

Place Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Venue
**Committee Room A - County Hall,
Llandrindod Wells, Powys**

Meeting Date
Thursday, 6 October 2016

Meeting Time
10.00 am

For further information please contact
Lisa Richards
01597 826371
lisa.richards@powys.gov.uk



County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 5LG

29 September 2016

AGENDA

1.	APOLOGIES	PLSC45-2016
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To receive apologies for absence.

2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	PLSC46-2016
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To receive declarations of interest from Members.

3.	DISCLOSURES OF PARTY WHIPS	PLSC47-2016
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To receive disclosures of prohibited party whips which a Member has been given in relation to the meeting in accordance with Section 78(3) of the Local Government Measure 2011.

(NB: Members are reminded that under Section 78 Members having been given a prohibited party whip cannot vote on a matter before the Committee.)

4.	MINUTES	PLSC48-2016
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To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the previous meeting.

(Pages 5 - 10)

5.	POWYS LEISURE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT	PLSC49-2016
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To consider the first annual report 2015-16.

(Pages 11 - 20)

WORKING GROUPS		
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6.	PLACE SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP 1 - LIBRARY SERVICE REVIEW	PLSC50-2016
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To receive a scrutiny summary report regarding the review of the Library Service.

(Pages 21 - 22)

7.	PLACE SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP 2 - HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES	PLSC51-2016
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To receive a scrutiny summary report regarding the review of the Household Waste Recycling Centres.

(Pages 23 - 24)

8.	PLACE SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP 3 - OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE, HIGHWAYS TRANSPORT AND RECYCLING	PLSC52-2016
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To receive a scrutiny summary report regarding the review of the Outline Business Case for the Highways, Transport and Recycling Service.

(Pages 25 - 26)

9.	JOINT CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS STEERING GROUP	PLSC53-2016
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To receive the notes of meetings of the Steering Group held on 5 July and 13 September 2016.

(Pages 27 - 38)

10.	WORK PROGRAMME	PLSC54-2016
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10.1. Work Programme

To consider the forward work programme and whether any items should be added.

(Pages 39 - 40)

10.2. **Timing of working group meetings**

Discussion regarding timing of working group meetings

11.	CORRESPONDENCE	PLSC55-2016
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To consider any item of correspondence which, in the opinion of the Chair, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD AT
COMMITTEE ROOM A - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON
THURSDAY, 16 JUNE 2016**

PRESENT

County Councillor K W Curry (Chair),

Officers: Paul Griffiths, Strategic Director, Place, Fay Smith, Partnership Analyst, Lyn Hall, Project Manager and Wyn Richards, Scrutiny Manager

1.	ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR	PLSC22-2016
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RESOLVED that County Councillor M J Dorrance be elected Vice Chair for the ensuing year.

2.	APOLOGIES	PLSC23-2016
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An apology for absence was received from County Councillor R G Thomas.

3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	PLSC24-2016
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There were no declarations of interest.

4.	DISCLOSURES OF PARTY WHIPS	PLSC25-2016
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There were no disclosures of party whips.

5.	MINUTES	PLSC26-2016
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The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the last meeting held on 10 December 2016 as a correct record.

The Strategic Director, Place was welcomed to the meeting and gave a presentation regarding the major pressures facing the Directorate to assist Members in developing the work programme for the ensuing year.

Discussions regarding work programming have been held with the Joint Chairs Steering Group and Cabinet and new processes are being developed. The Cabinet have agreed that more pre scrutiny should take place and this will be factored into their work programme. It has been suggested that each scrutiny committee undertake one item of pre decision scrutiny per month

The Strategic Director suggested that scrutiny should be of high value items or those with substantial political consequences. A list of services and potential savings was circulated – once finalised a further copy containing all financial details would be emailed to Members.

In his opinion the following areas were of significant importance and could be considered for inclusion in the work programme:

- Highways, Transport and Recycling savings of £5M over the next two years - initial consideration is being given to options going forward with a decision on which options to pursue being taken by the autumn. Given the timeframe it is critical progress is at pace and decisions based on evidence
- Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) – rationalisation of the larger sites will be required to deliver savings of £100K in 2017/18
- Youth Service – in percentage terms, the youth service is experiencing the largest cut in funding. The consequences of alternative methods of delivery may not become apparent for several years
- Leisure and Sports – the contract to operate leisure centres seems to be operating well but further savings have been approved by Council
- Libraries – libraries are effectively community hubs and are the subject of a consultation exercise to realise savings of £250K over the next two years. The challenge remains to deliver enhanced services with reduced budgets
- Regeneration and Property – to date the committee have considered the regeneration strategy and Joint Venture Company (JVC). Earlier this year planning performance was poor but has improved significantly recently and the Local Development Plan (LDP) is now at a critical stage.

6.	CRIME AND DISORDER	PLSC27-2016
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Documents:

- Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Update

Discussion:

- Dog fouling – a scrutiny working group had considered the issue and made a number of recommendations. The Police and Crime Commissioner had not been able to pursue one recommendation regarding Police Community Support Officers issuing fixed penalty notices as not all authorities in the region wish to proceed on that basis. A report on strategies to tackle the problem will be considered by Cabinet in July.
- Crime data – Members were concerned to note that there had been an increase in a number of types of crimes particularly sexual offences, burglary and violence against the person. There had been a decrease in drug offences and vehicle offences. The statistics differed from the part year figures and the reasons for them not being comparable are being investigated. It was thought that the increase in sexual offences could be attributed to reporting of historical offences following high profile media reports. People have a greater degree of confidence in reporting offences. The Committee asked if a breakdown could be provided identifying the level of historical cases. The possession of weapons were 26% alcohol related but the Partnership Analyst assured Members that there was not significant gun crime in the County.
- Members challenged the impact of budget cuts on crime statistics – there had been reductions in preventative services. It was suggested that graphs could be prepared showing funding reductions and crime data. It was noted that there had also been reductions in analytical capability

impinging on the ability to report to Committee. On a more positive note, the CSP was receiving more response from other agencies and it was hoped to draw on other areas for data.

- Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) – this area had seen a drop in reporting but it was acknowledged that some ASB could be being reported as crime. There are no significant hotspots with low level reporting across the area.
- Road Safety – despite reductions in staffing which have resulted in the Senior Road Safety Officer and Analyst posts being deleted, the Road Safety Partnership remains active. A new referral scheme for drivers over 70 who have been stopped by the police, is to be introduced. Targets showing ongoing reductions for those killed or seriously injured in road accidents have been imposed but this could be more dependent on the road infrastructure and weather than drivers themselves.
- Domestic Abuse – A Member reported a gap in training relating to Housing Officers' awareness where domestic abuse may be occurring. This would be reported to the Domestic Abuse Project Board
- Substance Misuse – the recommissioning of the service has been concluded and two new posts are being advertised
- Acquisitive Crime – Ringmaster has been replaced with the Dyfed Powys Community Messaging Service
- Community cohesion – this is a Welsh Government initiative. The Coordinator post has been extended for another year but the outcomes have not changed significantly.
- Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 - the Wales Contest Board is to be refreshed with one representative from the Dyfed/Powys area being invited to attend. Powys has received its first referral to the Channel Panel which is a multiagency group involved in prevention work.

Outcomes:

- **An anonymised case study will be circulated to the Committee for information.**

7.	JOINT VENTURE COMPANY (JVC)	PLSC28-2016
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Documents:

- Presentation slides

Discussion:

- Pressure regarding savings across the Council
- Need to ensure resources are used as effectively as possible
- Outcomes for clients to be improved
- A number of options considered with agreement being reached to proceed to a JVC
- The JVC when established, will be based in Powys
- Members were concerned that the final approval of the preferred bidder rested with Strategic Directors rather than Members. This was in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules which prohibits Members from evaluating tenders.

8.	REGENERATION WORKING GROUP	PLSC29-2016
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Documents:

- Scrutiny summary report

Discussion:

- The report had been circulated previously
- Members queried the current status of the Local Asset Backed Vehicle (LABV) project in Brecon as this was a major regeneration project.

Outcome:

- **Noted**
- **Further details on the current status of the LABV to be circulated**

9.	WASTE STRATEGY	PLSC30-2016
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Documents:

- Scrutiny summary report

Discussion:

- The report had been circulated previously

Outcome:

- **Noted**

10.	JOINT CHAIRS STEERING GROUP	PLSC31-2016
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Documents:

- Notes of meetings held on 22 January, 18 March, 12 April and 24 May 2016

Outcome:

- **Noted**

11.	WORK PROGRAMME	PLSC33-2016
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Document:

- Forward Work Programme

Discussion:

- Reference was made to the detail relating to Cabinet and Scrutiny work programme development within the Joint Chairs Steering Group notes.
- Joint Chairs will evaluate topics for scrutiny, including pre decision scrutiny, and intend to allocate one piece of scrutiny per committee per month
- It is proposed that reporting processes are improved
- Scrutiny resources are limited and must be used effectively
- It was proposed that the Committee be divided into three working groups and be allocated pieces of work as they arise

- There were vacancies on the Committee and this was under discussion with Group Leaders
- An issue was raised regarding the grass cutting contract

Outcomes:

- **The work programme be noted**
- **Three working groups were formed and would be finalised once the membership of the Committee was complete**
- **A written question be submitted to the Portfolio Holder regarding the issues raised with the grass cutting contract**

12.	CO-OPTION TO WORKING GROUPS	PLSC34-2016
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RESOLVED that authority be delegated to the Chair to seek expressions of interest from Members not on Place Scrutiny Committee to join working groups and make any such appointments to working groups that are deemed necessary.

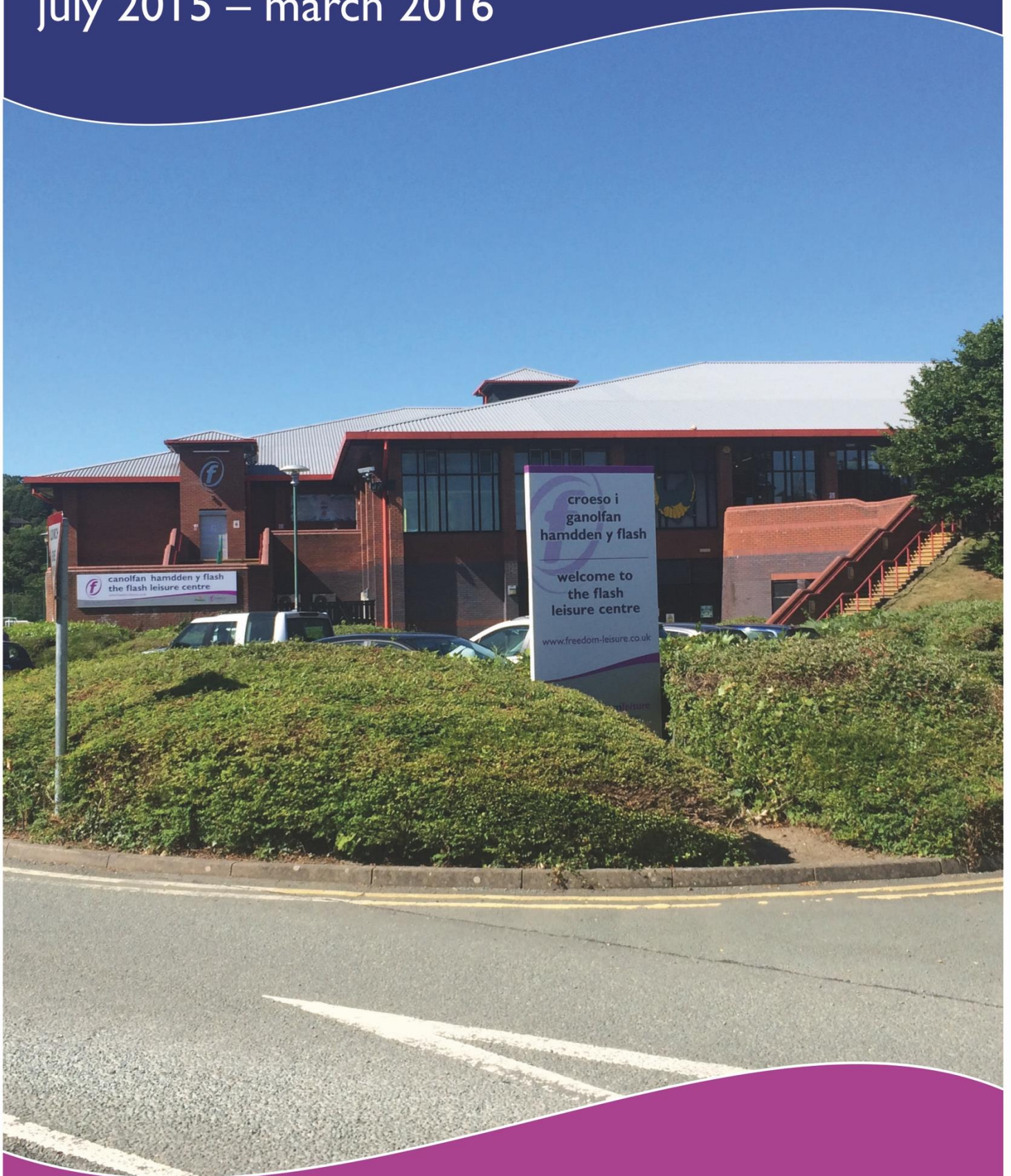
13.	CORRESPONDENCE	PLSC35-2016
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There were no items of correspondence.

County Councillor K W Curry (Chair)

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powys leisure management contract
july 2015 – march 2016



Introduction

Freedom Leisure commenced a 15 year partnership with Powys County Council (PCC) on 1st July 2015. This report covers the period 1st July 2015 – 31st March 2016.

This first year of the partnership has evidenced a period of positive change. These are most notable in the introduction of new operating systems, appointing staff into key positions and significant investment across many sites.

Throughout the tender submission Freedom Leisure has proposed many new initiatives which would assist PCC in achieving its objectives mentioned above.



Improving the quality of life for all Powys communities

Key programmes & development initiatives that have successfully been introduced in year 1 include:

- The provision of a 50-week swim school lesson programme for junior lessons
- A selection of membership offers that provide excellent value for money for a broad range of residents within Powys communities.

- The launch of the 'Fresh' healthy weights programme aimed at children between 7-13 years old and their families
- Extending the Powys National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS) to include a total of 8 level 4 varieties of programme namely, Cardiac; Back Care; Pulmonary; Falls ; Stroke Rehabilitation; Mental Health; Cancer Rehabilitation and Weight Management
- Delivery of a successful 'Junior Summer Fitness Challenge' at the Flash, Maldwyn, Bro Ddyfi, Rhayader, Brecon & Ystradgynlais.
- Provision of continued access to free swimming (public swim sessions only) or free fitness suite access to former members of the armed forces who have been discharged through injury or medical grounds
- The extension of the 'sblash a sbri' parent and child swim sessions across 5 sites which are supported by Powys Health Workers at each site
- Supporting Clywedog Sailing Club & the PCC Sports Disability Officer with the annual Disability Sailing Day

This has contributed to:

- Active participation of facilities reaching 977,949 recorded visits, an increase of 41.6% compared to 2014/15
- Membership levels growing to 2153 across sport & leisure centre sites.

Reducing utility consumption & carbon emissions

Freedom Leisure has:-

- Invested £918k in energy conservation schemes at 5 sites, with the aim of reducing CO2 emissions by an average of 971 tonnes per annum across the term of the contract
- Maximised recycling within sites

Further reductions are anticipated in utility usage during 2016/17 as systems will be complete and fully operational for the whole year.

Powys Financial Performance in Year 1

The income forecast in the bid process for year 1 was achieved. However significant expenditure was incurred over and above what was anticipated. New revised budgets have been set for contract year 2. With the implementation of the capital build in year 2 and the energy saving works taking effect initial indications are for a much improved year end performance for 2016/17.

The reasons for the significant expenditure are:-

- The capital investment projects took place later than anticipated
- All sites have required more immediate repair & maintenance expenditure than initially expected

We are confident that we will meet our bid expectations through effective marketing and the development of additional programmes across all sites.

In addition to the above the completion of the energy saving projects this year across sites will become more evident during the contract.

Working with our partners in Powys and across Wales

We pride ourselves on establishing and enhancing excellent relationships with key partners. This not only applies to our services delivered from our sport and leisure centres, but also from Staylitttle Outdoor Centre and our health intervention programmes. A selection of our local, regional and national partners is listed below:

- The Powys Children & Young Peoples Partnership (CYPP)
- Powys Teaching Health Board
- Powys County Council - Sports Development; Adult Services; Health & Social Care
- Powys Community Dental Service
- Public Health Wales
- Partnership Work with Public Health Wales & the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)
- The Royal Yachting Association
- Clywedog Sailing Club
- The Prince's Trust
- Outward Bound Wales
- Mid Wales Housing Association

Investment

Capital Schemes totalling £2.2m prepared & agreed to be delivered in 2016/17:

- replace CV fitness equipment and resistance equipment at Rhayader, Brecon, Maldwyn and the Flash



- relocate reception and a rebranded 'proud to serve costa' cafe at the Flash



- create 'myride' spin studios at The Flash & Rhayader



- 2015/16 implemented energy improvements at 5 sites consisting of lighting schemes, air handling systems, insulation and the replacement of pool covers

IT Systems established in 2015/16

- 'scuba' leisure management system across all sport & leisure sites
- Introduced a direct debit scheme across all sport & leisure sites for memberships and swim school
- 'Course Pro' programme for 'swim school' to improve course administration

Freedom Leisure Accreditation

During 2015/16 we have been awarded various accreditations which will serve to benefit and enhance our partnership with Powys County Council on matters relating to the environment and workplace learning. These include the ISO Certified Environmental Management System (ISO14001) and the Matrix Standard Quality Mark for work based learning for Information, Advice and Guidance. In addition to these we also received a gold standard at the '2015 UK Pool & Spa Awards' which recognises business growth and the range of water based activities provided by Freedom Leisure across the UK.

Over & above ...!

We recognise that in addition to our bid commitments Freedom Leisure has also undertaken projects to support the Powys team and communities of Powys as a whole. Examples of these are:

- The **'freedomflyer'** staff newsletter which is published monthly
- Promoting our partnership with PCC at a number of local and national events with our **'jim trainer'** mascot e.g. the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show (below) and the 'Tour Of Britain' events



- Sponsorship of the **'Montgomeryshire' and the 'Brecon & Radnor' District Sports Council Awards** in January & March 2016



- The formulation of our own **Welsh Language Policy** that will assist PCC in meeting its legislative requirements

- Successful '**Guinness World Record**' was registered with a 30,000metre swimming pool tow rescue completed at Maldwyn Leisure Centre



- Supporting the British Heart Foundation '**Wear it Beat it**' campaign across Powys in February 2016



- Investing £12k over a two year period in our **Swim Teacher upskilling** programme

Powys in the media

'Mid Wales Journal' 18th March 2016

Leisure group to invest £1.9m in three centres

Report by Karen Evans

FREEDOM Leisure, in partnership with Powys County Council, is investing £1.9m in upgrading the leisure facilities at Brecon Leisure Centre, Flash Leisure Centre and Rhayader Leisure Centre.

It is part of their commitment to providing excellent health and fitness facilities for the whole community.

The not-for-profit leisure trust became the council's official partner when they took over the management of the county's 15 sports and leisure centres in July 2015.

All three centres will receive brand new fitness equipment, which will include upgrading the centres' disability offering with the addition of easy-use inclusive fitness equipment.

Rhayader Leisure Centre will receive an investment of £335,000 to transform the existing lounge into a 35-station gym.

Other improvements include the addition of a dedicated exercise studio to enable a wider variety of group exercise classes to be held. Work is planned to begin in May.

Brecon Leisure Centre will see an investment of £485,000 in improvement work to update the décor in the gym areas. Freedom Leisure will be expanding the gym to become a state-of-the-art fitness suite, with all the latest equipment. In order to accommodate an exciting new and expanded fitness facility, the gym will be relocated into the former ten-pin bowling area.

The existing gym will be transformed into an additional studio, allowing for more group exercise classes.

The largest of the three projects with an investment of £1.1m will see a total transformation of Flash Leisure Centre in Welshpool with work due to begin in the summer.

Affordable

"We are delighted to be embarking on these improvement works which will greatly enhance the fitness and leisure experience of the local communities in each of these three areas," says Freedom Leisure area manager Gwyn Owen.

"As a not-for-profit leisure trust we are committed to providing exciting and affordable leisure facilities that will help drive participation and contribute to improving the health and wellbeing across Powys."

Councillor Graham Brown, Powys County Council's deputy leader and cabinet member for leisure, said: "I'm delighted that these improvement works will be going ahead over the coming months. This investment is only possible thanks to our strong partnership with Freedom Leisure."

"I'm sure this announcement will be welcomed by customers who use the three centres and I hope the improvements will encourage more and more people to use these excellent facilities."

NewsNorthWales

Daily news and sport from across the North Wales region

Welshpool's Flash Leisure Centre to be 'totally transformed' with £1m revamp

Published date: 18 March 2016 | Published by: Jonny Drury

MORE than £1 million is being invested to totally transform Welshpool's Flash Leisure Centre.

Freedom Leisure, in partnership with Powys County Council (PCC), are spending £1.1 million to transform the site of Salop Road, with another £900,000 being spent on other centres in the county.

On the first floor, the catering area will be turned into a state of the art fitness facility, including a dedicated functional training area.

To ease pressure on reception staff, a new self service kiosk will be available, along with a joint cafe and reception area.

Upstairs the meeting room will be turned into an indoor cycling studio, with the existing gym on the lower floor being turned into a dance studio.

Freedom Leisure Area Manager, Gwyn Owen, said: "We are delighted to be embarking on these improvement works which will greatly enhance the fitness and leisure experience of the local communities in each of these three areas."

As a not-for-profit leisure trust we are committed to providing exciting and affordable leisure facilities that will help drive



BusinessNewsWales

Powys County Council and Freedom Leisure Invest £1.9m into Leisure Facilities Across Powys

INVESTMENT NEWS | LEISURE & TOURISM | MID WALES | POWYS

MARK POWNEY, 16TH MARCH 2016

SHARE f t p

Freedom Leisure, in partnership with Powys County Council, is investing £1.9m in upgrading the leisure facilities at Brecon Leisure Centre, Flash Leisure Centre and Rhayader Leisure Centre as part of their commitment to providing excellent health and fitness facilities for the whole community.

Shropshire Star 16th March 2016

Town leisure centre to undergo a £1.1m makeover to boost health

A leisure centre will undergo a £1.1 million upgrade, it was today revealed.

The Flash Leisure Centre in Welshpool will get an overhaul thanks to Powys County Council and **Freedom Leisure**, who will invest £1.9 million into improving leisure facilities across the region.

Improvements will be made at Flash Leisure Centre, Rhayader Leisure Centre and Brecon Leisure Centre. The centre in Welshpool will be the largest of the three projects and work is due to begin in the summer.

It will include the existing catering area on the first floor being transformed into a fitness centre, while a new gym will also include a training area, to allow people to work out away from the machines.

The centre will also benefit from a new,

Report by Naomi Penrose

naomi.penrose@shropshirestar.co.uk

staff during peak times. A new joint cafe and reception will also be created along with a more accessible and customer-friendly area.

Upstairs, the existing meeting room will be transformed into an indoor cycling studio, and on the lower floor the existing gym will become a new dance studio.

Freedom Leisure, which is a not-for-profit trust, became the council's official partner when it took over the management of the county's 15 sports and leisure centres last July.

Bosses say the investment comes as part of their "commitment to providing excellent

community". All three centres will also receive new fitness equipment.

Councillor Graham Brown, Powys County Council's deputy leader and cabinet member for leisure, said: "I'm sure this announcement will be welcomed by customers who use the three centres and I hope the improvements will encourage more and more people to use these excellent facilities.

"It is vital that every visit to the county's leisure centres is an enjoyable and rewarding experience and encourages people of all ages to keep fit and active."

Gwyn Owen, Freedom Leisure area manager, said: "We are delighted to be embarking on these improvement works which will greatly enhance the fitness and leisure experience of the local communities in each of these

2016/17 and the future.....

We are confident that with the 2016/17 investments highlighted earlier will assist us in achieving our business plans. Our focus will be to:

- Initiate capital project works & completion on time and on budget
- Submit the business case for additional projects to improve the service further
- Continue to provide an active presence at local events
- Action key areas of recruitment for a Sales & Marketing Manager; Public Relations Manager and Technical Manager
- Roll out a programme of targeted outreach activities
- Work closely with our partners, PCC, in achieving health & wellbeing priorities in 2016/17
- Continue to improve the financial performance of all facilities

Place Scrutiny Committee

6 October 2016

Library Review

Purpose of Report: Summary Report

The Group met to discuss 'Powys Library Service – options for a sustainable future and achievement of financial targets under medium term financial plan'.

The Group agreed that the following comments be forwarded to Cabinet in response to their deliberations:

- Commend officers for the extensive work undertaken and acknowledge the difficulties encountered
- Strategic direction in relation to hubs and co-location is essential – this cuts across the Authority but each service is working to its own timescales frustrating those services which would benefit from an early move to hubs
- Consideration should be given to further assistance for Community Councils, some of which are struggling to understand and deal with the current situation. To ensure community delivery is successful, a proactive approach is needed. Many Community Councils are inflexible and operate in a traditional way. Neighbouring communities do not yet see the need to co-operate with each other.
- Consideration should be given to the high rental charges imposed by County Council establishments – the Council is pricing itself out of some services as colocation at Council premises can be prohibitively expensive
- Income and grant funding opportunities should be pursued to support the service
- The difficulties in recruiting and retaining volunteers is noted. There may be a reluctance for volunteers to assist the Council. Furthermore it is unreasonable to expect that volunteers deal with some of the more demanding clients who might be accessing other services.
- The Library Service should receive financial support for delivering customer support services. There is little recognition of the absorption of these additional duties. Other services are also delivered such as tourist information etc

Report contact: Lisa Richards, Legal, Scrutiny and Democratic Services

Contact details: 01597 826371, lisa.richards@powys.gov.uk

Sources/background papers: Notes of a meeting held on 16 September 2016

Group Members: County Councillors G Banks, G G Hopkins, E T Morgan, G Thomas, Chair and Vice



Place Scrutiny Committee

6 October 2016

Household Waste Recycling centres

Purpose of Report: Summary Report

The Group met to review the options for proposals for HWRCs on Monday 26 September 2016.

The Cabinet is to be asked to agree to consultation on five options ranging from reduction in operating times to the potential closure of one or two sites. The MTFs, as agreed by Council, requires savings of £700K in the year from April 2017 to be achieved.

It is acknowledged that the sites are well used and contribute to the overall recycling targets imposed on the Authority. There is a requirement under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 for every authority to provide one site for disposal of household waste. Powys currently has five sites run under contract although only two of those sites are in Powys' ownership.

The Group were keen to emphasise that, whichever, option is ultimately agreed upon, communication with the public must be of paramount importance.

Report contact: Lisa Richards, Legal, Scrutiny and Democratic Services

Contact details: 01597 826371, lisa.richards@powys.gov.uk

Sources/background papers: Notes of a meeting 26 September 2016

Group Members: County Councillors D O Evans, D Jones, G Morgan, H Williams , Chair and Vice Chair

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Place Scrutiny Committee

6 October 2016

Highways, Transport and Recycling – Outline Business Case

Purpose of Report: Summary Report

The Group met on 22 September 2016 to consider the outline business case developed by the Programme Board for options for delivery of the Highways, Transport and Recycling Service.

The Group were advised that the outline business case had been developed along the five case model considering strategic, economic, commercial, financial and management. A number of options ranging from retaining in house through public/private JVCs and wholly owned subsidiaries have been considered. Independent scrutiny had also been provided.

Managers and the front line workforce have participated in meetings where the various options have been explained and comments have been taken on board. A final report, including scrutiny's comments, will be considered by Cabinet on 1 November 2016. Once the direction has been determined by Cabinet, further detail will be made available.

The Citizens Panel has also been consulted on the various options. The Working Group were keen to ensure that as wide a consultation was undertaken as possible and suggested that questions could be developed to include in the forthcoming budget consultation exercise across the County.

Report contact: Lisa Richards, Legal, Scrutiny and Democratic Services

Contact details: 01597 826371, lisa.richards@powys.gov.uk

Sources/background papers: Notes of meeting 22 September 2016

Group Members: County Councillors V Evans, H Lewis, G Price, Chair and Vice Chair

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE JOINT CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS STEERING GROUP HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON TUESDAY, 5 JULY 2016

PRESENT: County Councillor

County Councillors K W Curry, L V Corfield, S C Davies, D R Jones, JG Morris and Mr J Brautigam

In Attendance: County Councillors

Officers: Paul Griffiths (Strategic Director - Place), Jeremy Patterson (Chief Executive), Liz Patterson (Scrutiny Officer), Clive Pinney (Solicitor to the Council), David Powell (Strategic Director - Resources), Lisa Richards (Scrutiny Officer) and Wyn Richards (Scrutiny Manager and Head of Democratic Services)

1.	APOLOGIES	JCSG1 - 2016
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Members: County Councillors M J Dorrance

Officers: Amanda Lewis and Peter Jones

2.	NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING	JCSG2 - 2016
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Documents:

- Notes of 24 May 2016

Outcome:

- Noted

3.	DISCUSSION WITH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, STRATEGIC DIRECTORS REGARDING POTENTIAL SCRUTINY ITEMS	JCSG3 - 2016
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Documents Considered:

- None

Issues Discussed:

- The Chief Executive reported a change in emphasis in relation to schools scrutiny. He had had discussions with WG officials around ERW particularly where they were involved in schools in special measures. There needed to be further discussion regarding demonstrating that ERW is being held to account in terms of school improvement. He suggested that there should be regular attendance at the School Scrutiny Panel by the Hub Lead and Chief Executive of ERW in order to scrutinize their role

- and advice to schools in special measures. Schools in Powys in special measures were taking too long to improve.
- The Chair informed the meeting that Brecon High School may come out of special measures if this year's exam results were positive. Estyn no longer consider financial issues. Intervention at Brecon High School is costing approximately £200K per annum and, if special measures were to be lifted, those posts would need to continue otherwise the situation would be exacerbated
 - Challenge Advisers are employed by the Authority but are responsible to ERW and consideration should be given to how to ensure efficient and effective challenge. Many Challenge Advisers have been teachers and there can be difficulties where a Challenge Adviser has to challenge former colleagues. ERW has been established on a different basis to the other three bodies operating in Wales and this appears to be an area of concern. Estyn have recently completed an inspection of ERW and the Chief Executive was interviewed in this regard. There needs to be greater clarification of roles and accountability.
 - Failing schools are unacceptable and there is a greater risk of poor performance and increased debt. It was thought that a thorough review of budgets and demands should be undertaken. The Leader is a member of ERW and he should be asked to raise these issues with them. A further suggestion was made that all LEA Governors should be brought together for additional training around their roles and responsibilities and be adequately equipped to challenge Head Teachers and senior managers. Governors can only rely on the information they are given. It was suggested that the problems were structural and ERW does not consider those structures. Evidence being given to governing bodies is qualitative rather than quantitative. It may become necessary for the LEA to use the powers vested in it although the political repercussions of such action were noted.
 - The Group debated the way in which scrutiny could deal with the issues raised. This could be undertaken by the Schools Scrutiny Panel in interviewing the Hub Lead and Chief Executive of ERW and at the wider regional group. It was acknowledged that the regional ERW scrutiny group consisted of a number of retired teachers who were now councillors and could be too defensive.
 - Delivery of the Corporate Improvement Plan was heavily dependent on ERW's performance
 - An independent report into school transport at Llanfyllin High School had raised wider, systemic issues which could usefully be investigated further by a joint group comprising Members of Audit, Place and People Scrutiny Committees. This Group should also consider the way in which school budgets could be used during the transformation process. The Fair Funding Formula could also be considered to ensure schools are funded in a modern and proactive way – the Authority cannot continue to increase funding at failing schools as this does not necessarily lead to improvement. The Schools Finance Service should also be reviewed.
 - The Strategic Director Place had given a presentation to the Place Committee on the major issues affecting the directorate. It had been suggested that the Committee should review the process for identifying options for Highways Transport and Recycling and then track the progress of the option that is agreed upon.

- The profile of savings delivery in Adult Social Care remains a concern. Activity should be in hand now to deliver savings in 2017/18 –joint scrutiny could be considered between People Scrutiny Committee and The Finance Scrutiny Panel.
- The Adult Social Care Scrutiny Group should consider equality of access for services as assessments should be portable. Local area assessments may lead to differences in delivery of service.
- These latter items will be considered under the scrutiny work programme later on the agenda

Outcomes:

Action	Completion Date	Action By
A meeting with the Chairs of Audit, People and Place, Chief Executive and Strategic Director, Resources to scope a review of the issues raised within the Walters report be convened.	July 2016	LR
The Leader be briefed on the issues raised and asked to raise these with ERW	July 2016	Chief Executive
The Schools Scrutiny Panel to invite the Hub Leader and Executive of ERW to regular meetings	Ongoing	LP
Additional training to be arranged for LEA Governors regarding their roles, responsibilities and greater challenge of Head Teachers and senior managers	September 2016	CP

4.	SCRUTINY IN CHALLENGING TIMES	JCSG4 - 2016
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Documents Considered:

- Notes of Conference 'Scrutiny in Challenging Times'

Issues Discussed:

- Consideration should be given to starting with a blank sheet of paper – do one review well rather than spread resources to thinly
- No authority was well resourced for scrutiny
- The Government appeared to be more proactive in England – if a local authority was failing in an area, that service would be taken away
- Wales had been perceived as being good at scrutiny but was now slipping back

Outcomes:

- **Noted**

5.	PROCESS FOR PRE DECISION SCRUTINY	JCSG5 - 2016
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Documents Considered:

- Pre Decision scrutiny process

Issues Discussed:

- A process was being developed following a joint meeting with Cabinet regarding scrutiny's earlier involvement with major issues
- The Cabinet Work Programme was not sufficiently populated to enable scrutiny to complete its own work programme adequately
- Scrutiny would have to remain flexible as some issues will move more quickly than others
- Scrutiny must be careful not to attempt to be involved in the decision making
- An earlier evaluation of projects could lead to alternative proposals
- Strategic Directors foresaw difficulties with the proposed timescales

Outcomes:

- **Noted.**

6.	CABINET WORK PROGRAMME	JCSG6 - 2016
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Documents Considered:

- Cabinet work programme

Issues Discussed:

- The forward work programme must be completed more accurately

Outcomes:

- **Noted**

7.	SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME	JCSG7 - 2016
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Documents Considered:

- Scrutiny work programme

Issues Discussed:

- The work programme was reviewed alongside issues raised during the meeting and prioritised

Outcomes:

The scrutiny work programme was prioritised as follows:

Action	Completion Date	Action By
Schools Finance etc review	November 2016	LR/LP
Adult Social Care – Day Services for Older People	September 2016	LP
Regeneration – strategy work streams – assess current position with Head of Service	July 2016	WR
ERW Challenge Advisory Service	September 2016	LP
Libraries Service Redesign and Delivery – pre scrutiny	September 2016	LR
Household Waste Recycling Centres	September 2016	LR
Management of Care Homes	September 2016	LP

8.	PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD	JCSG8 - 2016
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8.1. Draft Notes of Previous Meeting(s)

It was noted that the minutes of the meeting on 9 June 2016 were not yet available.

8.2. PSB Dates - For Information

- 22 September 2016
- 1 December 2016

9.	DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS - FOR INFORMATION	JCSG9 - 2016
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Following a decision by Cabinet to adjust their meeting dates, meetings of the Joint Chairs and Vice-chairs Steering Group would also be amended as follows:

- 13 September 2016
- 4 October 2016
- 22 November 2016

- 20 December 2016

County Councillor

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE JOINT CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS STEERING GROUP HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON TUESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2016

PRESENT: County Councillor
County Councillors K W Curry, M J Dorrance, D R Jones, JG Morris and Mr J Brautigam

Officers: Officers: Jeremy Patterson, Clive Pinney, David Powell, Peter Jones, Rhian Jones, Wyn Richards, Liz Patterson and Lisa Richards

1.	APOLOGIES	JCSG42 - 2016
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Members: County Councillors L Corfield and S Davies
Officers: Paul Griffiths

2.	DRAFT NOTES - FOR CONSIDERATION	JCSG43 - 2016
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Documents Considered:

- Notes of meeting 5 July 2016

Issues Discussed:

- The Chief Executive confirmed that he had briefed the Leader regarding scrutiny of ERW and that he had also raised the issue with ERW directly. Similar concerns had been identified within the Estyn Inspection of ERW.
- The Group queried whether a response had been received from Cabinet regarding a report submitted by the Chairs relating to the Commissioning and Procurement Board. No response had been received and the Chair agreed to pursue this with the Leader

Outcomes:

- **Noted**

3.	DISCUSSION WITH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, STRATEGIC DIRECTORS REGARDING POTENTIAL SCRUTINY ITEMS	JCSG44 - 2016
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Issues Discussed:

- Previously the Chief Executive had focussed on ERW – the schools service are in the process of preparing a standards report and provisional results show some good results. The Welsh Government are particularly

- keen to study information in respect of free school meals. Using that indicator, Powys has performed just below the national average. It was suggested that work should be undertaken to evaluate how pupil deprivation grants are used and what benefit is derived from that funding. It was essential to target those funds where they were needed and this should be evidenced – perhaps in conjunction with a review of standards.
- The Chief Executive informed Members that the Financial Overview and Forecast report showed significant overspends particularly in Adult Social Care. Following discussions with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, further work will be undertaken around modelling and savings. Whilst every local authority is different there needs to be an assessment of savings patterns elsewhere. It is widely acknowledged that current methods of delivery are not sustainable but ongoing initiatives do not seem to be making sufficient difference. The Chair of Audit proposed that joint Audit /People scrutiny be undertaken as a priority. There was a further discussion around the costs of bringing some home care provision in house – costs of £750K had been written off in 15/16 and have been included in the base budget for 16/17 and should not be contributing to the overspend. In total an additional £1.053M had been included in the ASC base budget. Further savings relating to residential care and day time activities are not likely to be achieved in the specified timescale. Members were of the opinion that it had been apparent for some time that savings would not be achieved but this did not seem to be recognised within the service. Spending appears to have been out of control within the service for many years. There was a role for Audit Committee to review and scrutinize the financial affairs of the Authority. The service were reliant on other services meeting their shortfall on a regular basis. The Chief Executive suggested that there was a role for scrutiny in stabilising the ASC budget. The service will produce a Sustainability Plan but Members felt this should be designated a ‘Recovery Plan’. People 2 were also to give advice to the service and scrutiny should be involved throughout this process. The Strategic Director, Resources informed the meeting that the finance team assisting ASC had been bolstered and were currently going through the budget line by line – this detail would be available by the end of the month. The Chair of People suggested a strategic review would also be required.
 - The Chair of Place noted the projected £ ½ M overspend on school transport and suggested that this should be subject to scrutiny.

Outcomes:

Action	Completion Date	Action By
Joint Audit /People scrutiny to be undertaken on ASC budgets	End October 2016	Chairs - Audit and People

4.	ONE POWYS PLAN - ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION 2015-16	JCSG45 - 2016
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Documents Considered:

- Annual Performance Evaluation 2015-16

Issues Discussed:

- Annual process
- Document circulated for comments to scrutiny Members
- Will be circulated to the PSB by the end of the week
- Cabinet - 4 October 2016
- Council - 19 October 2016
- Communications Team to proof read
- Consideration should be given to improving the preamble to clarify why the PSB was established together with its aspirations. Statutory partner organisations should be listed. The two stories that are presented may benefit from greater detail regarding the situation before intervention
- There was a disconnect between the narrative and statistics – eg the section on older people is relatively positive but the statistics show that the authority is only ranked 17 and 21 out of 22 for particular services
- There is no reference to the drop in attendance at leisure centres following the takeover by Freedom Leisure
- All Wales performance details were released in early September and it is necessary to qualify some statements and cross reference
- There are no targets for future improvements
- Within the section on education, some data relates to Welsh statistics and some to changes within Powys – there needs to be consistency. There was no mention of schools in special measures or of those being supported.
- Members were informed that it is the Programme Manager and Sponsor who decide whether a project has been successful. In some instances it was noted that success related to initial proposals rather than the totality.

Outcomes:

Action	Completion Date	Action By
Any further comments to be emailed to Peter Jones or Rhian Jones	23 September 2016	Members

5.	WORK PROGRAMME	JCSG46 - 2016
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Documents Considered:

- Work Programme

Issues Discussed:

- Adult Social Care budget – to be given priority
- Further discussions to be held with the Leader regarding pre decision scrutiny

Outcomes:

Action	Completion Date	Action By
The work programme to be amended in line with the discussion	30 September 2016	Wyn Richards
Further discussion regarding pre decision scrutiny items with the Leader	30 September 2016	Wyn Richards

6.	PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD	JCSG47 - 2016
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47.1. Draft Notes of Previous Meeting(s)

Documents Considered:

- None

Issues Discussed:

- Minutes of the last meeting were not yet available
- The PSB is a statutory body with membership comprising Powys County Council, Natural Resources Wales, Health Board and Mid and West Wales Fire Authority
- Invitees include Police and Crime Commissioner's office, Dyfed Powys Police, Probation Service and PAVO. The Brecon Beacons National Park have requested that they also be invited.
- During the first meeting there had been a broad discussion around the terms of reference. Further development has been requested and the next scheduled formal meeting will become a development session
- Programme spotlights will consider learning and skills initially, followed by organisation and partnership
- Confirmation is awaited regarding the date of the next formal meeting – 20 October has been suggested
- The PSB intends to develop joint scrutiny
- Members discussed the commitment of partner agencies to the PSB. Only the four partner agencies were accountable to the Welsh Government
- The PSB cannot operate on a majority, must be unanimous

Outcomes:

- **Noted**

47.2. PSB Dates - For Information

- 22 September, 2016 – development
- 20 October 2016 - tbc
- 1 December, 2016

7.	DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS - FOR INFORMATION	JCSG48 - 2016
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- ??? 18 October 2016
- 29 November 2016
- 17 January 2017
- 28 February 2017
- 21 March 2017
- 11 April 2017
- 20 June 2017
- 11 July 2017
- 19 September 2017
- 10 October 2017
- 7 November 2017
- 5 December 2017

County Councillor

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PLACE COMMITTEE

Work Programme 2016/17

Chair Cllr Kelvyn Curry
Vice Chair Cllr Matthew Dorrance

6 October 2016		
Standard Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes • Joint Chairs • Work Programme 	16 June 2016 13 September 2016	Lisa Richards “ “
Policy Reviews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		
Scrutiny Review Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutiny Group 1 • Scrutiny Group 2 • Scrutiny Group 3 	Library reorganisation HTR Outline Business Case HWRC review	Lisa Richards “ “
Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freedom Leisure (10am) • Discussion regarding timing of working group meetings 		`

8 December 2016		
Standard Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes • Joint Chairs Steering Group • Work Programme 	6 October 2016 4 October, 22 November	Lisa Richards “ “
Policy Reviews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		
Scrutiny Review Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutiny group 1 • Scrutiny group 2 • Scrutiny group 3 		
Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime and Disorder 	6 monthly review	`Fay Smith

3 March 2017		
Standard Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes 	8 December 2016 17 January 2017	Lisa Richards “

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Chairs Steering Group • Work Programme 		“
Policy Reviews		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		
Scrutiny Review Groups		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutiny group 1 • Scrutiny group 2 • Scrutiny group 3 		
Other		,

Working Groups

Place Scrutiny Group 1: Cllrs G Banks, G Hopkins, E T Morgan, R G Thomas, Chair and Vice

Place Scrutiny Group 2: Cllrs D O Evans, D Jones, G Morgan, H Williams, Chair and Vice

Place Scrutiny Group 3: Cllrs V Evans, H Lewis, G Price, (Vacancy) Chair and Vice