

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER -
COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON TUESDAY, 11 JULY 2017**

PRESENT

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)

County Councillors A W Davies, MC Alexander, P Davies, J Evans, L Fitzpatrick,
S M Hayes, R Powell, M Weale and J Wilkinson

1.	APOLOGIES
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Apologies for absence were received from the Chief Executive and Strategic Director – Place.

2.	MINUTES
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The Leader was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2017 as a correct record.

3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
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There were no declarations of interest reported.

4.	DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT
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The Interim Strategic Director People gave her annual report as Director of Social Services for the period 2016/17. The report was an objective assessment of the impact and performance of the work of social services and demonstrated how the Council has promoted well-being and accounted for the delivery of the well-being standards contained within the Social Services & Well-being Act.

In endorsing the report the Portfolio Holders with responsibility for Children's Services and Adult Social Care welcomed the contribution the Strategic Director had made since her appointment and the benefit of having such a senior officer with a dual role within the Council and the Health Board.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
That Cabinet endorse the report in Appendix 1 and recommend the report to Council on 13th July 2017	To comply with the statutory requirements of the Director of Social Services to produce an annual report

5.	HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES - REVIEW OF CHANGES IMPLEMENTED IN APRIL 2017 - REDUCTION IN OPENING DAYS AND COMMERCIAL VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS
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The Portfolio Holder for Property and Waste explained that decision to reduce the opening days of the Household Waste Recycling Centres to three days per week and introduce a strictly enforced restriction on all commercial type vehicles and trailers using the sites had been a major concern raised by people during the local government elections. On appointment to the Cabinet he had asked for a review to be carried out and having considered the results was proposing an increase to 5 days a week and the introduction of a permit scheme for commercial type vehicles and trailers.

County Councillor JM Williams the local member for Machynlleth urged the Cabinet to return a bulk waste recycling facility to the town for the benefit of the whole of the Dyfi Valley noting that people were faced with a round trip of over 60 miles to the facility in Newtown. He thanked the Leader, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for agreeing to meet representatives of Machynlleth Town Council.

Members sought advice from the Section 151 Officer on the budget position who advised that whilst funding from reserves meant that the 2017/18 budget would be balanced, the Cabinet would have to address future years' funding when it set the budget for 2018/19.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
1) The opening days of all the sites are increased to 5 days per week to include weekend opening (both Saturday and Sunday) by 1st September 2017.	To allow residents convenient access to the sites to maximise the recycling of their waste.
2) To introduce a permit scheme for residents to visit the sites to deposit their household waste only though the use of commercial type vehicles and trailers by 1st September 2017. Approval of the detailed implementation is hereby delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Waste and Property.	To maintain the £50k saving associated with this service change and ensuring that the sites are managed effectively to prevent illegal use.
3) The savings shortfall in 17/18 (£100K) will be met through the use of the Budget Management Reserve.	To ensure that the Council maintains a balanced budget.
4) The savings shortfall in 18/19 of £400K be addressed through the Financial Reserves model as part of the overall budget setting process.	To ensure that the Council maintains a balanced budget.

6. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND FORECAST AS AT 31ST MAY 2017

Cabinet considered the budget outturn report for the period ended 31st May 2017. Savings of £11.780m made up of both in year and previous years' targets needed to be made with savings of £5.513m (47% of the total) delivered so far leaving £6.267m yet to be achieved. The report detailed projected overspends with the Portfolio Holder for Finance advising Cabinet that the efficiency savings in respect of reablement intervention was unlikely to be achieved. The Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care confirmed this and advised that this was better viewed as a means of helping the service cope with demand. The service continued to address budget pressures. The Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Children's Services advised that the service was looking to reduce its deficit over the long term by investing in preventative work. The Portfolio Holder for Highways noted that HTR had its budget cut by 54%. The Portfolio Holder for Education noted that school closures often came with costs such as having to transport children longer distances. Members' attention was also drawn to the unachieved efficiencies for income and third party spend which was being addressed centrally.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The contents of this report are noted by Cabinet; and2. Cabinet supports appropriate action by services to curtail or reduce the reported forecasted service deficits.	To monitor the council's financial performance and ensure that spending remains within approved limits and that the 3% minimum general fund reserve is maintained.

Capital Programme Financial Overview as at 31st May 2017

Cabinet received an update on the Capital spend against Budget for the year to date, as at 31st May 2017 and was pleased to note that works on the new schools in the Gwernyfed were proceeding on time and under budget. Cabinet was also pleased to note that Powys Engineering Design Services had been commissioned by Network Rail to undertake detailed design and construction supervision of a scheme to facilitate elimination of 5 level crossings near Talerddig to improve safety for road and rail users.

The report contained requests for two virements, removing £925k from the Fleet replacement programme monies as the 2017/18 budget was already sufficient and rolling forward £2.255m from 2016/17 due to delays with the progression of the Cultural Hub in Brecon.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The contents of this report are noted by Cabinet; and2. The Capital virements detailed above be submitted to full Council for approval.	To monitor the council's financial performance and ensure that spending remains within approved limits.

7. SCHOOL BUDGETS 2017/2018

The Leader welcomed Ian Budd, the Director of Education to the meeting.

Cabinet was advised that as at the 31st March 2017 there were thirty four schools with cumulative deficit balances totalling £2.48m, compared with eighteen as at the 31st March 2016 with deficits of £0.94m. The level of reserves held by schools had reduced to £0.5m from £2.9m the year before.

The Portfolio Holder for Education explained that the size of a school or the medium of delivery were not crucial factors in setting a balanced budget and noted that those schools that had set balanced budgets had done so by addressing staffing issues which made up 85% of budgets. She encouraged schools to work with the Council. She also noted that there needed to be a broader look at whether the footprint of schools in the county was correctly configured, whether they were properly resourced and whether there were enough corporate support for schools. She advised that the fair funding formula was being reviewed with a view to bring a report back to Cabinet in October

The Portfolio Holder for Finance highlighted the Section 151 Officer's comments that the schools' budget deficit was a significant financial risk for the Council. He welcomed the Joint Education Scrutiny Group's work looking at the financial viability of schools.

County Councillor David Meredith, speaking as the Chair of Brecon High School Governors was critical of the support offered to the school by the Council.

Members asked about the arrangements for the clawback of surplus budgets and were advised that schools were required to submit plans for how they would be utilised for consideration by the Portfolio Holder for Education. Members also asked about the actions open to the Council and were advised that there were different levels of intervention with the removal of delegation being the last resort.

The Section 151 Officer stressed the financial risk to the Council and confirmed that there was corporate ownership of the issue.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision
1. That all planned budgets with a cumulative surplus at 31 March 2018 are approved	To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of schools
2. That the Portfolio Holder for Education has the delegated decision on whether to apply clawback to the schools named in paragraph 4.3 of the report, pending reasons for the surplus being in excess of the position submitted to cabinet in July 2016.	To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of schools

<p>3. That all schools that are potentially subject to clawback for 2017/18 as set out in paragraph 4.4 have their budgets re-assessed after spending plans have been submitted by the 29th September 2017 and a further report brought back to Cabinet during the Autumn Term 2017.</p>	<p>To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of schools</p>
<p>4. That the proposed budgets for the following schools who have planned cumulative deficit balances in 2017/18 are licensed:</p> <p>Primary Schools Abermule CP School Berriew C P School Clyro C in W Controlled School Franksbridge C P School Leighton C P School Llanbister C P School Llandrindod Wells C P School Cefnlllys Llanfechain C in W School Llanfyllin C P School Llangedwyn C in W Voluntary Controlled School Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant C P School Llansantffraid C in W Aided School Ysgol Dolafon Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon Ysgol Gymaeg Dyffryn Y Glowyr Ysgol Meifod</p> <p>Secondary Schools Ysgol Bro Hyddgen</p>	<p>To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of schools</p>
<p>5. That the budget for Brecon High School remains in an unlicensed position. Following the meeting with the governing body a report is submitted to cabinet to recommend the level of intervention proposed.</p>	<p>To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of schools</p>
<p>6. That the budget for Ysgol Maesydderwen remains in an unlicensed position and that the school and Governing Body works with the Authority to further</p>	<p>To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of schools</p>

review the budget position.	
7. That the budget for Llanidloes High Schools and Ysgol Cedewain remain in an unlicensed position.	To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of schools
8. That the budgets for Bronllys C P School, Brynhafren C P School, Llanfihangel Rhydithon C P School, Talgarth C P School and Ysgol Maesydre are not licensed.	To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of schools
9. The Schools named below with planned cumulative three year consecutive deficit balances, including the current year are not licensed and a notice of concern be issued to each Governing Body and that the Governing Bodies of these schools be required to submit a recovery plan to the authority by the 29th September 2017. Primary Schools Irfon Valley C P School Llangynidr C P School High Schools Builth Wells High School Crickhowell High School Llanfyllin High School Welshpool High School Llandrindod High School Special Schools Brynlywarch Hall Residential School	To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of schools
10. That the budget for Llangors C in W School is not licensed and a notice of concern be issued to the Governing Body to submit an approved budget plan by 21st July 2017.	To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of schools
11. Financial surgeries continue in the autumn and spring terms and schools are reminded of the possibility of claw back.	To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of schools
12. Existing Loans are monitored.	To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of schools

8.	21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME - FFEDERASIWN YSGOLION CARNO, GLANTWYMYN & LLANBRYNMAIR FEDERATION
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Cabinet considered the Business Justification Case for capital investment in the Ffederasiwn Carno, Glantwymyn & Llanbrynmair Federation. The total cost for the project was £2,854,410.15 and the authority was requesting that Welsh Government provide 50% of the total cost of the project. Carno Recreation Association would be contributing £500k to the cost of replacing Ysgol Carno, reducing the authority's contribution to £927,205.08. Cabinet welcomed the investment in this successful federation.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
To approve the submission of the Business Justification Case to Welsh Government to secure capital funding to invest in Ffederasiwn Carno, Glantwymyn & Llanbrynmair Federation.	To significantly improve the condition of the learning environment within the Federation
To approve the virement of £989k from Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to the Ffederasiwn Carno, Glantwymyn & Llanbrynmair Federation in 2018/19.	To ensure the budget is fully financed. Ysgol Bro Hyddgen forms part of Powys 21 st Century Schools Band A and Band B Programme.

9.	STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN
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Cabinet considered the report which showed progress against the Strategic Equality Plan for the last 6 months. The report highlighted those objectives with a red BRAG status. It was confirmed that quality training was being arranged for all members in the autumn.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision
That the Cabinet note the employment information report, SEP progress to date and areas where work is ongoing.	To comply with statutory requirements and good business practice.

10.	TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR QUARTER 4
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Cabinet received the Treasury Management report for the 4th quarter of 2016/17. The report included a recommendation that the council pay suppliers by BACS rather than cheque which would save just over £2,000.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
1. That the Treasury Management Quarterly Report be received	To ensure Cabinet remains informed about current Treasury Management performance
2. That Cabinet agree to cease paying suppliers by cheque wef 1 st September 2017	To reduce bank and other charges to the Authority

11. CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence reported.

12. DELEGATED DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Cabinet received details of delegated decisions taken since the last meeting.

13. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Monitoring Officer reminded Portfolio Holders that the forward work programme needed to be kept up to date at least 8 months in advance and he asked them to work with their heads of service to ensure that this was done.

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)