announcements from the Chairman.

4.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	MS60-2015
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To receive declarations of interest in relation to matters to be discussed on the agenda.

5.	EXEMPT ITEM	MS61-2015
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The Monitoring Officer has determined that category 1 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules applies to the following item. His view on the public interest test (having taken account of the provisions of Rule 11.8 of the Council's Access to Information Rules) was that to make this information public would disclose personal data relating to an individual in contravention of the principles of the Data Protection Act. Because of this and since there did not appear to be an overwhelming public interest requiring the disclosure of personal data he felt that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Members are asked to consider these factors when determining the public interest test, which they must decide when considering excluding the public from this part of the meeting.

6.	SECONDARY SCHOOL REVIEW BRIEFING (10.15 - 10.45)	MS62-2015
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To receive a secondary school review briefing from the Chief Executive/Director of Education.

7.	REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS	MS63-2015
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To receive reports from, and to put questions to, Cabinet Portfolio Holders.

7.1. **Councillor Stephen Hayes - Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Adult Social Care**

8.	REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES	MS64-2015
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To receive reports from, and put questions to, members serving on outside bodies.

9.	CORRESPONDENCE	MS65-2015
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To receive items of correspondence.

10.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING / ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS	MS66-2015
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To determine the date of the next meeting and discuss possible agenda items.

MS58-2015

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MONTGOMERYSHIRE COMMITTEE HELD AT NEUADD MALDWYN, WELSPPOOL ON WEDNESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2015

PRESENT: Councillor A.W. Davies – Chairman

County Councillors M.C. Alexander, D. Bailey G.J. Bowker, G.R. Brown, D.E. Davies, E.R. Davies, L.R.E. Davies, V.E. Evans, S.M. Hayes, A. Holloway, D.C. Jones, D.R. Jones, E.M. Jones, G.M. Jones, J.R. Jones, K.M. Roberts-Jones, M.J. Jones, W.T. Jones, F.H. Jump, D.J. Mayor, B.H. Mills, G. Morgan, P.C. Pritchard, G.R. Thomas, W.B. Thomas, G.P. Vaughan and J.M. Williams.

In attendance:

J.R.B. Patterson – Chief Executive, Sian Sansum - Senior Communications and Engagement Manager – Telford and Shropshire NHS Trust, Paul Tully - Future Fit Programme Lead, Andrew Creswell - Powys teaching Health Board (North Locality Manager), Councillor John Brunt – Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Highways, Mark Evans - Head of Business Services, Nicola Williams - Schools Cashless System Project Manager, Derek Price - Principal Engineer and Shane Thomas – Clerk.

1.	APOLOGIES	MS45-2015
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Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors L.V. Corfield, R.I. George, P. Harris, E.A. Jones, P.E. Lewis and J.G. Shearer.

2.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 2ND SEPTEMBER 2015	MS46-2015
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The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on Wednesday 2nd September 2015 as a correct record subject to removing Councillor F. Jump from the attendance list.

3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	MS47-2015
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There were no declarations of interest from members in relation to items to be discussed on the agenda.

4.	CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	MS48-2015
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The Chairman reported on:

- a. **Citizenship Ceremony** – having officiated at a citizenship ceremony
- b. **Best Kept Village in Montgomeryshire** – town and community councils would be advised of arrangements for a 'best kept village' competition and invited to apply. The award would extend beyond the cosmetics of the village and look to recognise where there is strong community spirit. The application deadline would be 26th February 2016

Members welcomed Sian Sansum - Senior Communications and Engagement Manager – Telford and Shropshire NHS Trust, Paul Tully, Future Fit Programme Lead and Andrew Creswell, Powys teaching Health Board – North Locality Manager to the meeting to provide an update in relation to the Future Fit Programme. During discussion and update particular reference was made to:

- a. **Engagement with Montgomeryshire** – those overseeing the Future Fit Programme continue to recognise the importance of engagement (and in particular engagement with shire members) given that many residents access health services which operate in the Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust area
- b. **Journey to Date** – the programme to review the Emergency and Urgent Care Estate via. the Future Fit Programme began in November 2013. The programme focuses on the provision of Urgent and Emergency Care, Planned Care and Midwifery. The population base of around half a million residents is a good base for providing services
- c. **Intention to Consult on Preferred Option/Programme Delay** – in October 2015 the Programme Board considered a shortlist of options with the intention of identifying a preferred option in order to move to public consultation. Having received informal feedback from NHS England and the NHS Trust Development Authority the Programme Board had decided to delay moving to public consultation, pending development of a plan to tackle the health economy's underlying financial deficit. It was expected that the further work to address the deficit requirement would delay the programme by a year, therefore, the move to public consultation would be in the autumn of 2016. During this period further work would also be undertaken to shape definitions and plans for the future estate
- d. **Travel Times** – there had been a number of criterion used to arrive at options and to narrow down to a shortlist. Access and travel time had been a significant factor. It's recognised that the information provided to inform decisions had been challenged by some, however, those overseeing the Programme had been assured that sound data had been provided. Where there had been questionable information provided that could be challenged those running the Programme would welcome detail. There are particular concerns from residents and members in relation to travel times to Telford
- e. **Stroke Services (Move from Shrewsbury to Telford)** – members were informed that stroke services which had been moved from Shrewsbury to Telford Hospital would remain there up until such a time as the outcome of the Future Fit Programme determined where to site them. Services had been moved for due reason. It would be for the Programme to determine where they should be sited and the temporary siting would not prejudice the outcome
- f. **Maternity Services** – the Powys teaching Health Board had been aware of less than five cases of recent concern regarding access to maternity services at Telford Hospital. The position would continue to be monitored and issues would be addressed
- g. **General Practice / Primary Care** – there are well recognised national pressures with regard to general practice (there are 2500 vacant General Practitioner positions in the UK). There has been an impact in most areas including in Powys. Roles and functions of non-GP staff had been extended and strengthened to relieve pressures. It is likely that this approach would become more common practice. As an example of pressures it was reported that the Health Board had been looking to recruit to a GP position in Newtown

for in excess of two years. Andrew Cresswell, Locality Manager (North), Powys teaching Health Board agreed to provide a more detailed update in relation to primary care and related matters to a future meeting

- h. **Mental Health Services** – there would be no plans under Future Fit to review provision for mental health services for the Shropshire and Telford area. It was reported that within Powys the Powys teaching Health Board had recently decided that it would provide services in-house and look to ensure that there would be an all-age approach. The arrangement had been that the Health Board commissioned mental health services from a number of different providers who operated under contract with Powys teaching Health Board. It was reported that Joy Garfitt, currently the Head of Adult Social Care had recently been appointed to a joint position between the Council and teaching Health Board to oversee the delivery of mental health services. Members would welcome being kept updated and would appreciate Joy attending a future meeting
- i. **Accident and Emergency Cover (Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust)** – there had been misleading press reports stating that winter closure was being considered. The position remains as with all health authorities in that there are a range of options that would be considered as part of the norm for contingency/emergency planning
- j. **Local Practice** –it would be important to maximise the use of local resource to ease pressures at other health sites i.e. use of x-ray and other locally provided services
- k. **Budget Deficit** – the underlying budget deficit for the Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust for 2015/16 was in the region of £18 million, there would be ongoing considerations regarding how best to deliver services to meet need and reduce the deficit for the longer term

Members welcomed being kept updated and would welcome further briefings when appropriate. It's expected that the next update would be in the spring of 2016.

6.	REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS	MS50-2015
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Members welcomed the opportunity to receive reports from, and put questions to, Cabinet Portfolio Holders. During discussion particular reference was made to:

6.1 Councillor Phil Pritchard – Cabinet Portfolio Holder: HR and ICT

- a. **Human Resource Activity** – there continues to be significant HR activity to support staffing matters, there are in the region of 20 staffing matters per month that require supporting. Like most other services there had been pressures due to positions having been removed/reduced. Demand for support would be likely to increase as the Council continues on its journey to re-shape services
- b. **Human Resource Function** – opportunities to operate a joint HR function with the Powys teaching Health Board are being explored
- c. **Health and Safety** – there continues to be partnership working with Ceredigion
- d. **Back Office IT Systems** – there are in the region of 170 back office IT systems operating. IT purchase controls had recently been re-introduced, staff would not be permitted to spend on IT without IT having input. A member suggested that the Authority's school admissions system be reviewed so that information held by the Authority could be accessed or provided to schools electronically as opposed to the current position where information can only be provided to schools in hard copy

- e. **Transformation/IT Investment** – IT would be important to support transformational activity. It is likely that demand for support would increase. Against the national Welsh position Powys IT costs were the lowest
- f. **Telephony** – the Council would be required to replace its telephony system in 2016
- g. **Security** – systems continue to be reviewed against the need to meet security requirements
- h. **Ipads/Word Phones** – Cabinet members were trialling use of ipads and would be trialling use of word phones. It would be the intention to allow members to choose from a greater range of devices to support their working soon
- i. **Mobile Phone Contracts** – shortly after having accepted the portfolio the Portfolio Holder had instructed a review of mobile phone use. It had recently come to light that there are in the region of 8000 mobile phones under issue to staff. Phones had not been used but in some cases rental charges may be being paid. Systems to retrieve phones and cancel contracts would be revisited
- j. **North Powys Secondary School Review** – it was reported that a media release which had been published on the BBC website following Cabinet on 29th September had, in the opinion of one member, not reflected the meeting. It was noted that later in the evening of the same day the media release was changed to provide a more accurate reflection
- k. **Windows Security** – a member raised an issue in relation to security and IT messages disrupting IT access, it would be important for IT to be advised and issues resolved. The issue seems not to be isolated to one member. The issue had been raised yesterday for the attention of the portfolio holder
- l. **Congress System** – officers would visit Cambridge to test the latest version of the congress system. Should the system continue to fail the Council would terminate its contract with the company which had supplied it and reclaim costs. Since being installed the system had not worked properly. There had been particular issues with regard to webcasting
- m. **Video Conferencing Facilities** – a member reported that arrangements to use recently upgraded video conference facilities from Neuadd Maldwyn had failed, hopefully, the system would work well to support future meetings

6.2 Councillor John Brunt – Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Highways and Transport

- a. **Highways, Grounds and Street-Scene Workforce** – the workforce totals 550 full time equivalent positions. A member queried levels of management. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that staffing would continue to be reviewed as part of budget considerations
- b. **Street Lighting** – the annual electricity bill for street lighting to maintain the network of 15,000 lights is around £330k. There had been a LED bulb replacement process but not all lights have LED bulbs. A member reported that a light in his ward had recently been replaced with a non-LED bulb when he had thought that all replacements would be with LED
- c. **Newtown Bypass** – the Authority would have additional maintenance responsibilities for areas of trunk road when the bypass comes into being. Hopefully the Welsh Government would provide funding to support the additional requirement
- d. **Level Crossing Improvement Programme** – funding had been obtained to undertake much needed works to improve safety at crossings
- e. **Dyfi Bridge** – the Welsh Government had commissioned a local contractor to undertake works. Members agreed that works should recognise the need to

allow for clearance that would enable agricultural vehicles to use the route and that works should alleviating flooding. Members were urged to raise their concerns and issues with the contractor and their Assembly Members due to the bridge being on a trunk road. Members were reminded that the Minister had given a commitment to local businesses that a bypass would not be considered for Machynlleth

- f. **Christmas Car Parking** – as in previous years Cabinet had agreed to provide free parking to support trade in some areas, there would be media releases
- g. **Pay and Display Car Parks** – just 35 of the Council's 75 car parks operate pay and display. Pay and display would be likely to be rolled out to other areas
- h. **Parking Enforcement** – in 2014/15 the Authority's ten enforcement officers issued 6400 penalty notices. There's a balance to be struck in relation to enforcement and potential impacts on local trade
- i. **Winter Gritting** – the Council had entered into a lease agreement with a company that would provide a 21 strong fleet of vehicles for gritting routes during inclement weather
- j. **Public Transport** – as of 9th November 13 bus routes would cease to operate, there had been consultation and engagement with communities prior to the decision having been taken
- k. **Highways, Grounds and Street Scene/Transport (Budget Position)** – increasing income would remain important especially in the light of the budget position. In 2015/16 £1 million worth of savings would need to be achieved, in 2016/17 the saving would be £2.7m, in 2017/18 the saving would be £2.3 million and in 2018/19 £2.2 million. Service delivery would change. Members were urged to help explain positions to the electorate
- l. **Over 60's Bus Pass** – the Portfolio Holder urged members to help maximise the uptake of the Welsh Government's free bus pass scheme for the over 60s. The Authority receives income based on uptake. It was noted that schemes allowed for passengers to travel into England but only to their first stop after the border. It was felt that the Future Fit Programme should recognise the matter given that this arrangement would not enable Powys residents with passes to use public transport to attend Telford Hospital
- m. **Young Person's Bus Pass** – the Welsh Government would meet a third of the cost of the use of public transport by young persons aged between 16-18. The Powys approach to encourage use would be to set a £1 flat day rate for use of public transport anywhere within the county for 16-18 year olds
- n. **Llanidloes Highway Works (Severn Trent)** – four way traffic controls introduced by Severn Trent at a junction in Llanidloes to allow for works to a pumping station had caused mayhem and were, in the opinion of the local member, unnecessary. The Portfolio Holder would raise the position with relevant officers and respond to the member
- o. **Utility Company Works** – utility companies are obliged to discuss works and potential disruptions with the Highways Authority prior to works
- p. **School Transport** – the Portfolio Holder agreed to refer a matter regarding concerns regarding a school tender route and the operator seemingly changing routes mid-tender to the Transport Manager. The issue had been raised by the local member for Berriew
- q. **Verge Maintenance/Grass Cutting** – members were informed that there are agreements with local landowners to cut verges etc. Where there are such agreements and use of contractors it would be important to carry out sufficient monitoring
- r. **Llandinam (Damaged to Bridge)** – the portfolio holder informed the local member for Llandinam that repair works to damage to a local bridge would be unlikely to be funded given the budget position and there being no risk. Where

damage had been caused by vehicles etc. the Authority could look to claim to seek payments to meet repair costs, however, it would normally be difficult to obtain evidence of blame

- s. **Llangadfan Bridge (Damage)** – details relating to damage would be provided to the Portfolio Holder by the local member for Banwy
- t. **Welshpool One Way System** – there are significant concerns from members and residents regarding the operation of the one way system in Welshpool. There had been representations to the Minister's office given it being a trunk road matter. Members were urged to refer concerns to the Minister for a view

7.	BUSINESS SERVICES UPDATE	MS51-2015
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Members welcomed Mark Evans, Head of Business Services and Nicola Williams, Schools Cashless System Project Manager to the meeting. During discussion and update particular reference was made to:

Business Services

- a. **Business Services** – comprises of income and awards, pension administration, employment services, business support and more recently customer services
- b. **DBS Checks** – a particular success had been operating an electronic system for managing DBS checks. Processing times had been significantly improved. Five Welsh authorities had bought into using the Powys service
- c. **Income and Awards** – processing times had improved. Staff and customer satisfaction levels had improved as a direct result
- d. **School Partnership Agreements** – revised specifications had been agreed with schools and issued
- e. **Welfare Reform** – it would be appropriate for there to be specific member updates in relation to the roll out of initiatives and support arrangements
- f. **Period of Change** – there continues to be a strong focus on engaging with staff to consider options for change and improvement. Since 2013 60 full time equivalent positions had been removed from Business Services
- g. **Obligations** – there are a number of functions which have to be supported in order to comply with legislative requirements and policy commitments i.e. benefit payments
- h. **Paperless Powys** – it would be important for members to support a move to paperless Powys. It was suggested to remind members that they are able to opt out of receiving paper payslips and are able to submit electronic expense claims. It was reported that Cabinet had committed to paperless

Schools Cashless System

- a. **Project** – members were reminded that the project would remove cash from the school system. Payments for school trips, music tuition, school meals etc.
- b. **Engagement** – there had been, and would continue to be, good engagement with all stakeholders including parents and pupils. The appetite to engage and support for the project would be very important
- c. **Specification** – the market had been tested, there had been five providers expressing an interest in bidding for the tender. A preferred supplier had been identified and further work would be undertaken with the preferred supplier to arrive at a final specification
- d. **Pilot Period** – a number of schools would be engaged in a pilot after Christmas

- e. **Roll Out** – officers hope to have rolled out the scheme to all schools by July 2017
- f. **Freedom Leisure** – opportunities to work with Freedom Leisure to operate the system in leisure facilities to allow for payments for leisure activities to be made would be considered

8.	ROAD SAFETY AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEMES	MS52-2015
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Members welcomed Derek Price, Principal Engineer to the meeting.

8.1 Red Bank Junction, Welshpool

Members **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** that the most economic option to enhance lining and signing be considered for inclusion in the 'Road Safety and Traffic Management Schemes' capital programme of construction.

9.	REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES	MS53-2015
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There were no reports from, or questions to, members serving on outside bodies.

10.	CORRESPONDENCE	MS54-2015
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10.1 20 mph Zones Near School Sites – Update from the Welsh Government

Members were pleased to note a letter from Edwina Hart, Minister for Economy, Science and Transport which confirmed that funding would be provided to introduce traffic calming near those schools that didn't benefit from the previous scheme. The letter included a link to a website which would provide timetable details.

11.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	MS55-2015
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The next meeting would be held in December and be followed by a carol service as opposed to meeting on 6th January 2015. The Chairman would ensure that members are advised accordingly.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR A.W. DAVIES
CHAIRMAN**

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