

Public Document Pack

Cabinet

Meeting Venue
**Council Chamber - County Hall,
Llandrindod Wells, Powys**

Meeting date
Tuesday, 19 September 2017

Meeting time
10.30 am

For further information please contact
Stephen Boyd
01597 826374
steve.boyd@powys.gov.uk



County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 5LG

13 September 2017

AGENDA

1.	APOLOGIES
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To receive apologies for absence.

2.	MINUTES
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To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the meetings held on 3rd and 11th July as correct records.

(Pages 5 - 16)

3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
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To receive any declarations of interest from Members relating to items to be considered on the agenda.

4.	FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND FORECAST AS AT 31ST JULY 2017
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To consider a report by County Councillor Aled Davies, Portfolio Holder for Finance.

(Pages 17 - 28)

5.	CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE FOR JULY 2017
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To consider a report by County Councillor Aled Davies, Portfolio Holder for Finance.

(Pages 29 - 36)

6.	RESPONSE TO THE FULL COUNCIL AMENDMENT ON THE RISE IN CHARGES FOR MEALS AND ATTENDANCE AT DAY CENTRES (OLDER PEOPLE)
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To consider a report by County Councillor Stephen Hayes, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care.

(Pages 37 - 58)

7.	ELECTORAL REFORM IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN WALES
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To consider a response to the Welsh Government consultation on electoral reform in local government in Wales.

(Pages 59 - 92)

8.	CHILDREN'S AND ADULT SERVICES QUARTERLY SAFEGUARDING REPORT
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To consider a report by County Councillor Stephen Hayes, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and County Councillor Rachel Powell, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services.

(To Follow)

9.	TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2016/17
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To consider a report by County Councillor Aled Davies, Portfolio Holder for Finance.

(Pages 93 - 100)

10.	TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR QUARTER 1
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To consider a report by County Councillor Aled Davies, Portfolio Holder for Finance.

(Pages 101 - 124)

11.	GROWING MID WALES PARTNERSHIP MINUTES
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To receive for information the draft minutes of the last meeting of the Growing Mid Wales Partnership meeting held on 28th July 2017.

(Pages 125 - 138)

12.	CORRESPONDENCE
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To receive such correspondence as in the opinion of the Leader is of such urgency as to warrant consideration.

13.	DELEGATED DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING
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To note the delegated decisions taken since the last meeting.

(Pages 139 - 142)

14.	FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME
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To consider the Cabinet forward work programme.

(Pages 143 - 146)

15.	EXEMPT ITEMS
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The Monitoring Officer has determined that category 3 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules applies to the following items. His view on the public interest test (having taken account of the provisions of Rule 14.8 of the Council's Access to Information Rules) was that to make this information public would disclose information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

These factors in his view outweigh the public interest in disclosing this 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.

16.	CULTURAL HUB - UPDATE REPORT
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To consider a report by County Councillor Phyl Davies, Portfolio Holder for Property and Waste.

(To Follow)

17.	COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER, NEWTOWN
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To consider a report by County Councillor Phyl Davies, Portfolio Holder for Property and Waste.

(To Follow)

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT BRECON ELIM CHURCH,
CANAL ROAD, BRECON ON MONDAY, 3 JULY 2017**

PRESENT

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)

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

In attendance: County Councillors MJ Dorrance, E Durrant, L Fitzpatrick, K Laurie-Parry, S Lewis, DW Meredith, WD Powell, E Roderick, E Vaughan and R Williams

1.	APOLOGIES
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County Councillor Liam Fitzpatrick who was not sitting as a member of the Cabinet as comments made at an earlier meeting could be construed as having predetermined the issue but who was in attendance.

2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
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County Councillor Liam Fitzpatrick had declared an interest having made comments made at an earlier meeting could be construed as having predetermined the issue.

County Councillor Emily Durrant declared a personal non prejudicial interest as the parent of children at Ysgol y Bannau.

County Councillor Matthew Dorrance declared a personal non prejudicial interest as his partner was a Governor of Brecon High School.

3.	WELSH MEDIUM STREAM AT BRECON HIGH SCHOOL
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Cabinet considered the report of the Portfolio Holder for Education on objections received during the 28 day objection period to the Statutory Notice to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School from 31st August 2017. A total of 77 written objections had been received of which 21 were from 1 individual. In addition a petition signed by approximately 1,700 individuals and included 218 written comments.

In presenting her report the Portfolio Holder for Education outlined the reasons why she was recommending the rejection of the proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School. She had taken into account the representations made during the statutory notice objection period and the wishes of people in the area to maintain Welsh-medium education in Brecon. This accorded with her own wish for equal provision of Welsh-medium education across the county with learners having access to a large number of subjects at GCSE which was not currently the case for pupils at Brecon High School. Her vision was for Brecon and Builth High Schools to work in partnership so that there were sustainable Welsh-medium streams in both schools. She recognised that it would take time to build up the number of subjects on offer and she

challenged the school and parents to apply the same level of commitment and enthusiasm demonstrated in campaigning for retention of the Welsh stream into making it a success.

The Portfolio Holder for Education also argued that it would be unfair for pupils educated in the medium of Welsh not to have access to the new High School being built in Brecon and in answer to questions from members confirmed that there would be sufficient space in the new school to accommodate a Welsh stream. She also confirmed that she had been mindful of the future of Ysgol y Bannau if the Welsh-medium stream had been closed in Brecon High School.

County Councillors Emily Durrant, Matthew Dorrance, Roger Williams, William Powell, David Meredith, Karen Laurie-Parry, Sarah Lewis and Edwin Roderick spoke in support of the recommendation noting that the Welsh language was integral to the culture of Brecon and its hinterland. They did express concerns whether the Council would be prepared to back the retention of Welsh-medium education in Brecon with the necessary finance. Speaking as Chair of the Governors, Councillor Meredith confirmed that the school would work with the Council and feeder schools to build up Welsh-medium education in the new school. County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan argued that without putting in resources the Council was not being serious in its commitment to the Welsh language and that pupils would continue to travel out of county for Welsh-medium education.

The Portfolio Holder for Education agreed with comments made that excellence in teaching would be key noting that the recruitment of more teachers able to deliver Welsh Medium teaching would be the quickest way of improving the offer to pupils. It would be up to the Head Teacher and Governors to agree and set the curriculum offer and they would need to work closely with the authority and primary schools in the catchment.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance reminded members that there was a £1.5m deficit in secondary school budgets bringing into question whether the current footprint of schools in the county was sustainable. He noted that the goal of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan was to concentrate Welsh learners but recognised that this in turn led to inequality on issues such as travel times. On balance he was prepared to support the recommendation.

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care said that he felt that the report did not demonstrate how a viable Welsh-medium stream could be sustained and he would therefore abstain.

Other Cabinet members spoke in support of the recommendation emphasising that the support of the community would be needed for the Welsh-medium stream in Brecon to be a success.

By 8 votes to 0 with 1 abstention it was

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
i) To receive the Objection Report in respect of the proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High	To understand the issues raised in the Objections received and the authority's response to those issues.

<p>School from the 31st August 2017.</p>	
<p>ii) To reject the proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School from the 31st August 2017, and to retain a Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure the continued provision of Welsh-medium education in Brecon. - To ensure that Welsh-medium pupils can access provision in the new school building planned for Brecon High School. - To support the Welsh Government vision to create 1 million Welsh speakers by the year 2050.

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)

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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

In attendance: County Councillors DW Meredith and JM Williams

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
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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:
<p>1. The contents of this report are noted by Cabinet; and</p> <p>2. Cabinet supports appropriate action by services to curtail or reduce the reported forecasted service deficits.</p>	<p>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.</p>

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:
<p>1. The contents of this report are noted by Cabinet; and</p>	<p>To monitor the council's financial performance and ensure that spending remains</p>

2. The Capital virements detailed above be submitted to full Council for approval.	within approved limits.
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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,	To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of schools

<p>pending reasons for the surplus being in excess of the position submitted to cabinet in July 2016.</p>	
<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</p>	<p>To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of</p>

<p>unlicensed position and that the school and Governing Body works with the Authority to further review the budget position.</p>	<p>schools</p>
<p>7. That the budget for Llanidloes High Schools and Ysgol Cedewain remain in an unlicensed position.</p>	<p>To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of schools</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of schools</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>Primary Schools Irfon Valley C P School Llangynidr C P School</p> <p>High Schools Builth Wells High School Crickhowell High School Llanfyllin High School Welshpool High School Llandrindod High School</p> <p>Special Schools Brynllwarch Hall Residential School</p>	<p>To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of schools</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of schools</p>
<p>11. Financial surgeries continue in the autumn and spring terms and schools are reminded of the possibility of claw back.</p>	<p>To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of schools</p>
<p>12. Existing Loans are monitored.</p>	<p>To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of schools</p>

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)

4

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET EXECUTIVE

19th September 2017

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Aled Davies

Portfolio Holder for Finance

SUBJECT: Financial Overview and Forecast as at 31st July 2017

REPORT FOR: Decision / Discussion / Information

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the Revenue spend against Budget for the year to date, as at 31st July 2017, and provides an early indication of the 2017/18 end of year financial forecast. It is important to note that efficiency savings are only included when they have been delivered, and we maintain this approach to ensure a prudent position.
- 1.2 The report has been prepared on an exceptions basis, using actual variance against budget to define the RAG (Red, Amber, Green and Blue) status of the services' financial position. This method assists in highlighting those Services areas with significant pressures which are at most risk to the Authority and where corrective action must be taken to ensure a balanced year end budget, and mitigate any risk for future years.

2. Revenue

- 2.1 The projected revenue forecast, is shown in the table below, with a projected overspend of £4.302m (June £4.190m), excluding Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Delegated Schools. This adverse projection is mainly due to unachieved savings targets at this early point in the year and is therefore likely to improve as the year progresses. Sensitivity Analysis, shown in 3.3 below, demonstrates the impact of the future delivery of savings on the outturn position.

Summary Forecast by Directorate	Total Working Budget	Approved Use To / (From) Reserves	Forecast Spend	Variance (Over) / Under Spend	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
People	70,845	2	74,824	(3,979)	(6)
Place	37,166	(8,153)	37,623	(457)	(1)
Schools	25,643	497	26,163	(520)	(2)
Resources	18,096	(405)	17,878	218	1
Central Activities	13,994	(415)	13,558	436	3
Total	165,744	(8,474)	170,046	(4,302)	(3)
Housing Revenue Account	0	(49)	(3)	3	
Schools Delegated	74,236	(1,608)	74,701	(465)	(1)
Total including HRA and Delegated Schools	239,980	(10,131)	244,744	(4,764)	(2)

2.2 The table contained in Appendix A provides a forecast spend by service, against approved working budget, which includes budgeted transfers to / from reserves. It shows the projected position on both savings delivery and service performance. Services are collectively forecasting an underspend of £1.4m for general delivery of service, which is in part mitigating the current £5.7m underachievement in the delivery of savings.

3. **Efficiency savings**

3.1 The efficiency saving target of £11.78m includes both in year and previous year's targets. For prudence the forecast includes savings that have been achieved or have progressed to a point where there is confidence in final delivery taking place. The projected outturn has improved by £229k on last month, £6.075m has now been achieved (52% of the total), leaving £5.705m yet to be achieved.

Financial Year	Target £'000	Delivered £'000	Variance £'000
2015/16	1,323	44	1,279
2016/17	841	283	558
2017/18	9,616	5,748	3,868
Total	11,780	6,075	5,705

3.2 The table contained in Appendix B provides a service breakdown on the delivery of savings required within the budget.

3.3 A sensitivity analysis has been introduced on the delivery of savings and the impact on the outturn position. The table below shows a range of forecasts, based on the level of confidence in the delivery of the remaining targets. The analysis uses a rating of High, Medium or Low; High being the current forecast position and includes savings already delivered; Medium based on savings with RAG status Amber; and Low, the position if all savings are delivered.

FORECAST SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS OF SAVINGS DELIVERY			
Confidence in savings delivery	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
Directorate	Current forecast - includes savings already delivered	Forecast if savings with RAG status Amber are delivered	Forecast if all savings are delivered
	£'000	£'000	£'000
People	-3979	-3851	-1,891
Place	-457	86	1,097
Schools	-520	-520	-313
Resources	218	342	354
Central Activities	436	436	2,156
Outturn Position	-4302	-3,507	1,403

- 3.4 To achieve an outturn position of £3.507m overspend, (medium confidence in savings delivery) an additional £796k of savings, will need to be delivered. All services must aim to deliver their targets in order to achieve a balanced budget by year end.
- 3.5 The greatest risk is within Childrens services where no savings have been achieved. With a current overspend on Looked After Children (LAC), additional staff needs and resource demands linked to the current inspection, it is unlikely there will be capacity or mitigation to deliver the £1.1m target. But the service has now commenced dialogue on an alternative savings list and are committed to have a savings plan delivered in year.

4 Reserves

- 4.1 The revenue reserves held at the beginning of the year totaled £38.8m, with £8.7m held in the General Reserve. The forecast use of reserves to support the revenue budget during the year, (excluding Schools and HRA) is £8.5m, including £7.5m that will be transferred to Capital through the revenue account for Fleet Replacements £7m and £0.5m to address the condition of the County Farms.
- 4.2 Unless the agreed efficiency savings are delivered a further draw on the general reserve will be required, this is currently projected at £4.3m and would reduce the reserve to £3.7m. The revised forecast level of General Fund reserve as at 31st July 2017 is 4.4% of total net revenue budget (excluding Schools and HRA).

5 Revenue Forecast

- 5.1 Appendix A confirms that the overspend of £4.302m relates to undelivered efficiency savings of £5.7m offset by net over/underspends currently projected on service budgets. RAG status has been applied to service variance based on the categories below, and those with a variance calculated at “red” have been explained in more detail.

- **Blue** Underspend above 1%
- **Green** +/- 1% (or £0.05m if budget less than £5m)
- **Amber** Overspend of 1-2% (£0.05m - £0.1m if budget less than £5m)
- **Red** Variance above 2% (£0.1m if budget less than £5m)

6. <u>People Directorate</u>	Net Working Budget:	£ 70,845k
	Net Forecast Expenditure:	£ 74,824k
	Variance (Over)/Under Spend:	£ (3,979)k
	June Forecast (Over)/Under Spend:	£ (3,597)k
	Change in Forecast	£ (382)k

6.1 Adult Social Care (ASC) Forecast Overspend £(1,681)k

- 6.1.1 The service have delivered 55.8% of their £2.2m efficiency target. There is a real risk that the £603k project for Reablement Intervention cannot be delivered within the current financial year but over a longer timescale and alternative projects will need to be implemented to deliver the full target. The remaining £382k savings are still

outstanding, but at this point no concerns have been raised about their achievement, which would reduce the overspend to £1.3m.

6.1.2 The growth monies provided in the base budget for 2017/18 have been allocated to alleviate most of the historic pressures carried by the service. The in-year pressures including in year inflationary increases remain a concern, although the National Living Wage pressures are likely to be funded through a Welsh Government Grant.

6.2 Older people Forecast Overspend £ (1,609)k

6.2.1 Home Care £(1,440)k – the overspend is partly due to the unachieved efficiency savings for Reablement Intervention of £603k. This was a known risk when the overall targeted was adopted, and further clarification was sought from the consultants about the strength of this proposal. The expected consequence was a reduction in Home Care demand, but the project is likely to support cost avoidance rather than savings. There is increased demand relating to new clients utilising the Extra Care scheme in the north, although it is likely that this service is more cost effective than traditional services. Reclassification of Physically Disabled spend to Older of £211k, (a virement is required to realign budgets) and increased cost from supplier inflation of £200k also contribute to the overspend.

6.2.2 A shortfall of £90k is estimated in respect of Care Home deferred charge income, i.e. from clients relating to sale of their property, based on the annual trend.

6.3 Learning Disabilities (LD) Forecast Over Spend £ (764)k

6.3.1 Resettlement Houses and Independent Residential Care £(944)k – there are inflation pressures that are in part covered by a Welsh Government Grant and corporate monies available totalling just over £1m. But the overall quantum is likely to be greater and for prudence we have assume a pressure of £280k on supplier demands, which can only be mitigated by savings or demand management. An increase in support hours has resulted in an additional budget pressure of £105k and two new service users are accessing Independent Residential Care with no funding identified to cover their costs.

6.3.2 Home Care £207k – The reclassification of out of county supported tenancies has resulted in a transfer of £311k of client costs to Residential Care. However, a virement is required to realign the budgets.

6.4 Mental Health and Physically Disabled(PD) Forecast Underspend £551k

6.4.1 Underspends in both Mental Health and PD of £185k and £366k respectively, mitigate the overspend within the service. A reduction in client numbers for Mental Health and a reclassification of clients to older category are the main reasons for the underspends in these areas and budget virements will be completed to mirror the change in clients.

6.5 Childrens £ (2,312)k

6.5.1 Following the outcome of the CSIW inspection, the service, through the autumn, will be reviewing the whole budget position and savings strategy as part of the service improvements needs to be delivered as part of the wider Improvement Plan.

- 6.5.2 The overspend in Children's is largely due to non-delivery of the efficiency savings, partly within Children with Disabilities Residential establishments - Golwg Bannau and Golwg Camlas of £556k. As yet this remains a RED risk. Savings of £388k in relation to the new model for delivery of Childrens Services and the partnership working with the Powys Teaching Health Board and third sector, have not been delivered.
- 6.5.3 Looked After Children numbers, are at a five year high, and the service is predicting an overspend of £1.428m. This area is one of significant risk, due to the demand and complexities with service user need and the month on month fluctuating activity, (4 new placements in July), making it very difficult to forecast.
- 6.5.4 An increase in spend in Leaving Care relating to the rent commitments for young adults, has resulted in a forecast overspend of £47k.

7. <u>Place Directorate</u>	Net Working Budget:	£ 37,166k
	Net Forecast Expenditure:	£ 37,623k
	Variance (Over)/Under Spend:	£ (457)k
	June Forecast (Over)/Under Spend:	£ (705)k
	Change in Forecast	£ 248k

7.1 Highways, Transport and Recycling Forecast Over Spend £ (570)k

- 7.1.1 The main reason for the forecast overspend in this area are outstanding efficiency savings of £1.45m. The position has improved by £236k from June, due to additional savings made on the waste contracts budgets as a result of changes to service delivery. A virement from reserves has been actioned to fund £100k of the £200k Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) target, following the decision by cabinet to partially reverse the service proposals
- 7.1.2 The service is confident that the remaining unachieved savings within Highways Grounds and Street Scenes of £184k and the remaining fleet saving of £72k will be achieved by year end. This will improve the position by £256k to an overspend of £314k. The delivery of projects with RAG status amber included in the sensitivity analysis (para 3.3), would further reduce the overspend by £512k to £58k.
- 7.1.3 The key savings risk is labelled RED and relates to the Logistics Project, the £615k target will not be fully realised in 2017/18 due to delays in the implementation of the re-routing of waste rounds. Alternative savings will need to be identified and delivered.
- 7.1.4 The unachieved saving of £121k for Waste collections brought forward from 2015/16 has now been transferred to the Fleet Service, as part of the removal of the internal recharging from client budgets. This is now a budget pressure for the fleet service and is forecast to be unachieved.
- 7.1.5 Savings attributable to Trade Waste totalling £50k (£25k rolled forward from 16/17) have been achieved due to changes in the rural trade routes.
- 7.1.6 Highways commissioning have not yet achieved their £150k savings target linked to the commerciality of Highways.
- 7.1.7 There are mitigating factors that offset the unachieved savings, these include the use of grant monies allocated to compensate the reduction in Single Environment Grant

of £165k, contract savings in relation to Potters Waste and Recycling contract of £317k and savings from Cae Post and Brecon transfer station of £365k, Underspends across the other service areas also contribute to the forecast.

7.2 Regeneration, Commissioning and Property

7.2.1 This area has a RAG status of green. However, to note, the purchase of the Commercial property at Ladywell House, Newtown is now complete. A £336k virement is proposed to amend the budget to reflect the rental income, part of which will assist the Service in meeting their savings targets and the remainder to reinvest in the Property Rationalisation Strategy.

8	<u>Schools Service</u>	Net Working Budget	£25,643k
	(non delegated)	Net Forecast Expenditure	£26,163k
		Variance (Over)/Under Spend:	£ (520)k
		June Forecast (Over)/Under Spend:	£ (488)k
		Change in Forecast	£ (32)k

8.1 Home to School/College Transport has a forecast overspend at year end of £600k, including an unachieved savings target of £158k brought forward from 2015/16. Additional route costs and the realignment of income streams within Special Educational Needs (SEN) transport, resulting in a £50k loss of income, are the main contributors to the adverse position.

8.2 School meals are predicting an overspend of £66k at year end due to revenue costs in association with the rollout of the Cashless Project, including bank charges and licenses. The position has been escalated to the Cashless Project Board.

8.3 Staff slippage of £72k within the Pupil Inclusion budget relating to the Additional Learning Needs team offsets the overspends, along with other small underspends across the other service areas.

9	<u>Resources Directorate</u>	Net Working Budget:	£ 18,096k
		Net Forecast Expenditure:	£ 17,878k
		Variance (Over)/Under Spend:	£ 218k
		June Forecast (Over)/Under Spend:	£ 162k
		Change in Forecast	£ 56k

10	<u>Central Activities</u>	Net Working Budget:	£ 13,994k
		Net Forecast Expenditure:	£ 13,558k
		Variance (Over)/Under Spend:	£ 436k
		June Forecast (Over)/Under Spend:	£ 438k
		Change in Forecast	£ (2)k

10.1 This area has a RAG status blue, however there are some significant variances to note:

The decision to hold centrally the undelivered savings for 3rd Party expenditure and Income savings arises because these have been removed from service areas. The Income and Cost Improvement Board is now responsible for identifying opportunities

to meet the current year target of £1.72m. The achievement of this is a significant risk as the alternative business cases being developed have longer timeframes for delivery and will feature as part of the budget setting process for 2018/19. This overspend is offset by the following:

- 10.2 The capital charges forecast predicts an under spend of £817k due to delays on capital spending, in turn reducing the prudential borrowing requirement.
- 10.3 Council agreed in March 2016 to adopt the changes set out in the new sections (12a and 12b) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. This allows authorities in Wales the discretion to charge up to a 100% council tax premium on long-term empty dwellings (both unoccupied and substantially unfurnished) and dwellings occupied periodically (second homes/holiday homes that are furnished and not a main residence). The application of the premium is generating a Council Tax surplus estimated at £1.2m, £800k above the plan.

11	<u>Schools Delegated</u>	Net Working Budget:	£	74,236k
		Net Forecast Expenditure:	£	74,701k
		Variance (Over)/Under Spend:	£	(465)k
		June Forecast (Over)/Under Spend:	£	0k
		Change in Forecast	£	(465)k

11.1 The individual Schools Delegated budgets are forecasting a net £465k overspend as at the end of July. The figures from the High Schools and the All Through School have been incorporated where available, in accordance with the Scheme for Financing Schools. There are 6 Schools closing at the 31st August 2017, once a final financial position has been confirmed for each of these schools the cumulative deficit/surplus balances will be reported.

11.2 The budgeted and forecast use of Schools Reserves is shown in the table below. The current information projects a £1.665m use of reserves.

School Sector	Opening Balance	Cabinet Budgeted Contribution/ (Use)	Budgeted Contribution/ (Use)	Forecast Underspend/ (Overspend)	Forecast Closing Balance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Primary	1,608	(503)	(430)	(127)	1,051
Special	(259)	42	22	(18)	(255)
Secondary	(864)	(1,522)	(1,257)	(320)	(2,441)
Total	485	(1,983)	(1,665)	(465)	(1,645)

11.3 The balance of reserves held by schools at the beginning of the year was £485k, the projected draw will move these into a significant deficit balance by the end of this financial year.

12 **Options Considered/Available**

No alternative options are considered appropriate as a result of this report.

13 **Preferred Choice and Reasons**

None to consider.

14 **Impact Assessment**

Is an impact assessment required? Yes/No

15 **Corporate Improvement Plan**

To achieve the Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP) objectives the Council undertakes forward planning with its medium term financial strategy (MTFS) - this sets out the financial requirements to deliver the short and longer term council vision. These capital and revenue monitoring reports are used to ensure the funding identified to deliver the council priorities is spent appropriately and remains within a cash limited budget.

16 **Local Member(s)**

This report relates to all service areas across the whole County.

17 **Other Front Line Services**

This report relates to all service areas across the whole County.

18 **Communications**

This report has no specific communication considerations. Detailed finance reports are presented to Heads of Service, Cabinet and the Audit Committee. These reports are public and are part of a range of statutory and non-statutory financial information documents including the Statement of Accounts.

19 **Support Services (Legal, Finance, HR, ICT, BPU)**

This report has no specific impact on support services other than reporting on those service areas financial outturns. Financial Services work closely with all service areas in monitoring financial performance against budgets.

20 **Scrutiny**

Has this report been scrutinised? Yes / No

21 **Statutory Officers**

The Strategic Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) has provided the following comment:

The report, and the position it presents, is a fair and prudent reflection of the projected 2017/18 revenue budget outturn. The projections will only be adjusted when there is confidence and evidence that savings have been delivered.

As in previous years mitigation from additional sources will be sought and included when identified. The current profile of delivered savings at this stage of the financial year is in line with previous years.

The report draws cabinet's attention to the work around 3rd party spend and income. A number of opportunities are being explored by the Income and Cost Improvement Board and these will be presented to Cabinet. However, some are longer term in nature. A corporate view on current income performance will be taken with a view to making budget adjustments as agreed by Management Team and the Income and Cost Improvement Board.

The Monitoring Officer has no specific concerns with this report.

22 **Members' Interests**

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
<p>a. The contents of this report are noted by Cabinet; and</p> <p>b. Cabinet supports appropriate action by services to curtail or reduce the reported forecasted service deficits.</p> <p>c. Virements to be approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Para 6.2.1 - Physically Disabled to Older People - £211k • Para 6.3.2 - Learning Disabilities to Older People - £311k • Para 7.2.1 - Ladywell House - £336k 	<p>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.</p>

Relevant Policy (ies):		Financial Regulations	
Within policy:	Yes	Within Budget:	n/a

Relevant Local Member(s):	
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Jane Thomas
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	ongoing

Contact Officer Name	Tel	Fax	E mail
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Jane Thomas	01597-826341	01597-826290	jane.thomas@powys.gov.uk
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APPENDIX A

Forecast Outturn and Undelivered Savings as at 31st July 2017

Service Area	Net Budget	Forecast Spend	Variance (Over) / Under spend	Total Unachieved Savings as at 31st July 2017	Service Under/(Over) spend excl. unachieved savings	Variance (Over) / Under spend as a % of Net Budget	Variance BRAG status
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	
People							
Adult & Commissioning	56,920	58,601	(1,681)	(986)	(695)	(3.0)	R
Children Services	13,127	15,439	(2,312)	(1,101)	(1,211)	(17.6)	R
Housing General Fund	798	784	14	0	14	1.8	B
Place							
Leisure & Recreation	8,963	8,860	103	0	103	1.1	B
Regeneration, Property & Commissioning	8,152	8,143	9	(96)	105	0.1	G
Highways, Transport & Recycling	20,051	20,620	(569)	(1,458)	889	(2.8)	R
Schools							
Schools Service	25,643	26,163	(520)	(207)	(313)	(2.0)	R
Resources							
Business Services	6288	6,283	5	(92)	97	0.1	G
Information Services	4,416	4,411	5	(32)	37	0.1	G
Legal Services	3,037	2,988	49	(12)	61	1.6	B
Financial Services	1,875	1,760	115	0	115	6.1	B
Chief Executive	2,480	2,436	44	0	44	1.8	B
Service Area Totals	151,750	156,488	(4,738)	(3,984)	(754)	(3.1)	
Central Activities	13,994	13,558	436	(1,720)	2,156	3.1	B
Total	165,744	170,046	(4,302)	(5,704)	1,402	(2.6)	
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	0	(3)	3	0	3		G
Schools Delegated	74,236	74,701	(465)	0	(465)	(0.6)	G
Total including HRA	239,980	244,744	(4,764)	(5,704)	940		

EFFICIENCY TRACKER AS AT 31st JULY 2017

APPENDIX B

Efficiency / Saving	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Total to be Achieved 17/18	Total Achieved to Date	Remainder to find	Achieved
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	%
Place							
Highways Transport & Recycling	151	364	1,839	2,354	896	1,458	38%
Regeneration, Property & Commissioning	14	35	399	448	352	96	79%
Leisure & Recreation	0	0	730	730	730	0	100%
Place	165	399	2,967	3,532	1,977	1,554	56%
Schools							
Schools	158	88	1,619	1,865	1,658	207	89%
Schools	158	88	1,619	1,865	1,658	207	89%
People							
Adult	0	0	2,231	2,231	1,245	986	56%
Children Services	0	1	1,101	1,101	0	1,101	0%
People	0	1	3,332	3,333	1,245	2,088	37%
Chief Executives							
Chief Executives	0	0	250	250	250	0	100%
Legal	0	12	28	40	28	12	69%
Chief Executives	0	12	278	290	278	12	96%
Resources							
Business Services	0	0	278	278	187	92	67%
Information Services	0	0	232	232	200	32	86%
Professional Services	0	20	215	235	235	0	100%
Corporate Activiites	999	320	695	2,015	295	1,720	15%
Resources	999	340	1,421	2,760	917	1,844	33%
Grand Total	1,323	841	9,616	11,780	6,075	5,705	52%

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CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE

Date

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Aled Davies
Portfolio Holder for Finance

SUBJECT: Capital Programme Update for July 2017

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Current Capital Programme 2017-18

- 1.1 The revised Capital Programme after virements approved is £102.416m, of which committed expenditure is £37.043m (36.2%) of the budget. The actual spend to the end of July is £12.7m, this compares to £4.4m the previous year. Table 1 below summarises the position for each directorate and service.
- 1.2 The biggest shift relates to Actual and Commitments for Schools which has increased from £4.496m in the previous report to £17.6m. The reason for the £13.1m increase is because of the use of E Procurement to record the capital orders. Previously the orders would have been recorded on a stand-alone system, ROCC, which did not show as a commitment in the accounts. This improvement will continue over the next few months as orders are raised on E Procurement to reflect the work that is due to be carried out by the end of the financial year.

1.3 Table 1 Capital Table as at 31 July 2017

Service	Original Budget	Virements Approved	Virements Required by Cabinet	Virements Required by Council	Revised Working Budget 2017/18 as at 31st July 2017 (after virements approved and required)	Actuals & Commitments	Remaining Budget	
	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	%
People								
Adult Services & Commissioning	0	448	0	0	448	11	437	97.5%
Childrens Services	0	32	0	0	32	0	32	100.0%
Housing	2,943	550	0	-870	2,623	909	1,714	65.3%
Schools and Inclusion	30,086	1,185	0	-925	30,346	17,600	12,746	42.0%
Chief Executive	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Resources								
Business Services	446	192	0	0	638	218	420	65.8%
Information Services	1,192	824	0	0	2,016	522	1,494	74.1%
Legal Services	0	23	0	0	23	4	19	82.6%
Financial Services	500	-396	0	0	104	0	104	100.0%
Corporate Activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Place								
Highways, Transport & Recycling	21,826	8,524	-200	-3,149	27,001	10,042	16,959	62.8%
Leisure & Recreation	4,451	5,820	0	0	10,271	1,067	9,204	89.6%
Regeneration, Property & Commissioning	3,655	728	113	-345	4,151	337	3,814	91.9%
Total Capital	65,099	17,930	-87	-5,289	77,653	30,710	46,943	60.5%
Housing Revenue Account	21,260	3,503	0	0	24,763	6,333	18,430	74.4%
TOTAL	86,359	21,433	-87	-5,289	102,416	37,043	65,373	63.8%

2. Funding

2.1 The funding of the capital programme is shown in Table 2.

2.2 Table 2 Funding of the Capital Budget as at 31st July 2017

	Revised Working Budget 2017/18 as at 31st July 2017 (after virements approved and required)					
	Supported Borrowing	Prudential Borrowing	Grants and Other Contributions	Revenue Cont's To Capital	Capital Receipts	Total
Council Fund	-11,352	-21,128	-23,797	-9,687	-11,689	-77,653
HRA	0	-13,641	-3,844	-5,606	-1,672	-24,763
Total Council	-11,352	-34,769	-27,641	-15,293	-13,361	-102,416

3. Virements

3.1 This report requests that the following virements are carried out to amend the capital budgets for the following projects:

3.2 21st Century School Programme.

Table 3 shows the current budget for the 21st Century schools. A number of changes have been recommended by the Schools Transformation Board which will amend the budget for some of the projects. Welsh Government have been kept informed of the changes.

Table 3 Current Budgets for 21st Century schools

	2017/18 Budget	2018/19 Estimate	2019/20 Estimate	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Brecon High School	1,450	15,341	4,965	21,756
Ysgol Bro Hyddgen	1,301	8,689	0	9,990
Gwernyfed HS Refurbishment	31	0	0	31
Welshpool	2,892	10,888	0	13,779
Federation Carno etc	274	1,623	0	1,897
Gwernyfed Primary Schools	21,720	0	0	21,720
Total	27,975	36,540	4,965	69,481

3.3 Table 4 shows the revised budget. Apart from the Gwernyfed Primary Schools virement the other virements involve moving the budgets to the appropriate project and as a whole balance back to zero. The Federation - Carno, Glantwymyn and Llanbrynmair was approved by Cabinet on 11th July (item 8) but is included here for completeness.

Table 4 Revised Budgets for 21st Century schools

	2017/18 Budget	2018/19 Estimate	2019/20 Estimate	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Brecon High School	800	15,497	2,759	19,056
Ysgol Bro Hyddgen	1,115	4,885		6,000
Gwernyfed HS Refurbishment	150	6, 522		6,672
Welshpool	2,793	10,112	0	12,905
Federation Carno etc	295	2,526	0	2,821
Gwernyfed Primary Schools	20,587	0	0	20,587
Total	26,047	39,542	2,759	68,348

3.4 The virement are detailed below

- Brecon High School – The budget for this project has been reduced by £2.7m following receipt of the tender.
- Welshpool Primaries – The budget for this project has been reduced by £875k following receipt of the tenders.
- Gwernyfed High School – The budget of £6.672m for this project had been moved to Band B, however, it is now possible to progress this project and the Board have moved the project back to Band A.
- Ysgol Bro Hyddgen – This has always been the balancing project which spans Band A and Band B. The budget in Band A is reduced £3.99m and increased in Band B.
- A reconciliation of the overall Gwernyfed primary Schools budgets has been carried out and there is £1.133m to much in these budgets due to the confusion with the timing of the grant in 2016/17.

3.5 Table 5 shows the virements for the project and across the financial years.

Table 5 Virements Required for 21st Century Schools

	2017/18 Budget	2018/19 Estimate	2019/20 Estimate	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Brecon High School	-650	156	-2,206	-2,700
Ysgol Bro Hyddgen	-186	-3,804	0	-3,990
Gwernyfed HS Refurbishment	119	6,522	0	6,641
Welshpool	-99	-776	0	-875
Carno Federation	21	903	0	924
Gwernyfed Primary Schools	-1,133	0	0	-1,133
Total	-1,928	3,002	-2,206	-1,133

3.6 Highways, Transport and Recycling

- Abermule Business Park – The Abermule Business Park construction is now going to take place in 2018/19, with planning and the design work in 2017/18. This virement requests the roll forward of £2.059m to 2018/19 for the whole project, £345k is rolled forward for the Regeneration, Property element of this project.
- Strategic Salt Reserve - The Project to provide additional Strategic Salt Reserves is now going to take place in 2018/19 and 2019/20. This virement requests that the budget of £1.435m is followed forward and £0.835m is added to 2018/19 and £0.6m is added to 2019/20.
- Depot Consolidation - The Depot Consolidation project has been delayed and the planning and design of the work will take place in 2017/18 with construction occurring in 2018/19. This virement requests that the budget of £200k is rolled forward to 2018/19.

3.7 Regeneration, Property and Commissioning

- Llangammarch Depot - The project to remove the Asbestos, which was delaminating and then re-clad Llangammarch depot was not completed in 16/17. The virement requests that the remaining budget of £113k is added to 2017/18 to complete the project and so address this health and safety issue. This virement was not actioned earlier in the year when the other year end roll overs were requested.

3.8 Housing

- Machynlleth Gypsy and Traveller site - The project to provide a new Gypsy site in Machynlleth is taking longer than originally anticipated. The planning and design work will take place this financial year with the construction happening in 18/19. This virement requests that £870k is rolled forward to 18/19.

4. Grant Changes as at 31 July 2017

- 4.1 The contribution of £500k towards the new Fleet Facility from the Mid and West Wales Fire Authority is not going to be happen. A contribution may be made towards the running costs but this is being explored during the business case stage of this project.
- 4.2 A Rural Development Plan grant towards the Llandrindod Wells Lake Regeneration project of £63k for 2017/18 has been received. The total grant awarded for the project which will run until 2019/20 is £126.4k.

5. Capital Receipts

- 5.1 A capital receipt occurs when an asset of the authority is sold. Capital receipts historically could only be used to finance new capital expenditure or repay loans. This changed in 2015/16 when it was possible to use capital receipts to finance the revenue costs from transformation.
- 5.2 The current target, excluding the HRA, for Capital Receipts for 2017/18 is £1m for the Property and £1m for County Farms, of this £899k has been agreed, but no sales have been completed as at 31st July 2017. These capital receipts has been earmarked to finance £100k County Farm Capital expenditure and £900k for the 21st Century Schools Programme.
- 5.3 As at 31st March 2017 the total Capital Receipts for the authority was £15.402m of this £13.361m is commitment in the capital budgets for 17/18.

6. Borrowing Requirements

- 6.1 The Council's underlying need to borrow for capital expenditure is termed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This figure is a gauge of the Council's indebtedness. The CFR results from the capital activity of the Council and resources used to pay for the capital spend. It represents the current year's unfinanced capital expenditure and prior years' net or unfinanced capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for by revenue or other resources.
- 6.2 Part of the Council's treasury activities is to address the funding requirements for this borrowing need. Depending on the capital expenditure programme, the treasury service organises the Council's cash position to ensure that sufficient cash is available to meet the capital plans and cash flow requirements. This may be sourced through external borrowing or utilising temporary cash resources within the Council.
- 6.3 Net external borrowing (borrowings less investments) should not, except in the short term, exceed the total of CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for the current year and next two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years.

CFR Position:

	As at 31.03.17 Actual	2017/18 Original Estimate	2018/19 Original Estimate	2019/20 Original Estimate
	£M	£M	£M	£M
Capital Financing Requirement	307,524	326,461	357,224	382,433

- 6.4 The Authority had outstanding long-term external debt of £226.4M at 31st March 2017. In relation to the CFR figure for 31st March 2017, this equated to the Authority being under borrowed by £81M. This is a prudent and cost effective approach in the current economic climate. However, internal borrowing is only a temporary situation and, based on capital estimates, it will be necessary for the Authority to borrow at stages over the next few years. As such, the Authority needs to be mindful that it may be prudent to borrow whilst interest rates are at their low levels and carry the cost of this borrowing as opposed to borrowing at a future date at increased rates.
- 6.5 The CFR figures above includes the increase in the amount of borrowing of £46m that is anticipated in 2017/18. Any borrowing undertaken will have a revenue implication, which includes both the payment of interest on the loan but also the repayment of the principal of the loan. The Minimum Revenue Provision is a prudent way of setting aside the funds required to repay the principal. Work is also ongoing to improve the forecast for capital spend, so that Treasury Management are able to improve the cashflow predictions for the authority.

7. Options Considered/Available

No alternative options are considered appropriate as a result of this report.

8. Preferred Choice and Reasons

None to consider.

9. Impact Assessment

Is an impact assessment required? Yes/No

10. Corporate Improvement Plan

To achieve the Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP) objectives the Council undertakes forward planning with its medium term financial strategy (MTFS) - this sets out the financial requirements to deliver the short and longer term council vision. These capital and revenue monitoring reports, are used to ensure the funding identified to deliver the council priorities is spent appropriately and remains within a cash limited budget.

11. Local Member(s)

This report relates to all service areas across the whole County.

12. Other Front Line Services

This report relates to all service areas across the whole County.

13. Communications

This report has no specific communication considerations. Detailed finance reports are presented to Heads of Service, Cabinet and the Audit Committee. These reports are public and are part of a range of statutory and non-statutory financial information documents including the Statement of Accounts.

14. Support Services (Legal, Finance, HR, ICT, BPU)

This report has no specific impact on support services other than reporting on those service areas with capital programmes. Financial Services work closely with all service areas in monitoring financial performance on capital programmes against budgets.

15. Scrutiny

This report presents financial information which will help inform the future capital strategy and therefore has implications for any related organisation.

16. Statutory Officers

The Strategic Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) notes the overall capital position.

The Monitoring Officer has no specific concerns with this report.

17. Members' Interests

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
a. The contents of this report are noted by Cabinet; and b. The Capital virements set out in Section 3 are approved, and those over £500k	To outline the capital budget position as at 31 st July. To ensure appropriate virements are carried out.

be submitted to full council for approval.	
--	--

Relevant Policy (ies):			
Within Policy:	Y / N	Within Budget:	Y / N

Relevant Local Member(s):	
----------------------------------	--

Person(s) To Implement Decision:	
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	

Contact Officer Name	Tel	Fax	E mail
Jane Thomas	01597-826341	01597-826290	jane.thomas@powyscc.gov.uk

Background Papers used to prepare Report:

CABINET REPORT TEMPLATE VERSION 5

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CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE
19th September 2017

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Cllr Stephen Hayes
Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care

SUBJECT: Response to the Full Council Amendment on the Rise in Charges for Meals and Attendance at Day Centres (older people)

REPORT FOR: Decision

1 **Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of report is to consider the request of Full Council at its meeting on the 13th July for Cabinet to restore the charges for attendance and meals at PCC Day Centres (older people) to their pre April 2017 level with immediate effect.

2 **Proposal**

- 2.1 It is proposed that following reconsideration of the detail outlined in the body of this report that Cabinet re-approve the proposal that was agreed at the Cabinet Meeting on 14th March 2017 (See Appendix A for the Cabinet report dated 14th March 2017).

3 **Background**

- 3.1 The maximum charge (cap) for Community Based Social Care Services is set by the Welsh Government. It was £60 per week up until March 2017 and was last increased from £55.00 to £60.00 in April 2015.
- 3.2 The Welsh Government changed the cap to £70 from the 1st April 2017 as part of the revised Charging Regulations. It is open to authorities to operate a lower maximum weekly charge than set in the Charging Regulations if they wish, however, Cabinet chose due to the challenging budget position, to align to the governments recommendations, hence the report to Cabinet in March.
- 3.3 The March Cabinet Report proposed a revision in all community service charges within the existing policy, not just Day Centre attendance. It also proposed an uplift in the charge for a meal from £5 to £7.50 to better reflect the true cost of providing a meal whilst also seeking and implementing ways to reduce the very high unit costs involved in delivering a meal to reflect the £7.50 rate that was being set.
- 3.4 The issue of charging for meals sits outside the Charging Regulations and the Local Authority has no statutory duty to provide a meal, however they may be

required to provide support to access a meal where a care assessment indicates the need for ongoing support to access or reheat a meal, but that does not have to take place within a day centre and will not include everyone that attends a day centre.

4 About the 50% Rise in Charge

4.1 Around one third of Community Based Service (Social Care) users do not pay towards the cost of their services following a financial means test.

4.2 The meal cost charge was raised from £5 to £7.50 (which includes a £2 charge for all day refreshments).

4.3 The costs of attendance to a day centre was raised from £10 to £15

- Charge for both attendance and a meal (including refreshments) prior to 1st April 2017 £15
- Total charge for both attendance and a meal (including refreshments) post 1st April is £22.50

A 50% rise in charge.

4.4 The actual average unit cost to the Council for both is £53.39 excluding transport which if we were to recoup in full (and Powys is entitled to do so) would be a rise of 255%. Therefore Powys is still providing a significant subsidy even for those who pay for their attendance in full.

4.5 The way in which the Fair Charging arrangements work is that people are assessed and then billed for the whole package (excluding meals which sits outside Fair Charging), including attendance at the Day Centre (if that has been agreed as part of the care package).

4.6 It should be emphasised that the means test and the way it is applied should ensure that everyone who is charged for a service can afford to pay, if they cannot afford to pay they would not be charged. Again meals sit outside this means test but that allowances for general living, including the purchasing of food and paying for utilities will be considered.

4.7 The table below illustrates the numbers of clients by Care Team who have been affected by the rise in charge since April 1st 2017.

4.8 The rise in charge relates to their whole care package, including domiciliary care etc., and not just the Day Centre but excludes the meal and refreshments.

4.9

Older persons D/C only split by area Team	No of clients where charge increased during test week	Extra income generated per week	average increase in cost per client week
Ystrad	8	£89.25	£11.16
Brecon	16	£135.00	£8.44
Radnor	14	£97.65	£6.98
Newtown	48	£394.65	£8.22
Welshpool	7	£45.00	£6.43
Totals	93	£761.00	£8.24

4.10

These **weekly** figures have been calculated for all those attending a Day Centre (for Older People) by taking a test week and comparing it with what PCC billed based on actual services charged at £15 for Day Centre attendance compared with a charge of £10 (the cost prior to the rise) Day Centre attendance. The average difference charged can be seen in the last column (above). However with a cap at £70 per week no client would be charged over that cap and their means test would have tested their ability to pay.

4.11

The £70 cap includes the combined package of care so any home care / direct payment charges will be factored into the calculation - the increased Day Centre Charge has been billed since week beginning 8th April 2017 by Business Support.

5 Day Centre Costs and Charges

5.1

Based on 2015-16 figures (the last period for full year figures and excluding meals and refreshments) the average unit cost of a daily session per person at a day centre is:-

- £38.74 (excluding capital costs)
- £42.55 (including capital costs)
- The highest unit costs is £49.80 (£55.93 including capital costs) and the lowest unit cost is £29.34 (£31.08 including capital costs)

5.2

Attendance costs above exclude transport costs which is an additional average cost of £22.18 per service user per day.

5.3

This means that even after the £15 charge, for those who pay it, Powys is still significantly subsidising the cost (by £23.74 per person per day) on the unit cost excluding capital costs.

6 Options Considered / Available

6.1 Option 1

To uphold the decision made by Cabinet on the 14th March 2017 which approved:-

Option 3

To increase the daily charge for Daycentre attendance to £15 per day.

Option 4

Increase the charge for meals at Older Daycentres to £7.50 per day. This charge includes light refreshments such as tea / coffee with cake and biscuits. This is a flat rate and charge that falls outside of the scope of the means test.

6.2 Option 2

To reject the decision made by Cabinet on the 14th March 2017 and request that the service plan for an alternative approach.

7 Preferred Choice and Reason

7.1 The recommendation of the Portfolio-Holder for Adult Services is Option 1 because:-

- The Council has followed the Charging Regulations and has adopted the Welsh Governments rise in the £70 cap.
- All service users are means tested and if they are unable to pay for their care package including attendance at a day centre they would not be charged.
- All service users whose financial circumstances have changed are free to seek a review of their financial position (i.e. a new means test).
- During the consultation on the Review of Day Time Activities a recurring theme emerged of peoples' (carers and users) preparedness to pay more if the service was still available to users.
- The cost of a meal and refreshments has been market tested and that the £7.50 is a fair and accurate reflection of the cost and that work is currently taking place to ensure a position of cost neutrality to the Council based on the £7.50 charge.
- National bench marking (against other authorities) has also indicated that the £7.50 charge is in line with what other authorities provide (where they still have Day Centres)
- The Council is not legally obliged to provide a meal, but does so because it is a valued part of the service.
- Not adhering to the original decision will have a significant impact on the ability of the service to make the savings assigned in the budget to Day Time Opportunities.

8 Impact Assessment

8.1 An Impact Assessment was completed for the original Cabinet decision on 14th March. The proposal is to uphold that decision therefore it is not appropriate for

a new Impact Assessment to be completed at this point in time. Please see Appendix 2 for original Impact Assessment.

9 Corporate Improvement Plan

- 9.1 The proposals outlined in the Cabinet on 14th March fit under the following two priorities outlined in the Corporate Improvement Plan:-
- Services delivered for less: Remodelling council services to respond to reduced funding
 - Supporting people in the community to live fulfilled lives • Developing
- 9.2 In addition the proposal was one of the key methods of helping to achieve the challenging saving target set in the MTFP not just on the Day Time Opportunities budget of £150,689 for 2017-18 (approximately 9.17% of the total budget), but on the total Adults Social Care budget.

10 Local Members (s)

- 10.1 The impact on both Option 1 and Option 2 is County wide.

11 Other Front Line Services

- 11.1 The original report was co-written between Adult Social Care and Income & Awards, upon whom there is also be an impact.

12 Communications

- 12.1 The report is of public interest and may require a media response depending what the decision is.

13 Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)

- 13.1 **Legal** - The recommendation can be supported from a legal point of view.
- 13.2 **Finance** - The Finance Business Partner notes the content of the report. The increase to the maximum charge for Community Based Services from £60 to £70 per week is in line with Welsh Government legislation. This includes short term respite placements in a care home which is in line with the recommendation in the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. This will generate approximately £239k additional income and will mitigate the 2016/17 income shortfall in the baseline budget of changes around charging for a residential respite placement, previously assessed and charged under 'CRAG', but from April 6th 2016 must be treated as a Community Based Service. This means that service users following a financial assessment may receive a free service or pay up to a maximum charge of £70 per week for a single episode of care. Also services for carers being non chargeable. Previously estimated as a shortfall in income to baseline budget of £141k but in reality was approximately £250k in 2016/17.
To increase the daily charge for Day Centre attendance to £15 per day and the

increase charge for meals to £7.50 per meal is in line with the Councils income policy to review charges at least annually, benchmark against other Councils and ensure subsidisation is kept to a minimum, they will generate £40k and £50k respectively.

If the original decision is reversed, the service will not mitigate the shortfall in the cost of producing and the additional inflationary costs re staffing, utilities and groceries in 2017/18 re meals and it will have a significant impact on the ability of the service to make the savings assigned in the budget to Day Time Opportunities.

13.3 **Corporate Property** (not appropriate)

13.4 **HR** (not appropriate)

13.5 **ICT** (not appropriate)

14 Scrutiny

14.1 This report will not be due for scrutiny

15 Statutory Officers

15.1 The Strategic Director Resources (S151 Officer) notes the comments made by finance and adds that the increase takes advantage of the changes permitted by Welsh Government. The Proposal also retains the budget position of the service in meeting its savings target.

15.2 The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: “I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report”.

16 Members’ Interests

16.1 The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
<p>To uphold the original decision made by Cabinet in respect of Option 2 and 3 outlined in the report of the 14th March 2017 to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • charge £15 for Day Centre attendance • charge £7.50 for the provision of a two course meal and all day refreshments including 	<p>To take advantage of the opportunity provided by Welsh Government to provide additional income to support the funding of the service (as outlined in the March 14th Report).</p> <p>That Option 2 could result in significant additional cost to the Council and that the savings plan for</p>

cake and biscuits.	Day Time Opportunities would be jeopardised. For all the reasons outlined in para 7.1.
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Relevant Policy (ies):			
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Hazel Dukes (Senior Manager – Social Care Delivery)
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	Immediateley

Contact Officer: Dominique Jones Tel: 01597 826603 .. Email: Dominique.Jones@powys.gov.uk

Background Papers used to prepare Report:

Appendix A -Report to Cabinet dated 14th March 2017
 Appendix B – Impact Assessment (for Cabinet Report 14th March 2017)

CABINET REPORT TEMPLATE VERSION 5

ⁱ The Care Management Teams are split by area and would be responsible for assessing the needs of those who live in that area these service users would be making use of one of ourday centre services.

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C60- 2017

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE 14 March 2017

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Stephen Hayes
Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care

SUBJECT: Increase in charges for Community Based Services

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Summary

The maximum charge for Community Based Social Care Services is set by the Welsh Government. It is currently £60 per week and was last increased from £55.00 to £60.00 in April 2015, and remained at £60 in April 2016 when the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 was implemented.

The Welsh Government have increased the maximum amount a Local Authority can charge to £70 per week with effect from April 2017.

The consultation undertaken on daytime activities made it clear that attendees at day centres would be willing to pay more for the service if that would support their ongoing sustainability.

2. Proposal

This report sets out and recommends that Powys increases its maximum weekly charge to £70 per week.

It also recommends a proposed uplift to charges for attendance at Older Day Centre and Day & Employment centre and an increase in charges for meals provided at Day Centres.

3. One Powys Plan

The One Powys Plan recognises that the Council is facing significant budget reductions and the estimated number of people aged over 80 in Powys is rising. The proportion of residents aged over 80 is predicted to increase from 6.5% in 2012 to 14% in 2036. If we are to make the service sustainable then we need to charge those residents who have the ability to contribute to the possible increased cost of care.

4. Options Considered/Available

Option 1

Maintain existing charges for Community Based Services:

- £10 per day for Daycentre attendance
- £5 for meals at the daycentre, which includes light refreshments and tea / coffee
- Maximum charge of £60 per week
- £20.50 per hour for home care up to the maximum charge.

Option 2

Increase the maximum charge for Community Based Services from £60 to £70 per week. This includes short term respite placements in a care home. The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 stipulates the maximum charge, which the Welsh Government have increased to £70 per week from April 2017.

Option 3

Increase the daily charge for attendance at Older People's Day Centres and Day and Employment Daycentre from £10 to £15 per day.

Option 4

Increase the charge for meals provided at the Older Daycentre from £5 to £7.50 per day.

Option 5

Increase the hourly rate for Domiciliary Care (Home care), as set out in the table below, up to a maximum of £60 per week.

Service	2016/17	2017/18
Domiciliary Care (Home care)	£20.50 per hour (up to a maximum of £60 per week)	£21.00 per hour (up to a maximum of £70 per week)

5. Preferred Choice and Reasons

The recommended options are to fully implement Option 2, Option 3 and Option 4.

Adoption of these options would enable future charges to reflect inflationary cost pressures faced by the Council in providing care.

Option 2

The recommendation of Adult Services is that the Council accepts option 2 and increases the maximum charge for Community Based Services. Service Users will still have the option to undertake a means test which will look at their affordability to pay towards their care. Around one third of Community Based Service Users do not pay towards the cost of their services following a financial means test.

Option 3

The recommendation of Adult Services is that the Council accepts option 3 and increases the daily charge for Daycentre attendance to £15 per day. Service Users will still have the option to undertake a means test which will look at their affordability to pay towards their care. Around one third of Community Based Service Users do not pay towards the cost of their services following a financial means test. It is estimated this will increase income by £30.2k per annum.

Option 4

The recommendation of Adult Services is that the Council accepts option 4 and increases the charge for meals at Older Daycentres to £7.50 per day. This charge includes light refreshments such as tea / coffee with cake and biscuits. This is a flat rate and charge that falls outside of the scope of the means test.

The total cost of providing meals at day centres (using 2015/6 figures) is £244,932. The income at the current price of £5 per meal (this includes tea/coffee in the morning, 2 course meal, tea and cake in the afternoon) is £102,356. The average unit cost for each meal (as described above to include the teas/cake etc.) is £10.83.

Option 5

The recommendation of Adult Services is that the Council does not increase the hourly rate for home care from £20.50 to £21.00 per hour. In view of the £70 maximum charge the increased income would be negligible and the challenge of applying the increase would be significant.

6. Impact Assessment

6.1 Is an impact assessment required? Yes

6.2 If yes is it attached? Yes

7. Local Member(s)

The impact of these proposals will be county wide.

8. Other Front Line Services

Does the recommendation impact on other services? Yes

This report was co-written between Adult Social Care and Income & Awards, upon whom there will also be an impact.

9. Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)

9.1 Legal: The recommendation can be supported from a legal point of view.

- 9.2 Finance: The Finance Business Partner can confirm
- That the increase to the maximum charge for Community Based Services from £60 to £70 per week is in line with Welsh Government legislation. This includes short term respite placements in a care home which is in line with the recommendation in the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. This will generate approximately £239k additional income and will mitigate the 2016/17 income shortfall in the baseline budget of changes around charging for a residential respite placement, previously assessed and charged under 'CRAG', but from April 6th 2016 must be treated as a Community Based Service. This means that service users following a financial assessment may receive a free service or pay up to a maximum charge of £70 per week for a single episode of care. Also services for carers being non chargeable. Previously estimated as a shortfall in income to baseline budget of £141k but in reality is approximately £250k.
 - The increase in Day Centre attendance charge will generate approximately £30k additional income.
 - The increase in charge for a meal at an Older Day Centre will generate approximately £50k, which will mitigate the current shortfall in the cost of producing and the additional inflationary costs re staffing, utilities and groceries in 2017/18.
- 9.3 Communications: The report is of public interest and requires the use of a news release and appropriate social media to publicise the recommendation/decision.
- 9.4 Corporate Property (if appropriate)
N/A
- 9.5 HR
No comment applicable from HR, no staffing issues.
- 9.6 ICT (if appropriate)
N/A

10. Public Service Board/Partnerships/Stakeholders etc

There are no wider implications

11. Pre- Scrutiny

Comments from pre-scrutiny. (To be completed by Scrutiny Officers)

12. Statutory Officers

The Strategic Director Resources (S151 Officer) notes the comments made by finance and adds the increase takes advantage of the changes permitted by Welsh Government and is in line with the Council's income policy.

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: "I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report".

13. Members' Interests

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
Fully implement options 2, 3 and 4	To take advantage of the opportunity provided by Welsh Government to provide additional income to support the funding of the service.

Relevant Policy (ies):	The Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014		
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	Councillor Stephen Hayes
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Dylan Owen
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	1st April 2017

Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Email:
Dylan Owen	01597826578	dylan.owen@powys.gov.uk

Background Papers used to prepare Report:

Appendix A

Proposed new table of charges:

Service	2016/17	2017/18
Attendance at Day Centre/Day and Employment Centre	£10 per day	£15 per day
Domiciliary Care (Home Care)	£20.50 per hour (up to a maximum of £60 per week as set by Welsh Government)	£20.50 per hour (up to a maximum of £70 per week as set by Welsh Government)
Learning Disability services in the community	£20.50 per hour (up to a maximum of £60 per week as set by Welsh Government)	£20.50 per hour (up to a maximum of £70 per week as set by Welsh Government)
24 hour Support (Supported Tenancy)	£70.00 per week	£70.00 per week
Shared Lives (long term placement)	£60.00 per week per single episode of respite care	£70.00 per week per single episode of respite care
Shared Lives (short term/respite placements)	£60.00 per week per single episode of respite care	£70.00 per week per single episode of respite care
Respite i.e. a stay not exceeding 8 weeks	£60.00 per week per single episode of respite care	£70.00 per week per single episode of respite care
Package of care i.e. a range of services - maximum	£60.00 per week (as set by Welsh Government)	Up to a maximum of £70.00 per week (as set by Welsh Government)

Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



This **Impact Assessment (IA)** toolkit incorporating Welsh Language, Equalities, Well-being of Future Generations Act, Sustainable Development Principles, Communication and Engagement, Safeguarding, Corporate Parenting, Community Cohesion and Risk Management supporting effective decision making and ensuring compliance with respective legislation. **Please read the accompanying guidance before completing the form.**

Service Area	Adult Services Commissioning	Head of Service	Dylan Owen	Strategic Director	Carol Shillabeer	Portfolio Holder	Cllr Stephen Hayes
Policy / Change Objective / Budget Saving	Charges for Domiciliary Care, Residential Respite Care, Day Care and Meals within Day Care Services – in line with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014						
Outline Summary							
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This report considers the proposed uplift to charges for Day Care and Meals within Day Care Services. 2. This report also considers the proposed increase in the maximum amount payable for community care services in line with recent Welsh Government guidance. 							

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Version Control (services should consider the impact assessment early in the development process and continually evaluate)

Version	Author	Job Title	Date
001	Dylan Owen	Strategic Commissioning Manager (Older People)	22.02.2017

2. How does your policy / change objective / budget saving impact on the council's strategic vision?

Council Priority	How does the policy / change objective impact on this priority?	<u>Inherent Judgement</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>Residual Judgement</u> Please select from drop down box below	Source of Outline Evidence to support judgement
Supporting people in the community to live fulfilled lives	To those affected financially this could be detrimental as they will pay more for services	Neutral	Charging policy and legislation determines charge but impact on social care users will vary. Where required reviews to be undertaken of the individuals affected to consider alternative solutions, which could include telecare and maximising financial entitlements.	Neutral	

Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



Developing the economy	N/A	Good	N/A	Good	
Improving learner outcomes for all, minimising disadvantage	N/A	Good	N/A	Good	
Remodelling council services to respond to reduced funding	These proposals will increase the amount of income to Adult Social Care.	Good	Work will be required to ensure the best use of the income and aligning the income with the service area	Good	

3. How does your policy / change objective / budget saving impact on the Welsh Assembly's well-being goals?

Well-being Goal	How does the policy / change objective contribute this goal?	Inherent Judgement Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	Residual Judgement Please select from drop down box below	Source of Outline Evidence to support judgement
A prosperous Wales: An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.	These proposals will generate greater income for the Council and Adult Social Care which will enable better targeting of resources and to make better use of them.	Good	Work will be required to ensure the best use of the income and aligning the income with the service area	Good	
A resilient Wales: A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).	The increased income will support greater resilience for Adult Social Care services in order to increase service capacity.	Good		Good	
A healthier Wales: A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.	The proposals are on services for supporting individuals with their physical and mental well-being. Respecting a service users preferences and promoting positive behaviour are central to the service.	Good	As appropriate, reviews to be undertaken of the individuals affected to consider alternative solutions, which could include telecare and maximising financial entitlements.	Good	

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Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



A Wales of cohesive communities: Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected Communities.	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
A globally responsible Wales: A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	

A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language: A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.					
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<i>Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language</i>	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
<i>Treating the Welsh language no less favourable than the English language</i>	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
<i>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language</i>	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
<i>Welsh Language impact on staff</i>	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
<i>People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation.</i>	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	

A more equal Wales: A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).					
--	--	--	--	--	--

<i>Age</i>	A high proportion of those affected by these proposals will be older people.	Poor	As appropriate, reviews to be undertaken of the individuals affected to consider alternative solutions, which could include telecare and maximising financial entitlements.	Neutral	
<i>Disability</i>	The service areas considered by the proposals are for people who have disabilities or are frail. These proposals will have an impact on those who depend upon such services.	Poor	As appropriate, reviews to be undertaken of the individuals affected to consider alternative solutions, which could include telecare and maximising financial entitlements.	Neutral	

Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



Gender reassignment	N/A	Unknown	N/A	Unknown	
Marriage or civil partnership	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
Race	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
Religion or belief	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
Sex	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
Sexual Orientation	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
Pregnancy and Maternity	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
Equality Impact on PCC Staff	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Good	

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4. How does your policy / change objective / budget saving impact on the council's other key guiding principles?

Principle	How does the policy / change objective impact on this principle?	<u>Inherent Judgement</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>Residual Judgement</u> Please select from drop down box below	Source of Outline Evidence to support judgement
Sustainable Development Principle					
Long Term: The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.	These proposals will maximise the potential income for Adult Social Care, thus making the service more sustainable in the long term.	Good	Work will be required to ensure the best use of the income and aligning the income with the service area	Neutral	
Collaboration: Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	

Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

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<p>Involvement: The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.</p> <p>Communication and Engagement</p>	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
<p>Prevention: How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.</p>	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
<p>Integration: Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.</p>	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
<p>Preventing Poverty: Prevention, including helping people into work and mitigating the impact of poverty.</p>	From a service users perspective these changes could potentially impact their financial circumstances. A broader view of the person's whole circumstances from a Social Care perspective will help to understand any potential impact	Poor	From a financial assessment perspective a minimum income amount is always allowable when a financial assessment is undertaken. This minimum income amount should ensure some prevention of poverty. Service users will be supported by social care staff to ensure that they are receiving the appropriate welfare benefits.	Neutral	
<p>Safeguarding: Preventing and responding to abuse and neglect of children, young people and adults with health and social care needs who can't protect themselves.</p>	Individuals could refuse services and, therefore, have less monitoring.	Poor	Options of telecare via individual reviews could lead to 24/7 ongoing monitoring and support, mitigating risks.	Neutral	
<p>Corporate Parenting: Enabling our looked after children to fulfil their potential.</p>	N/A	Neutral		Neutral	

Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



5. Achievability of Policy / Change Objective / Budget Saving?

Impact on Service / Council	Deliverability of Policy / Change Objective / Budget Saving	Inherent Risk
High	High	Low

6. What are the risks to service delivery or the council following implementation of this Policy / Change Objective / Budget Saving?

Description of risks			
Individuals decline service provision resulting in their wellbeing being compromised. The impact of this will vary dependent upon individuals' circumstances.			
Judgement (to be included in service risk register)			
Very High Risk	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
			√
Mitigating Actions			Residual Risk
As appropriate, reviews to be undertaken of the individuals affected to consider alternative solutions, which could include telecare and maximising financial entitlements. Options of telecare via individual reviews could lead to 24/7 ongoing monitoring and support, mitigating risks.			Low
Does the Policy / Change Objective / Budget Saving have potential to impact on another service area?			
Income and Awards			

7. Overall Summary and Judgement of this Impact Assessment?

Outline Assessment (to be inserted in cabinet report)	Cabinet Report Reference:
The impact of this proposed change should be positive for the service, with varied impact upon residents who receive domiciliary care support and/or attend day care. The amount the Council can charge is capped and the proposal is to base this on the amount allowed by the Welsh Government Guidance.	

8. Is there additional evidence to support the Impact Assessment (IA)?

What additional evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?
No

9. On-going monitoring arrangements?

What arrangements will be put in place to monitor the impact over time?
Routine social care reviews will be undertaken in line with current policy.

Please state when this Impact Assessment will be reviewed.

12 months.

10. Sign Off

		Signature	Date
Head of Service:	Dylan Owen		
Strategic Director:	Carol Shillabeer		
Portfolio Holder:	Clr Stephen Hayes		

FORM ENDS

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Welsh Government
Consultation Document

Electoral Reform in Local Government in Wales

Date of issue: 18 July 2017

Action required: Responses by 10 October 2017

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

Overview	This consultation is seeking views on a range of electoral reforms. These proposed reforms deal primarily with the way in which people register to vote and cast their vote.
How to respond	<p>The closing date for responses is 10 October 2017.</p> <p>Responses can be submitted via the online document of consultation questions: https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/electoral-reform-local-government-wales</p> <p>To respond to the consultation, please either complete the online form or request the accompanying questionnaire and return it either by email: RLGProgramme@wales.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>or by post to Local Government Democracy Division Welsh Government Cathays Park Cardiff CF10 3NQ</p>
Further information and related documents	<p>Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.</p> <p>The consultation document can be accessed from the Welsh Government website at: https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/electoral-reform-local-government-wales</p>
Contact details	<p>For further information:</p> <p>Local Government Democracy Division Welsh Government, Crown Buildings, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ</p> <p>email: RLGProgramme@wales.gsi.gov.uk</p>
Data protection	<p>telephone: 03000 256913</p> <p>How the views and information you give us will be used</p> <p>Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other</p>

Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.

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Foreword

With the relevant provisions of the Wales Act on electoral and registration matters due to come into effect next year, the Welsh Government and the Assembly has a new opportunity seriously to review how democracy functions here, how people become eligible to vote, how they exercise their right to vote and how elections are organised.

In our local elections last month, with a few exceptions, for the mass of people the experience of voting was the same as that of their grandparents would have had: walking to the local polling station and filling out a ballot paper with a pencil tied on a string. I enjoy that experience, as do many others, but it can also be viewed as anachronistic and nothing like other comparable procedures people experience in their everyday lives.

Although this consultation paper deals primarily with the arrangements for registration and voting and how we might change them, the Welsh Government will, separately, be continuing its efforts to raise interest in democratic participation, with the aim of reducing the number of uncontested seats and increasing the turnout in elections.

In line with this, I want to explore ways in which we can allow more people to participate in elections by extending the franchise to young people, by making registration easier and more automatic, by making it easier to vote using different methods and making sure people are well informed about who is standing for election.

I am well aware of concerns about security and electoral fraud. These are important considerations, but ways of addressing them must be found which do not compromise the basic democratic right of citizens to participate in elections.

I hope you will respond to this consultation. This is a genuine exercise in finding out what is possible, practical and desirable before we move towards any legislative change. My hope is that the next 12 weeks will add new ideas and fresh possibilities, as well as responding to the ones set out here. In that way, by the time 16 year olds get to cast their vote in the next local elections, it will be easy for them to register, easy for them to vote and as a result, will be encouraged to do so in large numbers.

Mark Drakeford,
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Participation in elections is essential if we are to have a healthy democratic system. This cannot be achieved solely, or even mainly, by legislative means but requires people to be inspired sufficiently to engage. Welsh Government, local government, political parties and other stakeholders, all have a role to play in addressing the low levels of turnout and the scale of uncontested seats at local elections, which we witnessed in the May elections. This paper, however, deals primarily with the way in which people register to vote and cast their vote.
- 1.2. The Wales Act 2017 received Royal Assent on 31 January this year and contains provisions (section 5 *et seq*) which have the effect of transferring competence to the National Assembly to legislate in relation to the administration of elections to the Assembly itself and of those to local government. In addition, legislative competence for the registering of electors eligible to vote in these elections and the franchise applying to them are also devolved. An exception to this is the digital registration system operated by the UK Government.
- 1.3. Up until now, the Assembly has had very limited powers in relation to local elections or registration of electors and its powers in relation to Assembly elections have been confined to the appointment of returning officers (where constituencies crossed county boundaries) and regional returning officers, as well as the financing of these elections through providing funds to returning officers and the costs of distributing candidates' literature to Royal Mail.
- 1.4. The transfer of competence by the Wales Act, once the relevant provisions are brought into force, provides the opportunity for the Welsh Government to review the framework of legislation applying to Welsh local elections.¹ This paper concentrates on the franchise for local elections, the registration of electors, voting procedures and systems, standing as a candidate and the returning officer function. Where appropriate, the Welsh Government intends to include provisions within forthcoming local government legislation when the opportunity arises.
- 1.5. In putting forward these proposals for consultation, we recognise that any reforms brought into effect will require detailed planning and cooperation between the electoral community of returning officers, electoral administrators and the statutory bodies. The Welsh Government has enjoyed a strong working relationship with this community (who are noted for their excellent record in the successful delivery of elections and other polls in Wales) and will seek to work closely with them and other stakeholders in progressing the reform programme.

¹ The National Assembly is conducting a separate review of the size, electoral system and franchise for the Assembly and there may well be issues in this paper which could apply to both

2. Building the franchise

- **Votes for 16 and 17-year-olds**

- 2.1. The extension of the franchise to include all those aged 16 on polling day in Welsh local government elections would be the biggest change to the franchise since 1970, when 18- year-olds were able to vote for the first time. This younger cohort is already able to vote in Scottish local elections and elections to the Scottish Parliament and participated actively in the Scottish independence referendum.
- 2.2. It has been Welsh Government policy for several years to reduce the voting age to 16 and indeed the National Assembly by a clear majority voted in favour of this move in May 2013. Furthermore, the policy was included in the manifestos of the Labour Party, Plaid Cymru and the Liberal Democrats at the General Election. We should soon be in a position to implement this.
- 2.3. The case for enabling 16-year-olds to vote has been well-rehearsed. With most of the 16 and 17-year-old cohort these days being in school, it makes them far more exposed to political education of some sort than was the case in previous generations. Use of social media and electronic media sites is high amongst this age group and discussion of major political events is common.
- 2.4. Citizenship and political education are important parts of the curriculum and learners currently have the opportunity to study politics and current affairs through Personal and Social Education, Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC) and the new Welsh Baccalaureate.
- 2.5. The 'Active citizenship' theme in the existing Personal and Social Education (PSE) framework, the key document which schools and colleges should use to review and develop existing PSE provision for 7 to 19-year-olds, allows learners to develop their knowledge on politics and their rights in a democratic society which reflects the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This should mean a more politically aware section of the population.
- 2.6. The 2014 Scottish referendum – where votes at 16 were made available for the first time in the UK – gives some indication of likely rates of registration. 109,533 16 and 17 year-olds registered, estimated at 89 per cent of those eligible.
- 2.7. Turnout of 16 and 17 year-olds was estimated at 75%, compared with 54% of 18-24 year olds and 72% of 25-34 year olds, though it was lower than for the electorate as a whole (85%). This presents an argument in favour of extending the franchise, as an early experience of voting could well lead to a maintained engagement, which would hopefully lead on to a greater interest in democratic politics more generally, including standing as a candidate. The lowering of the voting age would require a drive for maximum rates of registration. This might be easier for this age group than for those a couple of years older because most of them are still at home and, as stated earlier, attending school.
- 2.8. Currently, those who are entitled to vote at Assembly elections are people who are registered and who are entitled to vote at local government elections. Extending the local government register to include 16 and 17-year-olds would, without changes to the current legislation, apply automatically to voting at

Assembly elections. It will, of course, be for the Assembly to determine, if it so wishes, to remain affixed to the local government register.

Q1 – Do you agree that the qualifying age for voting in Welsh local government elections should be lowered to 16?

- **EU Citizens and citizens of other countries**

- 2.9. At present, it is unclear how the decision to leave the European Union (EU) will affect the automatic right of EU citizens to vote in council and Assembly elections here.
- 2.10. This issue will form part of the negotiations. Both the UK Government and the other EU member-states have expressed a strong willingness to reach an agreement which protects in full the existing rights of EU citizens who already are resident in the UK and this is also the clear position of the Welsh Government.
- 2.11. The question of EU citizens who arrive in the UK after EU withdrawal from the EU is a slightly different one, even if this too could form part of the discussion about the future of the relationship between the EU and the UK. It could be argued that such citizens should be no differently treated to citizens of non-EU countries once the UK is no longer a member of the EU – although, of course, citizens of Commonwealth countries already have and would presumably retain a right to vote here.
- 2.12. Citizens of other countries who may be resident here (other than EU citizens or citizens of Commonwealth countries) have no entitlement to vote. So a citizen of, say, the United States, China or Russia cannot participate. If it were decided that an EU citizen who arrives in the UK after UK withdrawal from the UK should have voting rights, then depending on the level of ongoing integration between the UK and the EU, the differentiation between EU/Commonwealth and non-EU/Commonwealth citizens arguably becomes less defensible. There is a case to be made that if someone lives in Wales lawfully, the local and Assembly franchises should also include them.

Q2 – Should EU citizens who move to Wales once the UK has left the EU continue to acquire the right to vote?

Q3 – Should voting rights be extended to all legal residents in Wales, irrespective of their nationality or citizenry?

Q4 – EU and Commonwealth citizens can stand for election to local government in Wales, Should this continue and be extended to all nationalities made eligible to vote?

- **Prisoners - See Annex**

- 2.13. Extending the franchise to prisoners is a subject that raises a number of issues, such as where a prisoner should be deemed resident for the purposes of voting

and whether the franchise should be universally extended to the prison population or linked to specific criteria such as the length or type of sentence. Because of these complexities we are not making firm policy proposals at this stage while legal issues continue to be explored. However, we would welcome responses to the questions at the end of the annex as a test of public opinion on this subject which we would take into account when considering whether we will legislate on this subject.

3. Improving registration

- 3.1. In this section we are considering policies designed to help people to register more easily. Registering to vote does not suggest any compulsion to use that vote. However, being on the register is a necessary pre condition to voting. In this section we put forward proposals to help ensure so that all those eligible to vote have these choices.
- 3.2. Electoral registration is the act of including names on the register held by the local Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) and denotes all those entitled to vote in that area (in Wales, there is an ERO for each of the 22 counties). It is compulsory to provide the required information to register when requested to do so, subject to a fine for failure to do so.
- 3.3. The register is therefore a list of people eligible to vote. The proposals which follow are designed to maximise the number of eligible persons included on the register. They do not imply any compulsion or obligation to cast a vote. That is an individual choice.

- **Data-sharing and Automatic Registration**

- 3.4. The introduction of individual electoral registration to replace household registration has generally been welcomed, in principle, in that it cast off a system primarily based on the “head of the household” having the power to provide personal information on the persons resident at an address, possibly without their knowledge, and replaced it with one placing the responsibility to register on each individual.
- 3.5. Unfortunately, this has led to a fall in the numbers registered, particularly amongst certain groups. The inability of landlords to register their tenants has led to big drops in the numbers of students on the electoral roll and there are also problems associated with other mobile populations. So, areas with high levels of students, migrants or people with unsettled lifestyles may suffer disproportionately from reduced levels of registration.
- 3.6. The Electoral Administration Act 2013 provided UK Ministers with the power to allow pilot schemes for improving registration. These are being pursued by the UK Cabinet Office’s Modernising Electoral Registration Programme, in which the Welsh Government participates.
- 3.7. One of the innovations that the UK Government has introduced to counter this fall in registration is the concept of data-sharing. In particular, data from the Department of Work and Pensions has been used to compare with the register, enabling EROs to make enquiries as to whether any persons absent from the register were resident at the named address. EROs can include someone on the register where other data confirms their belief that someone is resident at that address. Any data sharing would be in compliance with the Data Protection Act (due to be replaced next year by the General Data Protection Regulation²) and personal information would be treated in accordance with the principles of that Act

² <http://www.eugdpr.org/>

- 3.8. There could be considerable scope for expanding this resource by making available other official sources of data, which record persons' addresses, such as those maintained by the DVLA, HMRC and other listings maintained by local authorities.
- 3.9. This could be done by providing EROs with the freedom to make their own decisions as to what alternative sources of data might be relied upon, provided, of course that the proposed data-holder has a legal basis to disclose it.
- 3.10. There could be merit in moving far closer towards a system of automatic registration.
- 3.11. This position has been proposed by Claire Bassett, chief executive to the Electoral Commission, recently, in stating:
- "We believe that more automatic registration processes would greatly improve the system, with voters being added to the register after providing their details to other government services. A key example would be the automatic registration of young people when they are issued with a National Insurance number, helping to address historic under-registration of this age group".*
- 3.12. There will be other examples where this possibility exists and EROs could be given freedom to make use of them. This suggests a widening of the power of EROs to gather data for the register in a more flexible fashion than has been allowed for in recent regulations. The Representation of the People (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 includes provisions which allow EROs to exercise their discretion as to the issuing of Household Enquiry Forms and to use electronic means to send out invitations and reminders to register.
- 3.13. We could seek to move to a situation whereby, routinely, electors would only need to check they were registered rather than having to apply for registration. If individuals are added to the register without their initial knowledge, it should be remembered that registration is compulsory, and that being on the register only provides the right to vote – it does not require the right to be exercised.

Q5 – Should Electoral Registration Officers have a greater range of sources available to them to assist citizens to be added to the register?

Q6 – Which data sources do you think should be used by Electoral Registration Officers?

- **Enabling a wider range of Council Officers to assist people to register**

- 3.14. The more sources which are used to compile the register, of course, the more necessary it is for the available software to be formatted to identify and discard duplicate entries. There could be distinct advantages in allowing access to the register to a wider range of council staff, so enabling, for instance, the possibility of registering at a local library or leisure centre. When members of the public

contact their council for whatever reason, including, for instance, enquiries about council tax, there could be an automatic check against the register.

- 3.15. There would inevitably need to be a system by which the ERO or their staff were automatically informed when an amendment were made to the register by other council staff but this should not be an insurmountable problem, particularly as we move towards electronic registers. It could become a routine exercise as people make use of council services.

Q7 – Should a wider range of local authority staff be empowered to assist citizens to obtain registration through access to the local government register and have the ability to amend it?

Q8 – What controls should be put in place to ensure the Electoral Registration Officer maintains overall control of the register?

- **Relaxing rules on individual registration**

- 3.16. There may be a case for relaxing the rules on individual registration, so that a household form is permissible in certain circumstances but allowing for each individual to “sign”, either in paper format or through using some identifier provided to them. This would mean each individual would still need to indicate their participation in the process but a single form could be accepted by the ERO.
- 3.17. This could have positive advantages where a number of people reside in accommodation with a single landlord, such as a university residence or care home.

Q9 – Should the individual registration rules be relaxed to allow for block registrations in certain circumstances, protecting the right to vote for populations otherwise at risk of exclusion?

- **Targeted registration campaigns**

- 3.18. EROs are already able to conduct targeted registration campaigns but it may be possible to broaden these, aiming, for instance, at school students, the unemployed, council tenants, older persons in care – any category where it is possible to reach known individuals.
- 3.19. Welsh Government officials liaise closely with the UK Cabinet Office’s Modernising Electoral Registration Programme and the pilot exercises being promoted by this and we are supportive of its goals. These pilots allow EROs to be imaginative about how they conduct their annual canvass of households, in order to use their resources most effectively.
- 3.20. Targeted campaigns have also taken place in some areas aimed at working with universities, housing associations and other third parties to try and reach those least likely to register otherwise. There is a case for allowing EROs discretion as to how they conduct their canvassing exercises so as to maximise registration.

The Behavioural Insights Team (a social purpose company dedicated to the application of behavioural sciences) worked recently with two Welsh local authorities on registering students and their work could help to inform the design of literature aimed at this group.

Q10 – Should we place a duty on Electoral Registration Officers to consider whether any individual groups within their electoral area should be specifically targeted in registration campaigns?

- **Identifying people moving into and out of an area**

- 3.21. It should be possible for mechanisms to be introduced to identify people moving into or within an area to be provided with registration forms as a matter of course. This could be coupled with them receiving notice of their responsibility to pay council tax, for instance.
- 3.22. Social services departments or health bodies could be the first to be aware of people moving into, within, or out of an area and could provide people with registration forms and inform the ERO of the move. Universities should be aware of students changing address and similarly could have a link to the registration process. Housing associations, care homes and even estate agents could be included in this process.

Q11 – Should we introduce arrangements so that agencies who are aware of people moving have a duty to inform the Electoral Registration Officers?

- **Developing an all-Wales electronic register**

- 3.23. Despite the inclusion of provisions in the Electoral Administration Act 2006 for the development of a Co-ordinated On-Line Record of Electors (CORE), no such scheme has been established. Wales, with its 22 EROs, would appear to be ideal for the development of a single electronic register, which might facilitate some of the reforms proposed in this consultation and we would seek to work with the Electoral Commission and other stakeholders on its development.
- 3.24. For some of the proposals in the next section to work effectively, an electronic register would be a positive advantage. The CORE project was seen as essential in enabling multi-channel e-enabled elections and this could be our aim for Wales.
- 3.25. An all-Wales register would mean the use of common software on which to carry the register. Should electronic / remote voting be introduced it should be formatted so that the vote is recorded against the register whenever it was cast and from what location.

Q12 – What are your views on the development of a single electronic register for Wales?

4. The voting system

- **Offering a choice: First Past the Post or Single Transferable Vote**

- 4.1. The Local Government White Paper (Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed) contained the proposal to allow individual local authorities to decide on their preference to stay with the first-past-the-post (FPTP) system or to move to election through a Single Transferable Vote system. Such a move would require a fresh electoral review of the council area to enable multi-member wards. The proposal would prevent a council, having changed to a different electoral system, from moving back until at least two elections had passed.
- 4.2. FPTP has been the only electoral system used to elect local councils in Wales since the introduction of elected local government in the late 19th century. It is also the system used to elect MPs, constituency AMs and community councillors in Wales. Accordingly, it is the electoral system with which Welsh voters are most familiar. Nevertheless, voters appeared to cope adequately with the elections for regional members of the Assembly, the European Parliament and Police and Crime Commissioners which all use different methods of proportional representation.
- 4.3. Supporters of FPTP take the view that the voting and counting procedures are simple, familiar and relatively cheap and there is a straightforward relationship between where a candidate finishes in the tally of votes and whether or not they are elected.
- 4.4. The Single Transferable Vote (STV) is a preferential electoral system, which means voters are asked to rank the available candidates in order of preference. Voters may choose to rank all the available candidates or only as many as they wish, which may be as few as just one.
- 4.5. STV is considered to be a system of “proportional representation”. It usually produces election results which generally reflect the proportions of votes cast for the different political parties, groups and independents in an individual electoral area and across the election as a whole.
- 4.6. Each election of a principal council is a separate election. It is appropriate that the council should decide on its electoral method just as the Assembly will be able to decide on its preferred option, albeit by a two-thirds majority. We propose that each authority should be allowed to decide for itself on the electoral system they prefer. We do not propose to introduce the option of STV for elections to community councils, because a root and branch review of the sector is underway.

Q13 – Do you agree that individual principal councils should be able to choose their voting system?

Q14 – Do you agree that a constitutional change such as this should be subject to a two-thirds majority?

- **Five year terms**

4.7. It is the intention of Welsh Government to introduce statutory five year terms for local government, replacing the existing arrangements for four year terms. This would be in keeping with the five year terms for the UK Parliament (as set in the Fixed Term Parliaments Act 2011) and for the Assembly in the Wales Act. This would mean that the next ordinary date of elections to local government would be in May 2022.

Q15 – Do you agree that the term of local government in Wales should be set at five years?

5. The voting process

[NOTE: Any reforms to voting methods proposed below could apply to elections, including by elections, to community councils as well as to those to principal councils]

- 5.1. For most people, the experience of voting has not changed significantly during their lifetimes. It is true that a higher proportion than ever now vote by post since absent voting rules were changed in the Representation of the People Act 2000 to provide it as an option on demand but it is still a minority activity.
- 5.2. The general experience is of attending the polling station allocated to your area, informing the presiding officer of your identity, receiving a ballot paper, taking it to a booth, completing it with the pencil provided and placing it in the ballot box provided.
- 5.3. This remains the case despite the fact that most people's experience of "voting" for other things would involve use of some type of computer screen, mobile or land phone or TV remote control. In many cases, such as elections or ballots within trade unions or other societies, the voting systems are designed to be secure, with individual codes of some sort to try and ensure that the correct person is voting – and doing so only once.
- 5.4. Despite the testing of various pilots at local and regional elections in the early 2000s, the traditional system remains in place. The question this raises is whether, as the electoral voting system diverges increasingly from how people otherwise live their lives, its relative monopoly will come to be seen as an anachronistic relic. Having said that, of course, there is plenty of evidence to show that when people really think voting is important, they turn up at old-fashioned polling stations in numbers. That does not mean, though, that even more would not participate if there were alternative voting methods available. This could be particularly the case in relation to young people, for whom the polling station process will be increasingly divorced from their normal experience of completing forms and providing personal details on line for almost all official communications.
- 5.5. In saying this, we have to attend to one of the main reasons why change has not been pursued. Issues around security and fraud have been associated with postal voting in particular and are feared in relation to any form of remote voting. In introducing any of the proposed reforms to the method of voting below, ROs would need to be vigilant and continue the scrutiny of the process as they do now to spot any irregularities. We do not wish to be resistant to reform, however, due to concerns over scrutiny when there have been no significant cases of electoral fraud in Wales in recent times.
- 5.6. There is now the opportunity to consider reforms to voting methods which could be piloted at council by-elections, or at the ordinary council elections in 2022, or even introduced across Wales in 2022. We would retain existing provisions in UK legislation requiring the Electoral Commission to evaluate any electoral pilot and we would seek to work with the Electoral Commission – and other stakeholders - on the development of any new methodology.

Q16 – Do you agree in principle with the desirability of reforming the voting system to encourage greater participation?

Q17 – Are there other initiatives not covered which might be taken to enable greater participation in elections in Wales?

- **All-postal voting**

- 5.7. This would involve all electors in the relevant area receiving a ballot paper by post at the normal time for issuing postal votes. It would not appear conceivable that this could operate successfully without removing the need for the personal identifiers required to support a postal vote application as requiring the application process would both be administratively problematic and also inevitably lead to a declining number of electors. The personal statement element, confirming that the vote was cast by the intended person, should remain, however, as providing at least a self-administered honesty check.
- 5.8. Of course, it would not be practicable to operate this system if the local elections were held at the same time as another poll for which normal rules applied to postal voting. Requiring personal identifiers for one form of postal vote but not another – particularly if there were multiple voters in one household – would make the process difficult to follow and open to criticism.
- 5.9. Previous pilots in the early 2000s indicated that all-postal voting led to an increased turnout (although in Wales the pilot was only at a single community council by-election). This has a logic to it. If you receive a ballot paper with instructions and a pre-paid reply envelope, there is a stronger chance that you will respond than being required to attend a polling station on a set day between certain hours. The expense of conducting an exercise by post, including use of pre-paid reply envelopes, would need to be balanced against the savings made by the removal of the need to operate polling stations.
- 5.10. In May 2003, 35 local authorities in England piloted all-postal voting. The outcome of those pilots was a recommendation from the Electoral Commission that all-postal voting should be adopted as the normal method of voting at local elections in the UK. This reflected the positive impact on voter turnout at these elections (in some places, turnout doubled) and the fact that there was no evidence at that time of an increase in fraud.
- 5.11. The local elections scheduled for May 2004 were postponed to June and combined with the European Parliament elections. The UK government used this opportunity to trial all-postal voting in these elections across four regions and the pilots did show a significant increase in turnout in those areas.
- 5.12. The Electoral Commission report into these elections drew back from their earlier recommendation because its research showed that a large minority of people wished to retain the option of voting at polling stations. Thus, the Commission recommended that a new model of multiple voting methods should be developed, including postal voting, rather than proceeding with elections run entirely by all-postal voting.

5.13. We recognise also the Electoral Commission's concerns about potential abuses of postal voting and would support their calls for it to be made an offence for anyone other than the voter concerned to interfere in the postal voting process.

Q18 – Should councils be able to choose to use all-postal voting at council elections?

Q19 – Should it be subject to pilot exercises first?

Q20 – Should councils be able to operate all-postal voting in an individual ward or a number of wards within a council area?

- **Electronic voting**

5.14. This implies the installation of equipment at polling stations (and possibly other locations) to enable touch-screen voting. Polling would still be subject to a form of limited supervision. It would be important to ensure that officers presiding at the polling places could not see how people were voting but they would also need to ensure that voters did not receive unauthorised assistance or guidance as to how to cast their vote.

5.15. Electronic voting is already used widely internationally, particularly in India but also in Belgium and Estonia amongst others.

5.16. Technology could probably provide that the touch-screen capacity could be made available in places other than normal polling stations but there would still need to be trained staff present to oversee and help. Also, there would need to be a way that the register was marked to indicate who had voted.

5.17. There are clear cost implications for this. Whether or not dedicated hardware would be required, the returning officer would need to be certain that they had sufficient working equipment available on polling day.

5.18. There are potentially considerable cost savings on the counting of votes, the hiring of counting premises and time. After close of voting, there would need to be a set location where the results of poll were displayed, showing the number of votes cast and how they were shared between the different candidates.

5.19. There would need to be measures to prevent voting patterns being viewed ahead of counting time to prevent this information assisting candidates or their campaigners. Similarly, there would need to be secure procedures in place to ensure the security of data being transmitted from the polling places to the central count operations. The challenging of votes could become less likely. Systems might be configured so that an error in completion of the ballot form could lead to the vote being rejected and voters being allowed another attempt.

Q21 – Should electronic voting be enabled at local elections?

- **Remote voting**

- 5.20. This refers to a process of voting through access of the internet by an electronic device, using an individual recognition code. The use of codes of different sorts to ensure that only the intended person is accessing a system is now commonly used for purchasing, banking, voting in elections within political parties, trade unions and other organisations. Registration to vote is now routinely performed on line, as is registering/taxing a motor vehicle and accessing a multitude of other public services or transactions.
- 5.21. Remote voting was piloted in local elections at South Buckinghamshire in May 2007. Although only a minority made use of the facility, 10 years later the option is likely to be more popular. There were no particular technical difficulties but the Electoral Commission called for the pilots to be suspended – along with all others – until the system was generally more secure. There is a risk that, with registering being done remotely, fictitious voters could be created and that voting might not take place in secure environments. In addition, realistic concerns exist about cyber security, and any system needs to be as secure as possible from the dangers of hacking and manipulating votes. This must be weighed against this method becoming more and more commonplace in relation to other types of voting or completion of official forms and having likely efficiency savings. There are remote voting procedures operating in at least one European country allowing the casting of a vote more than once by the same person, with only the final vote cast before close of poll counting. This is to provide for the possibility that an elector may be subject to intimidation when voting but would take a later opportunity to vote in private.
- 5.22. There would need to be a window during which time voting could take place; counting would need to be performed at a set time and be open to scrutiny and arrangements might be needed for people who found it difficult or did not wish to cast their votes this way .
- 5.23. Both electronic and remote voting could include methodologies which make mistakes less likely and increase the possibility of dealing with multiple polls on the same day by assisting voters through the process.

Q22 – Should remote voting be enabled at local elections?

- **Electronic counting**

- 5.24. Electronic counting is not necessarily linked to electronic voting and is now, for instance, the accepted method of counting votes cast in Scottish local elections. Its use is particularly justified by the decision of the Scottish Parliament to elect councils by the single transferable vote system, which throws up a more complex counting process than in traditional first-past-the-post elections (see above).
- 5.25. It is not always the case, however, that use of the STV electoral process is linked to electronic counting. STV votes are counted manually in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. It absorbs more time and resource but is believed to have

a greater degree of transparency.

- 5.26. Electronic counting is an expensive option. The Scottish Government has reportedly paid £6.5million for the contract for the counting machines to be used this year. It would be much less, of course, for an individual Welsh authority but could still be a six-figure sum. It is, however, an area in which we could anticipate greater adaptability of equipment in the future. Authorities might prefer to purchase equipment and training for their staff rather than enter all-embracing arrangements with contractors.
- 5.27. Of course, electronic counting could also be an option on FPTP elections. It should still speed the process and have some consequential savings in time and counting staff.
- 5.28. Observing electronic counting is a less complex, and possibility less exciting prospect than traditional paper counts. The machines are quick and count less visibly, not putting votes into piles but recording the totals. They also are able to identify wrongly completed ballot papers and display them for judgement by the RO.
- 5.29. In some pilots and in the Scottish elections of 2007, there were some technical problems with the counting machines which delayed results. These appear to be largely overcome and more recent elections have taken place smoothly.

Q23 – Should electronic counting be introduced for local elections in Wales?

- **Mobile polling stations**

- 5.30. This conceives some polling stations operating like mobile libraries, visiting different parts of an area, in addition to “normal” polling stations. This might be particularly useful in hard-to-reach areas, neighbourhoods with traditionally low turnouts and concentrations of elderly persons.
- 5.31. People would need to know in advance at what times the mobile station would be calling – preferably when polling cards are distributed - and there might need to be some form of broadcast message on site.
- 5.32. For this to be able to operate successfully, an electronic register system would need to be in place, ensuring that voters casting their vote in the mobile station were not able to vote again at a “normal” polling station – or vice versa. If operating an auto-update register, there would need to be a high degree of surety that reliable connections operated between the mobile polling station and the central register so that linked polling stations would see which votes had been cast. Otherwise, you would need to employ a system whereby people would have to register in advance to have a mobile vote.
- 5.33. If the same mobile polling station served more than one ward, a process would need to be in place to ensure the ballot papers from one were separated from those in another. This would be easier if electronic voting were introduced.

- 5.34. There would also need to be restrictions on campaigning close to a mobile station akin to those relating to other polling stations. The mobile stations themselves, of course, would need to be accessible to disabled people.
- 5.35. Mobile polling stations are allowed in Canada but have not been piloted in the UK.

Q24 – Should mobile polling stations be enabled at local elections?

- **Voting at places other than polling places**

- 5.36. This proposal would suggest enabling voting at places like supermarkets, local libraries, leisure centres and bus and railway stations – public places local people might visit during the course of a normal day.
- 5.37. If these were to be in addition to “normal” polling stations, so not confined to a particular polling district, again an electronic register would be required so that an elector, once having voted, had their name marked against the register to avoid the possibility of multiple voting.
- 5.38. Voting at places other than normal polling stations was piloted in the early 2000s. Although it appears not to have been problematic, most people preferred to stick with their local polling stations. Any places designated as additional to normal polling stations would need to be accessible to all and able to cater for voting in secret.

Q25 – Should we enable returning officers to make use of polling places in addition to fixed polling stations?

- **Voting on different days and on more than one day**

- 5.39. Election Day in the UK is traditionally a Thursday, possibly because of a combination of historic factors. Under the Fixed Term Parliaments Act 2011, all General Elections should take place on the first Thursday in May every five years, barring special circumstances (as we have just witnessed).
- 5.40. Most other European countries hold elections on a Sunday. In the past, objections to Sunday voting have been raised from religious quarters. These days, however, many activities take place on a Sunday – like shopping and sport – which were once not permitted or commonplace.
- 5.41. Local authorities are not bound to hold by elections on Thursdays and occasionally choose not to. Community polls, for instance, can be held on different days. Pilots in the early 2000s included voting on days in addition to Thursday and, if we move to a situation by which the register can be marked electronically to record the casting of votes, there should be a greater possibility of stretching an electoral process over a number of days. Voting on more than one day could help to overcome circumstances such as occurred in parts of London at the time of the European referendum, where flooding led to serious disruption of transport links on polling day.

- 5.42. Any requirement to staff polling days over several days, of course, would come with the commensurate costs.
- 5.43. Counting would, of course, need to be completed at one time after all votes were cast and there would be a need to keep ballot boxes secure for a longer period of time.

Q26 – Should we enable local elections to be held on more than one day and on days other than a Thursday?

- **Simpler postal voting procedures**

- 5.44. Anyone can apply for a postal vote, either for a single election on a specific date, for a specific period or permanently. You will need to provide your name, address, signature and date of birth when completing the application form.
- 5.45. When voting by post, you are required to mark your vote on your ballot paper in secret, fill in a postal voting statement (which confirms that you are the person entitled to cast the vote), put the ballot and statement in the envelope provided and seal it yourself, and then post it.
- 5.46. There may be more than one election on the same day, most commonly in the case of county and community elections, but it is usually the case that both ballot papers can be inserted in the same reply envelope.
- 5.47. Many users of postal voting are elderly or otherwise infirm. For many people in these circumstances, official forms can be irksome and they may need help to deal with them, which partly defeats the object. But it is also the case that individuals without any particular vulnerabilities who have chosen to vote by post find the instructions difficult to follow and, in some cases, the sealing process less than straightforward.
- 5.48. There may well be a case for examining whether the postal vote material can be made simpler to understand and complete. There are certainly organisations who would volunteer their services to address this.

Q27 – Should consideration be given to simplifying postal voting procedures and literature?

Q28 - How do you think the process could be simplified?

- **Presenting ID at a polling station**

- 5.49. In August 2016, the UK Government published a review of electoral fraud carried out by Sir Eric Pickles (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/securing-the-ballot-review-into-electoral-fraud>). Although it contains many proposals, the most publicised has been the proposal that voters should be required to present some form of personal identity document when attending a polling station before they could receive their ballot paper. Acceptable ID might be a passport, driving licence or utility bill. This is not that unusual. In some cases, such documents

need to be produced before being allowed entry to a council recycling centre to prove your local residence.

5.50. However, the introduction of such a requirement is not one which would lead to a higher turnout. It is more likely to result in people being turned away who then don't bother to return. As such, it puts the interest of security of the vote above that of accessibility.

5.51. Wales has, fortunately, been relatively free of any allegations of significant electoral fraud in recent years, in contrast to certain inner city areas in England. The case, therefore, for the introduction of ID at Welsh polling stations is therefore harder to justify.

Q29 – Should electors attending a polling station be required to produce ID before they are allowed to vote? If so, what types of identification should be accepted?

Q30 – Do the advantages of requiring ID outweigh the risk of deterring voters?

6. Standing for election

- **Removing need to publish candidate's postal address**

- 6.1. We need to be mindful of recent, though thankfully rare, occasions where politicians' accessibility has been abused, resulting in them being attacked, in one case fatally. It may be that there is no longer a necessity for the returning officer to publish the candidate's home address on election literature. The RO would, of course, need to be satisfied that the candidate at a local election was qualified to stand but if there remains a need to publish contact details, possibly an e-mail or social media address could replace their physical location. There is no intention in this proposal to prevent a candidate from showing their connection to a locality.

Q31 – Do you agree that it should no longer be necessary to publish a candidate's home address in election literature, including anything published electronically?

- **On-line publication of candidate's statement**

- 6.2. On the other hand, there could be more information available to the public about the candidates' beliefs or policies, using on-line facilities. Each candidate could be required to provide a statement which would be published collectively by the returning officer and could be located in one spot on the web.
- 6.3. What we are proposing is a facility provided by an RO but in which the responsibility for the content remains with the candidate. It is the candidates' responsibility to ensure that their statement complies with the law. ROs may refuse to publish a statement if they consider it may be in breach of legislation. This practice is already employed in New Zealand and the Netherlands.

Q32 – Do you agree that each candidate should be required to provide a personal statement for inclusion on a website provided by the authority to whom they are seeking election?

- **Prohibition of Assembly member standing as council candidate**

- 6.4. The National Assembly's Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee, in a 2014 report (<http://senedd.assembly.wales/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?lId=14799>), called for the Welsh Government to review whether it was appropriate for an Assembly Member to also serve as a county councillor. The Welsh Government's view is that this is not appropriate, given the full-time role an Assembly Member fulfils. However, it is possible that this issue will be addressed through disqualification from the Assembly, rather than through amending local government legislation. Otherwise, the disqualification rules for election to local authorities could be amended. In either case, we are proposing that a councillor should be free to stand for election to the Assembly, and that Assembly Members be able to stand for election to a council, but that, if elected, they would need to vacate the first held position within a year.

Q33 – Do you agree that it should not be permissible to serve both as an Assembly Member and councillor?

- **Requirement to declare party affiliation**

- 6.5. Welsh Government policy is also that it should not be acceptable for a person to stand for election without declaring their membership of a political party, if that is in fact the case. Consideration could be given to making that illegal at council elections, with the result declared invalid if it were proven that a candidate withheld this information. Making this an offence suggests the possibility of disqualification for a period of time.
- 6.6. Party affiliation needs to be declared on a candidate's online statement (see above) if the candidate has been a member of any political party during the twelve months up to and including the election.

Q34 – Do you agree that candidates should be required to disclose a party affiliation if they have one?

Q35 – What sort of evidence should be required to suggest there is an undisclosed party affiliation?

- **Allowing council staff to stand for their own council**

- 6.7. This matter was raised previously in the consultation paper "Power to Local People"³ and at that time the weight of opinion was against this idea but we wish to test it again in the context of limited progress on diversity illustrated at the 2017 local elections.
- 6.8. Officers and staff in Local Authorities generally have a thorough understanding of their communities and a deep commitment to improving their well-being. Many might themselves make effective elected members, but there are restrictions on some senior employees of a Local Authority standing for elections. In particular, although all Local Authority employees (including school staff) can stand for election unless they hold a politically restricted post (generally higher paid officers), none of them can stand for election to their own employing Authority. This makes sense from the point of view of them not being able to make decisions affecting their own employment conditions.
- 6.9. The Welsh Government recognises the need for checks and balances to ensure the integrity and impartiality of advice offered by officers to elected members. However, given that Local Authorities are major employers in all areas of Wales, these restrictions may be preventing a wide range of suitable candidates from diverse backgrounds from coming forward to stand for election in their local area.
- 6.10. Whilst any person who is disqualified currently from standing may resign their post to stand for election, this is a significant disincentive due to the risk it carries for the individual. There may be a case for this disqualification being reviewed. It results in thousands of individuals being unable to stand for election in their own area. Views are being sought as to whether any Local Authority officers should be entitled to stand for election to their own Authority. In Scotland they are only

³ <http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/consultation/150203-power-to-local-people-full-en.pdf>

required to resign their paid employment with the Authority once they are elected. Alternatively, there could be a period of secondment to the council, entitling the individual to return to their employed position after completing a council term, should their employing authority so decide. An alternative approach is that the code of conduct regime could ensure that an interest is declared on any matter in which the member has a pecuniary or other interest. This would widen the pool of potential candidates while ensuring there is no conflict of interest once the candidate is elected

- 6.11. In terms of politically restricted posts – those post-holders in local authorities who cannot participate in political matters – this is in keeping with the traditional view that those officers who advise a local authority from a senior position should be politically neutral. Current arrangements require that, in addition to chief officers, each council should keep a list of officers other than these who advise or act on behalf of the council on a regular basis. Anyone on this list has to apply to an Independent Adjudicator appointed by Welsh Ministers before they can be freed to participate. Any applications for permission are extremely rare. There have been none since the 2010s. Views are being sought as to whether the need for such a list – and therefore the adjudicator position – is still justified.

Q36 – Should any council staff below senior level be able to stand for election to their own authority?

Q37 – Is there still justification for councils to keep a list of those other than senior officers who should be politically restricted?

7. Returning officers

- **Ending right to personal fee for returning officer**

- 7.1. Existing legislation enables ROs to reclaim an amount for their services and expenses incurred in the running of an election from the body responsible for the funding of the elections. For Welsh elections, this means the Welsh Government for Assembly elections and individual local authorities for county and community elections.
- 7.2. ROs have an independent position, governed by statute. ROs, when performing their functions, are treated as distinct from what might be their everyday job, and have the responsibility to ensure the proper administration of the election from start to finish. This implies a greater element of risk than might apply in their normal employment, although there are indemnities and insurances normally in place partly to balance this.
- 7.3. For Welsh elections, the RO must be an ERO of a principal council. Each council must appoint one of its officers as the ERO and this is usually, though not always, its chief executive. The chief executive is therefore usually also the RO.
- 7.4. An option under consideration is that the function of ERO/RO becomes an automatic function of the proposed statutory chief executive (included within the Draft Local Government Bill of 2016).
- 7.5. Within the expenses that an RO can claim from the funding body has traditionally been an element representing a personal fee. This recognises that the role is additional to – or separate from – their normal job. In recent years, however, there has been significant public attention brought to the level of salaries payable to senior public servants at a time of general restraint and limitations over pay more generally and of lower level public servants in particular. This has included the issue of RO fees, which, in some cases, are claimed in multiples. (This is the case in Assembly elections, for instance, if an RO covers more than one constituency and/or is appointed as Regional RO for the purpose of the election of Regional Assembly Members).
- 7.6. We are considering legislating to prevent ROs recovering a personal fee from their own authority and to replicate this policy in relation to the fees and charges payable at Assembly elections.
- 7.7. Local authorities will be able, if they wish, to consider whether to recognise the compulsory RO role within the salary of the chief executive. In doing so, they will need to take into account that the RO responsibility embraces the management of Assembly and town and community council elections as well as those to their own authority. Should they wish to increase the salary for this purpose, they would need to consult the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales for a view.

Q38 – Do you agree that the statutory chief executive role should include that of returning officer?

Q39 – Do you agree that any addition to salary in recognition of returning officer duties should be a matter for the local authority to determine?

- **Simplifying fees and charges system**

- 7.8. The existing system of paying for elections to the Assembly involves the Assembly approving a fees and charges order which details the maximum amounts claimable by an RO for services and expenses at an election.
- 7.9. ROs are able to claim an advance on the expenses and there is then a complex process by which accounts are submitted and checked with calculations taking place as to whether the RO is entitled to an addition to the advance fee or is required to return any of the fee received.
- 7.10. It can take up to a year after the election for accounts to be finalised and the resource and time required to do this, at both local authority and Welsh Government level is significant. It has the advantage of accuracy. However, it would probably represent an overall saving on public funds to move to a system whereby election costs were paid on a formula basis – linked to the size of the electorates – within which ROs would need to accommodate their expenditure on the election.
- 7.11. In this situation, there would need to be arrangements in place to deal with the recovery of any surplus and the process would have to be open to audit.

Q40 – Should Welsh Government move to a system of calculating Assembly election costs on an agreed formula, based on the size of electorate?

8. Conclusion

- 8.1. Any changes which we decide to pursue will be subject to consultation with our stakeholders through the establishment of an Electoral Reform Programme Board. We will also be participating in the Wales Elections Coordination Board, established by the Electoral Commission.
- 8.2. We are aware that these proposals are not the only proposals for change which may emerge in the coming period. The UK Government's Modernising Electoral Registration Programme is ongoing and the UK Cabinet Office has recently consulted on changes to anonymous registration. The Assembly's Presiding Officer (Y Llywydd) has established an expert panel to consider, amongst other things, reform to the way the assembly is elected.
- 8.3. On top of this, the Law Commissions of England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have reviewed electoral law and report on recommended reforms. They aimed to consolidate electoral law, at the same time modernising and simplifying. We understand that their proposals are unlikely to lead to the publication of a Government Bill but may be pursued – to an extent – through secondary legislation.
- 8.4. This consultation document introduces a panoply of potential reforms to the electoral process in Wales. This is a real opportunity for a modernisation of procedures which have changed little for many, many years. We need to encourage a far greater degree of participation in political life and easing the processes leading to casting a vote could play a major role in this.
- 8.5. While we have set out many proposals within this paper it is certainly not intended that these are exhaustive. We would welcome any alternative suggestions for reform of electoral administration and democratic processes where these promote registration and participation.
- 8.6. Responses are welcomed. If you responded to the electoral section of the previous White Paper, you can refer to your previous submission without needing to duplicate it.

Please send response to RLGProgramme@wales.gsi.gov.uk by 10 October 2017.

Annex – Prisoner Voting

1. The UK Government has, despite earlier indications that it was under consideration, failed to address the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights that a blanket ban against prisoner voting contravenes Article 3 of Protocol No 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The First Minister of Scotland has, however, indicated that there will be a need for Scottish Ministers to consider their position on prisoner voting in the light of the 2016 Scotland Act.
2. The UK Government has indicated that it does not intend to bring forward legislation to respond to the European Court of Human Rights' judgment. The Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, which is responsible for enforcing judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, has twice called upon the UK to respond to the Court's judgment.
3. In 2010, Mark Harper, then UK Minister for Constitutional Reform, issued a statement saying:

“The Government will therefore bring forward legislation providing that the blanket ban in the existing law will be replaced. Offenders sentenced to a custodial sentence of four years or more will lose the right to vote in all circumstances, which reflects the Government’s clear view that more serious offenders should not retain the right to vote. Offenders sentenced to a custodial sentence of less than four years will retain the right to vote, but legislation will provide that the sentencing judge will be able to remove that right if they consider that appropriate. Four years has in the past been regarded as the distinction between short and long-term prisoners, and the Government consider that permitting prisoners sentenced to less than four years’ imprisonment to vote is sufficient to comply with the judgment.”

4. The four-year qualification proposed in 2010 would mean that in the region of 45% of prisoners would become entitled to vote and clearly those convicted of the most serious offences, would, in the main, have been given longer sentences.
5. However, the Parliamentary Joint Select Committee which considered the draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Draft Bill in 2013 recommended:
 - That all prisoners serving sentences of 12 months or less should be entitled to vote in all UK parliamentary, local and European elections;
 - That such prisoners should be registered to vote in the constituency where they were registered prior to sentencing; and that, where there is no identified prior residence, they should be able to register by means of a declaration of local connection;
 - That prisoners should be entitled to apply, 6 months before their scheduled release date, to be registered to vote in the constituency into which they are due to be released.
6. Neither of these proposals have come into effect and the Conservative government elected in 2015 made it clear that they would not be taking the matter forward. It seems unlikely in the short term that there will be any change to the current franchise in relation to prisoners, meaning that only remand prisoners are entitled to vote. (Discussions are however still underway between the UK Government and the Council of Europe.)

7. It would be possible for voting rights to be extended to the approximately 3200⁴ prisoners resident in Wales. The issue of where they would be resident for the purposes of registration would be important here. Prisoners could be deemed resident at their addresses outside prison, or they could declare a local connection to an addresses to which they had attachments, such as their parents or family addresses. The alternative approach is that of the prison address being the relevant residence, although this could cause a sudden growth, possibly unwelcome, to the nature of the electorate of the local ward. It is noted that many inmates of Welsh prisons will have their previous or attached addresses in England, where the franchise may not have been extended.
8. In a consultation of 2009, the then UK Ministry of Justice, raised the possibility of registering prisoners to vote by using a special convicted prisoners' voting registration form attested by a designated prison official. This would enable convicted prisoners to register to vote through the 'rolling registration' route, by reference to a previous residence or enabling prisoners to make a 'declaration of local connection' where there is no connection to a previous residence. The consultation also asked whether it would be preferable for prisoners to vote by post and how prisoners' details should appear on the electoral register.
9. An alternative approach for Wales could be that eligible convicted prisoners should maintain their entry on the register at the time of their conviction. The returning officer (RO) would need to arrange for them to receive a postal vote at the institution where they were resident, or a proxy vote cast on their behalf. They would remain on that register until they were released.
10. There could still be a process of registration for unregistered persons as described in the options above. Any extension of the franchise to 16 and 17 year olds would need to be addressed and there would need to be a process for registering young people below voting age who reach the qualifying voting age during their period of detention.
11. Prisoner voting is routinely permitted in Ireland, France, the Netherlands, Italy and Germany, as it is in Finland and Sweden (which also allows political parties to hold campaign meetings in prison).

Q41 – Should Welsh prisoners be allowed to register to vote and participate in Welsh local government elections? If so, should it be limited to those sentenced to less than twelve months, four years, or any sentence length?

Q42 – By what method should prisoners cast a vote?

Q43 – At what address should prisoners be registered to vote?

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/prison-population-figures-2017>

Consultation Response Form

Your name:

Organisation (if applicable):

email / telephone number:

Your address:

Q1 – Do you agree that the qualifying age for voting in Welsh local government elections should be lowered to 16?

Q2 – Should EU citizens who move to Wales once the UK has left the EU continue to acquire the right to vote?

Q3 – Should voting rights be extended to all legal residents in Wales, irrespective of their nationality or citizenry?

Q4 – EU and Commonwealth citizens can stand for election to local government in Wales, Should this continue and be extended to all nationalities made eligible to vote?

Q5 – Should Electoral Registration Officers have a greater range of sources available to them to assist citizens to be added to the register?

Q6 – Which data sources do you think should be used by Electoral Registration Officers?

Q7 – Should a wider range of local authority staff be empowered to assist citizens to obtain registration through access to the local government register and have the ability to amend it?

Q8 – What controls should be put in place to ensure the Electoral Registration Officer maintains overall control of the register?

Q9 – Should the individual registration rules be relaxed to allow for block registrations in certain circumstances, protecting the right to vote for populations otherwise at risk of exclusion?

Q10 – Should we place a duty on Electoral Registration Officers to consider whether any individual groups within their electoral area should be specifically targeted in registration campaigns?

Q11 – Should we introduce arrangements so that agencies who are aware of people moving have a duty to inform the Electoral Registration Officers?

Q12 – What are your views on the development of a single electronic register for Wales?

Q13 – Do you agree that individual principal councils should be able to choose their voting system?

Q14 – Do you agree that a constitutional change such as this should be subject to a two-thirds majority?

Q15 – Do you agree that the term of local government in Wales should be set at five years?

Q16 – Do you agree in principle with the desirability of reforming the voting system to encourage greater participation?

Q17 – Are there other initiatives not covered which might be taken to enable greater participation in elections in Wales?

Q18 – Should councils be able to choose to use all-postal voting at council elections?

Q19 – Should it be subject to pilot exercises first?

Q20 – Should councils be able to operate all-postal voting in an individual ward or a number of wards within a council area?

Q21 – Should electronic voting be enabled at local elections?

Q22 – Should remote voting be enabled at local elections?

Q23 – Should electronic counting be introduced for local elections in Wales?

Q24 – Should mobile polling stations be enabled at local elections?

Q25 – Should we enable returning officers to make use of polling places in addition to fixed polling stations?

Q26 – Should we enable local elections to be held on more than one day and on days other than a Thursday?

Q27 – Should consideration be given to simplifying postal voting procedures and literature?

Q28 - How do you think the process could be simplified?

Q29 – Should electors attending a polling station be required to produce ID before they are allowed to vote? If so, what types of identification should be accepted?

Q31 – Do the advantages of requiring ID outweigh the risk of deterring voters?

Q32 – Do you agree that it should no longer be necessary to publish a candidate's home address in election literature, including anything published electronically?

Q33 – Do you agree that each candidate should be required to provide a personal statement for inclusion on a website provided by the authority to whom they are seeking election?

Q34 – Do you agree that it should not be permissible to serve both as an Assembly Member and councillor?

Q35 – Do you agree that candidates should be required to disclose a party affiliation if they have one?

Q36 – What sort of evidence should be required to suggest there is an undisclosed party affiliation?

Q37 – Should any council staff below senior level be able to stand for election to their own authority?

Q38 – Is there still justification for councils to keep a list of those other than senior officers who should be politically restricted?

Q39 – Do you agree that the statutory chief executive role should include that of returning officer?

Q40 – Do you agree that any addition to salary in recognition of returning officer duties should be a matter for the local authority to determine?

Q41 – Should Welsh Government move to a system of calculating Assembly election costs on an agreed formula, based on the size of electorate?

Q42 – Should Welsh prisoners be allowed to register to vote and participate in Welsh local government elections? If so, should it be limited to those sentenced to less than twelve months, four years, or any sentence length?

Q44 – By what method should prisoners cast a vote?

Q45 – At what address should prisoners be registered to vote?

Q44- We would like to know your views on the effects that electoral reform would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

Q45 - Please also explain how you believe the proposed options could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

Q46 - We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

Please enter here:

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here:

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Via email

CABINET

19th Sept 2017

REPORT BY: Cllr. Aled Davies
Portfolio Holder for Finance
SUBJECT: Treasury Management Review 2016/17

REPORT FOR: Approval

1. Introduction:

- 1.1 The Council's Treasury Management Policy, as per the CIPFA Code of Practice, requires an annual report on Treasury Management activity to be approved by Cabinet by 30th September each year.
- 1.2 Treasury Management in this context is defined as:
 "The management of the authority's cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks."

2. The Council's Overall Borrowing Need:

- 2.1 The Council's underlying need to borrow for capital expenditure is termed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This figure is a gauge of the Council's indebtedness. The CFR results from the capital activity of the Council and resources used to pay for the capital spend. It represents the current year's unfinanced capital expenditure and prior years' net or unfinanced capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for by revenue or other resources.
- 2.2 Part of the Council's treasury activities is to address the funding requirements for this borrowing need. Depending on the capital expenditure programme, the treasury service organises the Council's cash position to ensure that sufficient cash is available to meet the capital plans and cash flow requirements. This may be sourced through external borrowing or utilising temporary cash resources within the Council.

3. Strategy for 2016/17:

- 3.1 At the start of 2016/17 the Authority had an estimated Capital Financing Requirement of £307.3m, projected to rise by £74.5m during the course of the following four years to £379.8m. The Authority's external borrowing at 1st April 2016 stood at £226.4m. In relation to the CFR figure of £307.3m, this equated to the Authority being under borrowed by £80.9m. This compared to £77M at 1st April 2015.

- 3.2 The expectation for interest rates within the strategy for 2016/17 anticipated low but rising Bank Rate (starting in Qtr 1 of 2017) and gradual rises in medium and longer term fixed borrowing rates during 2016/17. Variable or short-term rates were expected to be the cheaper form of borrowing over the period. Continued economic uncertainty promoted a cautious approach whereby investments would continue to be denominated by low counterparty risk considerations, resulting in relatively low returns compared to borrowing rates.
In this scenario, the treasury strategy was to postpone borrowing to avoid the cost of holding higher levels of investments and to reduce counterparty risk.
The actual movement in gilt yields meant that there was major volatility in PWLB rates with rates falling during quarters 1 and 2 to reach historically low levels in July and August, before rising significantly during quarter 3 and then partially easing towards the end of the year.
- 3.3 The Capital Programme for 2016/17 incorporated £12.3m of prudential borrowing at start of year so there was the possibility the Authority may need to externally borrow during the year. The agreed strategy for this at the start of the year, based on interest rate forecasts and discussions with Capita (the Authority's advisors), was to set a benchmark of 1.90% for 5 year borrowing, 2.40% for 10 year borrowing, 3.20% for 25 year borrowing and 3.00% for 50 year borrowing. This was revised several times during the year before ending at 1.60% for 5 year borrowing, 2.30% for 10 year borrowing, 2.90% for 25 year borrowing and 2.70% for 50 year borrowing.
- 3.4 In light of the continuing stress on the world banking system, enhanced priority was given to the security and liquidity of investments.

The strategy for investments therefore was:

- a) to ensure the security of the Authority's funds
- b) to ensure the Authority had sufficient liquidity to meet its cashflow requirements
- c) to achieve the optimum yield after ensuring a) and b) above.

4. Treasury Position:

- 4.1 The major issue for Treasury Management in 2016-17, alongside reducing cash balances, was the continuing challenging environment of previous years i.e. low investment returns and continuing counterparty risk which meant giving heightened preference to security and liquidity of investments. This resulted in the investment portfolio being in investment instruments with lower rates of return but higher security and liquidity.
- 4.2 In order to balance the impact of the loss in investment income the Authority was mindful of the possibility of making premature repayments of debt if circumstances were conducive to this.

Net borrowing increased by £1.352M in the year. This increase arose as follows:

	£000s
Decrease in PWLB debt	(18)
Increase/Decrease in LOBO debt	Nil
Increase/Decrease in Market debt	Nil
Increase in Temporary Borrowing	24,345
Increase in Investments	(22,975)
	1,352

4.3 The table below summarises the borrowing and investment transactions during the year:

	Balance 01-04-16	Borrowing	Investments	Repayments	Balance 31-03-17
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
PWLB *	181,396	Nil	N/A	(18)	181,378
LOBOs *	40,000	Nil	N/A	Nil	40,000
Market Loans	5,000	Nil	N/A	Nil	5,000
Temporary Borrowing	655	25,000	N/A	(655)	25,000
Total	227,051	25,000	N/A	(673)	251,378
Temporary Investments	(8,450)	N/A	(268,630)	245,655	(31,425)
Long Term Investments	Nil	N/A	Nil	Nil	Nil
Net Borrowing	218,601	25,000	(268,630)	244,982	219,953

Note: * Public Works Loan Board / Lender's Option Borrower's Option

4.4 A summary of the economy for 2016/17 is at Appendix A.

5. Icelandic Banks:

5.1 Glitnir Bank HF:

The winding up board of Glitnir made a distribution to creditors in a variety of currencies in March 2012. An element of the distribution was in Icelandic Kroner (ISK) which was placed in an escrow account in Iceland. This was earning interest of 4.22% at 31/03/16. On 16th June 2016 the Authority took part in the final Icelandic Central Bank currency auction as a result of which the ISK held in escrow was sold at the best price available. Settlement was made in Euros (€475k) to a Euro bank account held by the Authority in the UK. This gave the Authority control over the timing of the currency exchange. A decision was made on 2nd September 2016 to convert the Euros to GBP (£399k). As such, the Glitnir situation was concluded.

6. Debt Rescheduling/Repayment:

- 6.1 No rescheduling was done during the year as the average 1% differential between PWLB new borrowing rates and premature repayment rates made rescheduling unviable.

7. Performance Measurement:

- 7.1 Whilst investment performance criteria have been well developed and universally accepted, debt performance indicators continue to be a more problematic area with the traditional average portfolio rate of interest acting as the main guide. In this context, the overall average rate of interest paid on all debt in 2016/17 was 4.10%. This compared with 4.46% in 2015/16.
- 7.2 The Treasury Management Policy stipulates that the Average Rate on External Investments should be compared with the 3-month un compounded LIBID rate. This is in preference to the 7-day un compounded LIBID rate and is in line with Capita's advice. It reflects a more realistic neutral investment position for core investments with a medium-term horizon and a rate which is more stable with less fluctuations caused by market liquidity. Historically, the 3-month rate has been slightly higher than the 7-day rate and is, therefore, more challenging for the cash manager.
- 7.3 In 2016/17 the average rate on external investments achieved was 0.59% (0.63% in 2015/16) compared with the 3 month un compounded LIBID rate of 0.322%.

8. Summary Statement of Accounts

- 8.1 The Treasury Management Policy Statement stipulates that a summary Statement of Accounts for Treasury Management be produced at the year end and reported as part of the annual review (see Appendix B).

9. Prudential/Treasury Indicators

- 9.1 During the year the Authority operated the treasury limits as approved by Council.

10. Member Training

- 10.1 The CIPFA Code of Practice states that members charged with governance (all members as the annual strategy requires approval by Full Council) have a personal responsibility to ensure that they have the appropriate skills and training for their role. As such, the Authority provided one members' briefing session for treasury management in 2016/17.

11. Treasury Management Policy Statement

- 11.1 Any major changes to the Treasury Management Policy Statement are reported to Cabinet whilst any minor changes are circulated to members via the members' portal.

The Statement is available on the Intranet at:

<http://intranet.powys.gov.uk/index.php?id=4585>

Proposal

It is proposed that the Treasury Management Review Report is approved.

Statutory Officers

Chief Finance Officer's comment:

The Strategic Director Resources (S151 Officer) notes the report's contents and that by receiving the report before 30th September the Cabinet has met the Council's responsibility under the code of practice.

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) has made the following comment: "I have nothing to add to the report".

Future Status of the Report

Not applicable

Recommendation:		Reason for Recommendation:	
The contents of this report are approved.		Statutory requirement	
Person(s) To Action Decision			
Date By When Decision To Be Actioned:			
Relevant Policy (ies):	Financial Regulations, Treasury Management Policy		
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	N/A
Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
Ann Owen	826327	826290	ann.owen@powys.gov.uk

Background Papers used to prepare Report:

Treasury Management Policy Statement
CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes
Advisor's Papers

Appendix A:

The two major landmark events that had a significant influence on financial markets in the 2016-17 financial year were the UK EU referendum on 23rd June and the election of President Trump in the USA on 9th November. The first event had an immediate impact in terms of market expectations of when the first increase in Bank Rate would happen, pushing it back from quarter 3 2018 to quarter 4 2019. At its 4th August meeting, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) cut Bank Rate from 0.5% to 0.25% and the Bank of England's Inflation Report produced forecasts warning of a major shock to economic activity in the UK, which would cause economic growth to fall almost to zero in the second half of 2016. The MPC also warned that it would be considering cutting Bank Rate again towards the end of 2016 in order to support growth. In addition, it restarted quantitative easing with purchases of £60bn of gilts and £10bn of corporate bonds, and also introduced the Term Funding Scheme whereby potentially £100bn of cheap financing was made available to banks.

In the second half of 2016, the UK economy confounded the Bank's pessimistic forecasts of August. After a disappointing quarter 1 of only +0.2% GDP growth, the three subsequent quarters of 2016 came in at +0.6%, +0.5% and +0.7% to produce an annual growth for 2016 overall, compared to 2015, of no less than 1.8%, which was very nearly the fastest rate of growth of any of the G7 countries. Needless to say, this meant that the MPC did not cut Bank Rate again after August but, since then, inflation has risen rapidly due to the effects of the sharp devaluation of sterling after the referendum. By the end of March 2017, sterling was 17% down against the dollar but had not fallen as far against the euro. In February 2017, the latest CPI inflation figure had risen to 2.3%, above the MPC's inflation target of 2%. However, the MPC's view was that it would look through near term supply side driven inflation, (i.e. not raise Bank Rate), caused by sterling's devaluation, despite forecasting that inflation would reach nearly 3% during 2017 and 2018. This outlook, however, is dependent on domestically generated inflation, (i.e. wage inflation), continuing to remain subdued despite the fact that unemployment is at historically very low levels and is on a downward trend. Market expectations for the first increase in Bank Rate moved forward to quarter 3 2018 by the end of March 2017 in response to increasing concerns around inflation.

USA. Quarterly growth in the US was very volatile during 2016 but a strong performance since mid-2016, and strongly rising inflation, prompted the Fed into raising rates in December 2016 and March 2017. The US is the first major western country to start on a progressive upswing in rates. Overall growth in 2016 was 1.6%.

EU. The EU is furthest away from an upswing in rates; the European Central Bank (ECB) cut rates into negative territory, provided huge tranches of cheap financing and carried out major quantitative easing purchases of debt during 2016-17 in order to boost growth from consistently weak levels and to get inflation up from near zero towards its target of 2%. These purchases have resulted in depressed bond yields in the EU but, towards the end of 2016, yields rose, probably due at least in part to rising political concerns around the positive prospects for populist parties and impending general elections in 2017 in the Netherlands, France and Germany. The action taken by the ECB has resulted in economic growth improving significantly in the Eurozone to an overall figure of 1.7% for 2016, with Germany achieving a rate of 1.9% as the fastest growing G7 country.

On the other hand, President Trump's election and promise of fiscal stimulus, which are likely to increase growth and inflationary pressures in the US, have resulted in Treasury yields rising sharply since his election. Gilt yields in the UK have been caught between these two influences and the result is that the gap in yield between US treasuries and UK gilts has widened sharply during 2016/17 due to market perceptions that the UK is still likely to be two years behind the US in starting on an upswing in rates despite a track record of four years of strong growth.

Japan struggled to stimulate consistent significant growth with GDP averaging only 1.0% in 2016 with current indications pointing to a similar figure for 2017. It is also struggling to get inflation up to its target of 2%, only achieving an average of -0.1% in 2016, despite huge monetary and fiscal stimulus, though this is currently expected to increase to around 1% in 2017. It is also making little progress on fundamental reform of the economy.

China and emerging market counties. At the start of 2016, there were considerable fears that China's economic growth could be heading towards a hard landing, which could then destabilise some emerging market countries particularly exposed to a Chinese economic slowdown and / or to the effects of a major reduction in revenue from low oil prices. These fears have largely subsided and oil prices have partially recovered so, overall, world growth prospects have improved during the year.

Equity markets. The result of the referendum, and the consequent devaluation of sterling, boosted the shares of many FTSE 100 companies which had major earnings which were not denominated in Sterling. The overall trend since then has been steeply upwards and received further momentum after Donald Trump was elected President as he had promised a major fiscal stimulus to boost the US economy and growth rate.

Appendix B:

Statement of Accounts Treasury Management

		2016/17	2016/17	2015/16
		Actual	Budget	Actual
		£	£	£
Employees		160,103	165,000	160,103
Transport	*1	1,537,011	1,788,000	1,253,283
Supplies & Services		199,815	193,000	165,704
Interest Paid	*2	9,924,698	10,185,000	10,060,890
Debt Management Expenses		0	6,000	25,992
Gross Expenditure		11,821,627	12,337,000	11,665,972
Interest Received	*3	140,032	0	123,228
Gross Income		140,032	0	123,228
Net Expenditure		11,681,595	12,337,000	11,542,744

Note 1: Transport relates to the cost of leasing across the Authority and is included in the Treasury Management Statement of Accounts as leasing is classed as a Treasury Management activity.

Note 2: Supplies and Services was over the original budget due to the change in Dr/Cr card charges rules which increased card charges.

Note 3: A surplus of £140k on interest received was achieved as the Authority carried higher cash balances than expected during the year.

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

AUDIT COMMITTEE
To be emailedCABINET
19th September 2017REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Aled Davies
Portfolio Holder for Finance

SUBJECT: Treasury Management Qtr 1 Report

REPORT FOR: Information

1. Summary

1.1 CIPFA's 2009 Treasury Management Bulletin suggested:

“In order to enshrine best practice it is suggested that authorities report formally on treasury management activities at least twice a year and preferably quarterly.”

The CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management emphasises a number of key areas including the following:-

xi. Treasury management performance and policy setting should be subject to scrutiny prior to implementation.

1.2 In line with the above this report is providing information on the activities for the quarter ending 30th June 2017.

2. Economic Background and Forecasts

2.1 The economic background is attached at Appendix B.

2.2 The most recent forecast of interest rates by the Authority's advisor is as follows:

	Sep 17	Dec 17	Mar 18	Jun 18	Sep 18	Dec 18	Mar 19
Bank rate	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%
5yr PWLB	2.10%	2.20%	2.30%	2.30%	2.40%	2.40%	2.50%
10yr PWLB	2.10%	2.20%	2.30%	2.30%	2.40%	2.40%	2.50%
25yr PWLB	2.80%	2.90%	2.90%	3.00%	3.00%	3.10%	3.10%
50yr PWLB	2.60%	2.70%	2.70%	2.80%	2.80%	2.90%	2.90%

3. Treasury Management Strategy

3.1 The Treasury Management Strategy approved by Full Council on 7th March 2017 is at Appendix A.

3.2 The Authority's investment priorities within the Strategy are: -

- (a) the security of capital and
- (b) the liquidity of its investments.

3.3 The Authority aims to achieve the optimum return on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity. The risk appetite has been low in order to give priority to security of investments.

4. Current Investments

4.1 The current investment market is difficult in respect of earning the level of interest rates commonly seen in previous years as rates are very low and in line with the 0.25% Bank Rate.

4.2 The Authority's investment position as at 30th June 2017 is as shown below:-

Invested with:	Principal £000's	Interest Rate	Start Date	Maturity Date
Santander	6,160	0.25%	N/A	Deposit A/c
BOS	500	0.05%	N/A	Deposit A/c
HSBC	30	0.00%	N/A	Deposit A/c
Total	6,690			
Lloyds TSB - LAMS	1,000	3.20%	13.08.12	14.08.17

4.3 Interest rates on the deposit accounts decreased, as expected, following the bank rate cut in August 2016. With effect from April the BOS account has reduced to 0.05%. The Santander rate remains at 0.25% as a result of the original account opened with Abbey National stating that it must be at bank rate.

4.4 Higher return rates are difficult to achieve as the Authority is not in a position to invest its cash for more than a short period of time.

4.5 There have been no credit rating changes in the last few months in respect of the banks that the Authority utilises for deposits.

4.6 Local Authority Mortgage Scheme:

In August 2012, following a Cabinet report, the Authority entered the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme with an allocation to Lloyds TSB of £1M. Under the scheme this was deemed as Capital Expenditure. However, the Wales Audit Office (WAO) opinion differed from this in that they suggested it should be treated as an investment. Unfortunately, despite meetings and extensive correspondence by Capita Treasury with the Welsh Government, Welsh Local Government Association and the Wales Audit Office, agreement on the accounting treatment for Welsh authorities was not reached despite the provision of 3 separate legal opinions

supporting the Capital Expenditure position. As such, Capita said there was little further they could do in Wales. This Authority has concurred with WAO's requirement to treat this as an investment and, as such, the amount is included in the table above and is being accounted for as an investment. Council approved this investment following a retrospective report on 16th May 2013.

4.7 Redemption Penalties:

There are no current fixed investments to redeem.

4.8 Investment returns in future years:

Our advisors' current suggested earning rates for investments for budgeting purposes are as follows:-

	Suggested Rate
2017/18	0.25%
2018/19	0.25%

These are based on investments for up to three months duration.

5. Credit Rating Changes

5.1 There have been no credit rating changes relevant to this Authority's position during the last quarter.

5.2 The credit rating list for end of June is attached as a separate file to this report.

6. Borrowing / Re-scheduling

6.1 Effective management of the Authority's debt is essential to ensure that the impact of interest payable is minimised against our revenue accounts whilst maintaining prudent borrowing policies.

6.2 The Authority's Capital Position:

The Council's underlying need to borrow for capital expenditure is termed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This figure is a gauge of the Council's indebtedness. The CFR results from the capital activity of the Council and resources used to pay for the capital spend. It represents the current year's unfinanced capital expenditure and prior years' net or unfinanced capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for by revenue or other resources.

Part of the Council's treasury activities is to address the funding requirements for this borrowing need. Depending on the capital expenditure programme, the treasury service organises the Council's cash position to ensure that sufficient cash is available to meet the capital plans and cash flow requirements. This may be sourced through external borrowing or utilising temporary cash resources within the Council.

Net external borrowing (borrowings less investments) should not, except in the short term, exceed the total of CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for the current year and next two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years.

CFR Position:

	As at 31.03.17 Actual	2017/18 Original Estimate	2018/19 Original Estimate	2019/20 Original Estimate
	£M	£M	£M	£M
Capital Financing Requirement	307,524	326,461	357,224	382,433

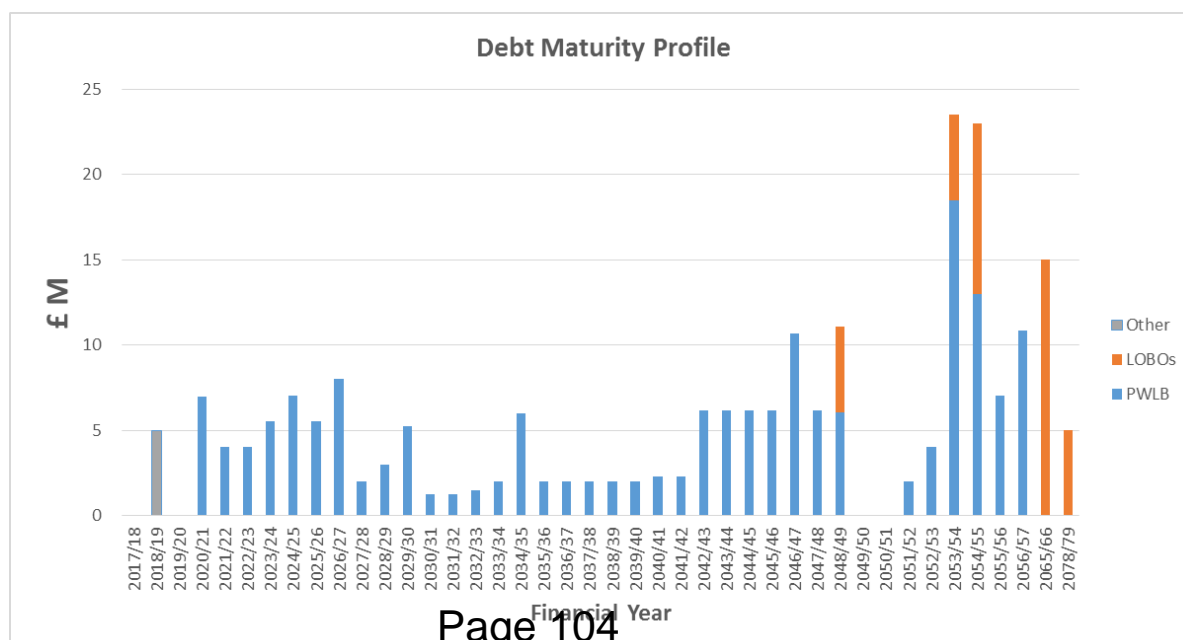
6.3 The Authority had outstanding long-term external debt of £226.4M at 31st March 2017. In relation to the CFR figure for 31st March 2017, this equated to the Authority being under borrowed by £81M. This is a prudent and cost effective approach in the current economic climate. However, internal borrowing is only a temporary situation and, based on capital estimates, it will be necessary for the Authority to borrow at stages over the next few years. As such, the Authority needs to be mindful that it may be prudent to borrow whilst interest rates are at their low levels and carry the cost of this borrowing as opposed to borrowing at a future date at increased rates.

6.4 Capital Budget/Spend per financials:

Capital:	Approved Budget £	Working Budget £	Actual Capital Spend (not including commitments) £	%age spend
	74,111,259			
June		92,745,511	8,748,957	9.43%
Sept				
Dec				
March				

The financing of the approved capital budget included £17.9M of Prudential borrowing in total.

6.5 Debt Maturity Profile as at 30.06.17:



6.6 Rescheduling:

The Public Works Loans Board released a circular regarding rates on 20th October 2010. As a result of this, rates immediately increased by 0.87-0.88 basis points across the board. The overall impact of this circular was that it is far more difficult for authorities to reschedule debt

Members are aware that officers continue to look for interest savings on a daily basis by monitoring rates that may mean the Authority can re-schedule some of its debt or prematurely repay debt if applicable. However, PWLB interest rates have not been conducive towards rescheduling.

7. **Prudential Indicators**

7.1 All TM Prudential Indicators were complied with in the quarter ending 30th June 2017.

8. **VAT**

8.1 The Treasury Manager acts as the authority's VAT officer. VAT can pose a risk to the authority hence the TM has been asked to include VAT information in these quarterly reports.

8.2 The monthly VAT returns were submitted within the required deadlines during the quarter ending 30th June 2017.

8.3 Key Performance Indicators:

The VAT KPI's for 2017/18 are attached at Appendix C.

Proposal

It is proposed that the Treasury Management quarterly report is received.

Statutory Officers

The Strategic Director – Resources (s151 officer) notes the content of the report and supports the recommendation. It is important that members are kept informed about this key activity. The report notes that, given the low interest environment, we may need to reflect whether we take out borrowing. This will be kept under review and continue to be discussed with our advisor.

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) has made the following comment: "I have nothing to add to the report".

Future Status of the Report

Not applicable

Recommendation:		Reason for Recommendation:	
That the Treasury Management Quarterly Report be received		To ensure Cabinet remains informed about current Treasury Management performance	
Relevant Policy (ies):		Treasury Management Policy	
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	N/A
Person(s) To Implement Decision:		N/A	
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:		N/A	
Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
Ann Owen	01597 826327	01597 826290	ann.owen@powys.gov.uk

Background Papers used to prepare Report:

CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes
Treasury Management Policy Statement
Advisors' Information
WAG Guidance on Local Government Investments 2010
PWLB circulars

Appendix A:

Approved Treasury Management Strategy 2017/18:

7.5 “High” credit quality:

7.5.1 It is proposed that the Authority continue with the following in respect of defining a “high” credit quality. If a rating is not available from any of the rating agencies then the available ratings will be used. Members will note that this proposal excludes investments with some banks off the advisors’ suggested list:-

Long Term Ratings (in respect of long-term investments):

Permitted Fitch Ratings	Permitted Moodys Ratings	Permitted S&P Ratings
AAA	Aaa	AAA
AA+	Aa1	AA+
AA	Aa2	AA
AA-	Aa3	AA-

Short Term Ratings (in respect of short-term investments):

Permitted Fitch Ratings	Permitted Moodys Ratings	Permitted S&P Ratings
F1+	N/A	A-1+
F1	P-1	A-1

7.6 Country limits:

7.6.1 It is proposed that the Authority will use approved counterparties from the UK and approved counterparties from other countries with the following sovereign credit ratings:-

Permitted Fitch Ratings	Permitted Moodys Ratings	Permitted S&P Ratings
AAA	Aaa	AAA

Country	Maximum Investment per Country	Credit Rating/Other Assessment of Risk
AAA countries	£20M (held in call accounts)	As per rating list
UK	No Maximum Investment	As per rating list

7.7 *Group/Institutions - Counterparty Criteria/Limits:*

Specified Investments:

Institution	Maximum Investment per Group/Institution £M	Maximum Length	Credit Rating/Other Assessment of Risk
UK Banks	20 (a maximum £10M to be held in fixed term investments)	Up to 364 days	As per Capita's matrices and the Authority's definition of a high credit rating
Foreign Banks	5	Up to 364 days	As per Capita's matrices and the Authority's definition of a high credit rating
Other Local Authorities	25	Up to 364 days	N/A

Non-Specified Investments:

Institution	Maximum Investment per Group/Institution £M	Maximum Length	Credit Rating/Other Assessment of Risk
UK Banks	10 (£2M limit with any one institution)	Up to 2 years	As per Capita's matrices and the Authority's definition of a high credit rating
Lloyds Bank (as a mortgage lender in the LAMS scheme)	5	Up to 5 years	N/A
Foreign Banks	2	Up to 2 years	As per Sector's matrices and the Authority's definition of a high credit rating
Money Market Funds (max. of 5)	10	N/A	All are AAA rated plus the parents/owners must meet the Authority's short term investment criteria
Other Local Authorities	10	Up to 2 years	N/A
European Investment Bank Bonds	3	2-3 years	N/A

Note: Limits for Specified and Non-Specified are combined limits. The maximum limit will also apply to a banking group as a whole.

Appendix B

Economic Background

Throughout the year, Brexit has been ever present in economic discussions and June was no different as economic stability appeared more uncertain.

The first economic releases of June were of sombre viewing as the UK Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) survey figures were released. While still in expansion territory, manufacturing activity fell to a 3 month low of 54.3 from a downwardly revised 56.3. This drop in activity was a result of poor Q1 GDP growth and a sharp increase in inflation. Export orders also rose at their slowest pace for five months as the UK struggled to benefit from the weaker sterling, as some hoped they would. The Construction PMI also signified a slowing of activity as it fell to 54.8 in June from the 18 month high of 56 in May. Again, the survey results were a product of political and economic uncertainty. The slowing of activity was also reflected in the Services sector which saw its PMI fall to 53.4 from 53.8 in June, a four month low. As a result of these individual declines, the composite PMI reading has almost fallen to its 2011 lows. Growth in export orders also hit a nine month low as the economy started to see the effects of Brexit. Other data showed that industrial production fell by 0.2% on an annual basis in May, an improvement from its 0.8% fall in April. Manufacturing rose by 0.4% on the year. In all, these figures gave the economy an uncertain outlook as the quarter came to a close.

June employment figures painted a positive picture as unemployment fell to a 42 year low of 4.5%. However, it was a case of all work and no pay as average weekly earnings, including bonuses, fell by 0.7% when adjusted for inflation. This left economists concerned about the potential impact on consumer confidence. The Bank of England is keeping a close eye on wage growth as they try to observe whether increased inflation is leaving a longer term impact on prices. The fall in real wages makes an interest rate rise significantly less likely as Bank of England Governor Mark Carney stated that interest rates would probably need to rise if wages were to grow more strongly.

On the prices front, there was a particularly surprising piece of news as Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) fell to 2.6% from the four year high of 2.9% in May. This was in contrast to economists' predictions of an unchanged rate. The fall in inflation was primarily a result of falling oil prices. However, inflation is expected to pick up again as a result of the falling pound causing imports to be more expensive. However, the Bank of England have stated they expect this effect to only be temporary. Retail Price Inflation (RPI) fell to 3.5% from 3.7%. The high inflation is expected to have a negative effect on consumer spending as it eats away at disposable income.

There was one cause for optimism as, after a poor start to the year, retail sales rebounded, rising 0.6% in June after a 1.1% fall in May. In the three months to June, sales rose by 1.5% offsetting the 1.4% drop in the first quarter of 2017. Thanks to the unseasonably warm weather, there was a rise in purchasing of clothes, offsetting the fall in sales of food and oil. Despite the apparent boost, some surveys noted that confidence took a slight knock as Prime Minister Theresa May lost her majority in the May election, creating fresh political uncertainty to add to that for the overall economy. Economists also predict that sluggish consumer demand is likely to slow growth, while stronger exports and investment are hoped to compensate. Despite the increase in retail sales, consumer confidence fell to -12, a twelve month low.

UK public finances were majorly hit by inflation as the deficit rose to £6.854 billion, 43% higher than at the same point the previous year. In Q1, the budget deficit also widened to

£22.8 billion, increasing 8.9% compared to the last year. Spending on debt jumped up by 33% on the previous year to £4.9 billion as a higher inflation increased the cost of index linked bonds. The budget deficit is expected to widen to 2.9% of GDP from 2.4% of GDP last year. Chancellor Phillip Hammond is still looking to balance the deficit by the middle of the next decade but remains willing to be flexible as Britain continues the process of leaving the European Union.

The last big data release of the month was the first Q2 GDP estimates. This showed that the economy grew by 0.3%, up from 0.2% during the first quarter. However, Brexit did lead to a fall in sterling, pushing up inflation which is eating away at consumers finances this year. Resultantly, the International Monetary Fund downgraded the economic outlook of Britain by more than any other G7 country, predicting growth of 1.7%, down from their previous forecast of 2.0%.

The Eurozone is carrying on a steady recovery. The unemployment rate of 9.3%, while higher than market expectations, remains unchanged and is still the lowest rate in Europe since 2009 as they slowly recover from the effects of the financial crisis. The European Central Bank (ECB) also decided to keep policy rates unchanged while carrying on their monthly €60 billion monetary stimulus until at least December. German inflation rose by 1.6%, which was stronger than expected, suggesting a brighter future only days after ECB head Mario Draghi suggested a less accommodating ECB policy in 2018.

June was a good month for the US which saw the unemployment rate come in at 4.4%. While this is a rise from the 16 year low 4.3%, this is down to more people looking for jobs. Non-farm payrolls saw accelerating growth, jumping up by 220,000. The increased labour market activity suggests confidence in the labour market. These encouraging figures could lead the US central bank to begin the process of reducing its portfolio of bonds and securities later in the year. However, markets do not expect it to increase interest rates until at least December, due to the US having low inflation at 1.6%. Growth accelerated at 2.6% in Q2 with boosts in consumers spending and firms investing. This is despite Congress being unable to make any headway on President Trump's fiscal initiatives.

Appendix C

VAT - Key Performance Indicators:

Creditor Invoices

VAT return for	No of high value Creditor invoices checked	No of Creditor invoices highlighted as requiring "proper" document for VAT recovery	%age of creditor invoices checked requiring "proper" document for VAT recovery
Apr-17	159	5	3.14%
May-17	123	9	7.32%
Jun-17	203	11	5.42%
Jul-17			
Aug-17			
Sep-17			
Oct-17			
Nov-17			
Dec-17			
Jan-18			
Feb-18			
Mar-18			

Cash Receipting Entries

VAT return for	No of cash receipting entries checked by formula per the ledger account code used	No of cash receipting entries needing follow up check	%age of cash receipting entries needing follow up check
Apr-17	3,429	11	0.37%
May-17	4,785	5	0.10%
Jun-17	4,497	9	0.20%
Jul-17			
Aug-17			
Sep-17			
Oct-17			
Nov-17			
Dec-17			
Jan-18			
Feb-18			
Mar-18			

Debtor Invoices

VAT return for	No of Debtor invoices checked (value >£5k)	No of checked debtor invoices with incorrect VAT code used	%age of debtor invoices with incorrect VAT code
Apr-17	32	8	25.00%
May-17	47	7	14.89%
Jun-17	25	2	8.00%
Jul-17			
Aug-17			
Sep-17			
Oct-17			
Nov-17			
Dec-17			
Jan-18			
Feb-18			
Mar-18			

Purchase Cards

VAT return for	No of Purchase Card transactions for previous month for which paperwork requested for checking	No of Amazon invoices included in Purchase card check	No of Purchase Card transactions for which no response received within timescale	Value of VAT potentially claimable but recharged to budget due to non-response	No of sampled Purchase Card transactions where VAT claimed incorrectly	%age of Purchase Card transactions available to be checked where VAT was claimed incorrectly	Value of VAT incorrectly claimed hence recharged to budget
Apr-17	62	18	40	£3,747.61	4	18.18%	£7.31
May-17	79	9	22	£3,330.52	3	5.26%	£266.96
Jun-17	157	114	14	£3,967.04	10	6.99%	£347.36
Jul-17							
Aug-17							
Sep-17							
Oct-17							
Nov-17							
Dec-17							
Jan-18							
Feb-18							
Mar-18							

Voluntary Declarations

Per HMRC regulations, any vat errors discovered can be adjusted in the current VAT account if they are:

- below the reporting threshold (>£10,000 or up to 1% of the VAT return Box 6 figure up to a maximum of £50,000)
- not deliberate
- for an accounting period that ended less than 4 years ago.

Any errors that do not meet these conditions have to be reported to HM Revenue and Customs and are referred to as voluntary declarations. The following have been reported and/or ongoing in 2017. No penalties have been applied by HMRC but interest has been charged.

Date of declaration	Value of voluntary declaration	Service Area	Interest charged by HMRC
01-Dec-16	£119,560.81	Leisure – BSU	To be confirmed by HMRC
11-Jan-17	£15,223.65	Fleet - Pool cars	To be confirmed by HMRC
30-Jan-17	£20,592.34	Regen – invoices to YFC's	£2,277.23

Chargebacks to service areas

As a result of the Creditor invoice checking, Treasury Management produce a monthly list of Creditor payments for which a “proper” vat document has not been received. Any VAT amounts on these invoices are held in the vat account and are not claimed until such time as a valid invoice is received. The relevant budget holder is emailed the details and asked to source a correct invoice within one month. A chargeback for Apr – July is due to take place in August.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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**Growing Mid Wales
Partnership Meeting**
The Chamber, County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, Powys
10.30 a.m. Friday, 28th July 2017
10:30am- 01:12p.m.

Attendees

- Councillor **Ellen ap Gwynn**, Leader of Ceredigion County Council (Chair)
- Councillor **Rosemarie Harries**, Leader of Powys County Council (Vice Chair)
- **Ann Elias**, Ceredigion County Council
- **Ann Watkin**, Welsh Government
- **Bronwen Morgan**, Chief Executive – Ceredigion County Council
- **Carole Weller**, Welsh Government
- **Ceri Stephens**, MWMG
- **Chris Rowland**, MDS Transmodal
- **Claire Miles**, Mid Wales Regional Engagement
- **Cllr. Alun Williams**, Ceredigion County Council
- **Cllr. Gareth Lloyd**, Ceredigion County Council
- **Cllr. Liam Fitzpatrick**, Powys County Council
- **Cllr. Myfanwy Alexander**, Powys County Council
- **Jane Lewis**, RLSP
- **John Jones**, Welsh Government
- **Matthew Williams**, FSB
- **Mike Shaw**, Ceredigion County Council
- **Paul Griffiths**, Powys County Council
- **Rhian Williams**, Gwynedd County Council
- **Rhodri Llwyd Morgan**, Aberystwyth University
- **Rob Halford**, Welsh Government
- **Russell Hughes-Pickering**, Ceredigion County Council
- **Sandra Isaac**, Coleg Ceredigion
- **Susan Bolter**, Powys County Council
- **Val Hawkins**, Mid Wales Tourism
- **Vivienne Lewis**, Welsh Government

In attendance

- **Felicity Llewellyn** – Powys County Council

1.	Introductions and Apologies	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Matthew Brown, WCVA ▪ Doug Hughes, Doug Hughes Architects ▪ Jenni Thomas, Powys County Council ▪ Joshua Miles, FSB ▪ Mared Jones, FUW ▪ Terri Thomas, Welsh Government <p>A letter was received on 27 July 2017 from Gwynedd County Council to accept the invitation to join the Partnership. Councillor Dafydd Meurig [Cabinet Member Environment] and Councillor Ioan Thomas [Cabinet Member Economy] will represent Gwynedd Council at future Growing Mid Wales Partnership meetings.</p> <p>Representatives from FSB and Mid Wales Tourism were welcomed to their first meeting.</p>	
2.	Confirm Chair and Vice Chair for the 2017 – 2018 year	
	<p>Councillor Ellen ap Gwyn, Leader of Ceredigion County Council, was elected Chair for 2017/18 at the previous meeting.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Barry Thomas for his input into Growing Mid Wales whilst 2016/17 Chair.</p> <p>Councillor Rosemarie Harris, Leader of Powys County Council, was elected Vice Chair for 2017/18.</p>	
3.	Minutes and actions from last GMW Partnership on 24th March 2017	
	<p>The Chair was authorised to approve the minutes of the 24th March 2017 on behalf of the Partnership.</p> <p>Matters Arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Item 5) JJ & CM to discuss further the possible availability of the Flexible Skills Programme in Mid Wales. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MS has had subsequent discussions with John Jones; this will be brought back to the Cross-Sector Working Group with a view to developing a specific package for the Region. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Item 6) Secretariat to re-arrange the circulation of the RLSP documents to enable comments to be submitted to the RLSP for 20th July. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is an agenda item; the agenda items have been completed. • (Item 7) Chair of the Mid Wales Regional Tourism Forum to be invited to future Partnership meetings. (Admin). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussions are taking place with Visit Wales. The matter arising is also covered under item 7. 	
4.	To Receive Presentations	
(a)	<p>Marches and Mid Wales Freight Strategy (Presentation by Chris Rowlands MDS Transmodal)</p> <p>Chris Rowlands was welcomed.</p> <p>The “Supermarket Train” concept was clarified as being a secondary distribution method, where containers are transported via railway and then transferred to trucks to deliver to supermarkets; this is currently an active method in Scotland.</p> <p>The strategy covers two different governance areas (England and Wales); how will this be used to inform other documents which are not cross-border? There are a number of connections which will need to be considered further within the strategy.</p> <p>The Marches is a crop-growing area. Could a figure be identified of the number of vehicles that are being held up by farm vehicles on the roads? Further information will be sourced, if possible.</p> <p>It was discussed that some consideration of niche Air Freight may be beneficial due to Shobdon, Welshpool, Aberporth and Llanfair small airports.</p> <p>In the South of Powys there is an existing canal network; canals are in use within England for niche freight that is not time-restricted.</p> <p>Is there scope to introduce rail freight in Mid Wales to develop out to the rest of the region and Wales? It would be beneficial to consider further. It may not be cost effective due to single track width capacity and the relatively poor loading gate.</p>	

<p>(b)</p>	<p>The link to the Ordnance Survey database is very important; some consideration could be given to including information to help reduce damage to bridges etc. by misdirected freight traffic.</p> <p>Additional passing places could be a cost-effective way of moving freight more quickly; is there any way of costing the impact per parking place per road? There are suggestions to have regular access to 'dual' stretches of roads in appropriate locations to allow vehicles to overtake agricultural vehicles.</p> <p>Communications; could courtesy road notices be used to raise awareness of giving consideration to other road users? There is a lot scope but, ultimately, there is a sanction for agricultural vehicles which do not pull in.</p> <p>Minimising the impact to residents of agricultural traffic should include full consideration for bypassing villages and communities.</p> <p>Could there be a safe through-link between Newtown and Aberystwyth, as it has been referred to as the most dangerous road in Wales? The Newtown – Welshpool – Shrewsbury route links could be improved.</p> <p>MS thanked Welsh Government for their support to the Partnership and for all of the work that has taken place. Reporting to the Marches LEP element of the strategy will commence at the beginning of September; joint arrangements will need to be considered for publicity.</p> <p>The recommendations were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Consider the report and its recommended actions and, subject to comments and discussion, agree to accept the report, and; ii. Agree to forward the Freight Strategy report [and technical appendices] to the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure for his consideration. <p>WG Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme (TRIP) (successor to the Vibrant and Viable Places Programme) (Presentation by Carole Weller).</p> <p>Carole Weller was welcomed.</p>	
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The new £100million Programme, with a notional ring-fenced allocation of £7m for the Mid Wales region, has not yet been signed off by the Minister. Draft hardcopies of the guidance were made available.

Notional capital funding allocations will be made available on a rolling basis over a three year period rather than in one lump sum, and will need to be aligned with other revenue sources. This will be a continuing opportunity to promote larger, longer-term initiatives, including joint working and integrating community services.

Robust regional plans for regeneration should reflect and reinforce each authority's wider vision for the region and add value to existing and planned interventions, and will need to promote the goals of the Wellbeing of Future Generation Act.

VL is available to assist Local Authorities with their plans, should they wish to contact her.

CMA highlighted the problems of rural poverty, and the difficulty some communities have in accessing opportunities. CM echoed CMA's comments, and noted that strategic plans must align with the investments.

CGL reinforced the concern that opportunities may be focused on urban areas. CW responded that the Local Authorities (LA) will be encouraged to propose rural or urban opportunities that will be inclusive and area-appropriate. The onus is on the LA to decide upon the focus.

It was confirmed that there are four regions: the City regions in Swansea and Cardiff, the North Wales Economic Ambition Board area, and the Growing Mid Wales Partnership.

CM thanked CW for the presentation.

ACTION: Officers supporting GMW will lead on and co-ordinate a consolidated regional response to the draft guidance, and will report progress and developments regarding TRIP to the Partnership

5.	<p>To consider GMW’s response to the Regional Learning and Skills Partnership for South West and Mid Wales’ Draft “Regional Employment and Skills Plan, South West and Mid Wales”</p>	
	<p>The draft response was circulated on 17 July 2017. The final version of the RLSP Regional Employment and Skills plan, draft response and supporting spreadsheet was circulated on 26 July 2017.</p> <p>It was discussed that Officers may be invited to meet with the Partnership to further discuss how the needs of the Mid Wales Region are met.</p> <p>SI noted that the arrangements between Coleg Ceredigion and Coleg Sir Gar aim to increase the provision available for 2018/19.</p> <p>CMA attended a meeting on vocational education at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show and emphasised to the educational institutions the need to increase the opportunity within Mid Wales, as students are accessing the provision ‘over the border’. Whilst Welsh Government emphasise that Welsh Language education should be made available to every learner, it isn’t readily available in Mid Wales.</p> <p>JJ noted that the viability of Further Education in Mid Wales is heavily affected by the current funding model, as it does not reflect the difficulty of maintaining a provision in a rural area.</p> <p>JL highlighted that, although there is an increased amount of information included within the plan, much of the supply information provided by WG is currently not broken down into sub regional level. This issue has been raised and the collection and presentation of data for future plans is being addressed so future plans can clearly identify what the delivered provision is in Mid Wales.</p> <p>CEaG noted that there is too much emphasis placed on Further Education (FE); there are different ways of providing qualifications, including vocational.</p> <p>RLM commented that there is an opportunity to strengthen the contact between FE and vocational skills providers, and develop the funding and sustainability of provision.</p> <p>MB highlighted that there is a significant proportion of self-employment within the region; currently the document may seem to focus on</p>	

younger people, but the Mid Wales workforce is generally older than in the rest of Wales.

In closing, CM noted the need to think strategically and long-term.

The recommendations were approved:

- i. Welcome arrangements by RLSP to work more closely with businesses across the Mid Wales region.
- ii. Welcome arrangements and congratulate staff on efforts to engage with key stakeholders in Mid Wales, and for allowing time for the 2017 iteration of the plan to be considered properly within region.
- iii. Express disappointment that GMW is unable to consider the plan properly on a regional basis due to the lack of clear data on regional supply and demand, and ask WG to provide data and evidence on a sub-regional basis to allow for skills and provision planning in-line with emerging regional arrangements.
- iv. Express disappointment that only one cluster group has been supported in Mid Wales, in comparison to seven in the South West. We must therefore question the representative nature of comments arising from the Mid Wales cluster group.
- v. Note GMW's request that specific allocations for vocational training, of which the minimum are detailed in this report, are made for Mid Wales in the Employment and Skills Planning Template. GMW cannot support proposals where it is unclear what provision will be specifically delivered in the Mid Wales region.
- vi. Note GMW's increasing concern that the system, of which this plan forms part of, is unable to meet the needs of the region. Therefore, Mid Wales is starting to pursue work to ensure vocational training that will actually meet the needs of scattered and sparse businesses, and ensure access to right time, right place training. We consider the region to be disadvantaged by the failure of the formal system to consider access to opportunities.

6.	Regional Engagement Update	
	<p>Meetings attended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers attended the annual Horizon 2020 WEFO Event on the 30th March • On the 6th April, officers attended a meeting of companies from across the region facilitated by WG to discuss and promote the Freight Strategy study being undertaken for the GMW Partnership and the Marches LEP. • On the 24th May, officers attended and participated in the Wales Rural Network EU Transition Workshop, held in Builth Wells. • 24th May, Developing a Sustainable Bioeconomy for Wales: A future Roadmap” Conference paper on ‘Challenging Outcomes to raise the Value of Public Funding’ presented by officers. • On the 16th of June, officers presented at the All Wales Programme Monitoring Committee on the GMW Partnership and the work of the Mid Wales Regional Engagement Team. • On 19th June officers met WSP to discuss radio spectrum opportunities. • On 22nd June, officers chaired and facilitated a meeting between WG Transport officials and local authority officer from the region. • Officers participated in a forum on future regional policy held by the WLGA in conjunction with The Bevan Foundation on the 22nd of June • On the 27th of June, officers attended a North West Programme Area event facilitated by DCLG in Cardiff • On the 28th of June, officers attended the Be The Spark launch event at the Motorpoint Arena, Cardiff. • On 5th July, an officer accompanied the Chair and representatives of Powys Council at a National Assembly, Economy Infrastructure and Skills Committee meeting. • On the 5th of July, officers attended a seminar hosted by The Bevan Foundation, entitled ‘Making City Deals Inclusive’. <p>The following recommendations were made and agreed, as set out in the accompanying document under item 6 of the agenda.</p> <p>A. Bangor University; WWV Operation, Institute for Environmental Biotechnology</p>	

	<p>To ask WEFO in considering the business plan for this proposed operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To have regard to <u>the duplications and potential duplications</u> described above, and in particular their impact on the Mid Wales region, and; ii. To note that the framework vision for the Growing Mid Wales region prioritises the opportunities for increasing research and innovation capacity in biotechnology within the region as one of the key opportunities for future jobs and growth in region building on the BBSRC's recognition of IBERS as the sole institution in western Britain. There is wide potential economic impact arising from these technologies and the contribution of the World leading bio-economy research within our mid-Wales region. The <u>bio-technology research base has been identified and prioritised as a driver of the regional economy here in mid-Wales, and</u>; iii. In addressing these, to seek to <u>make better use of the existing assets and capabilities</u> of the West Wales and Valleys region through the development of a <u>collaborative element within the business plan, and</u>; iv. To have regard to the standing of the growing bio-technology sector across Wales and the opportunities arising to develop this and in winning more HEI grant funding into the WWV region, and; v. Additionally, to consider developing the further opportunities identified to build on the proposed operation and add to Wales' and WWV's standing as a centre for bio-technology innovation through collaborative use of existing domestic funded assets by providing additional funding for IBERS to take forward further areas including enzyme expression, fermentation and computational enzyme design, which could add significantly to the impact of the operation. <p>B. Aberystwyth University; WWV Operation; Future Foods</p> <p>To ask Aberystwyth University in developing the business plan for this proposed operation;</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To explore potential linkages and complimentary with the EAFRD-funded Helix operation, led by Cyngor Sir Ceredigion as part of the Food Centre Wales, so that research into global food production, trends and waste aligns with the support and assistance provided through Helix helps small to medium sized food manufacturers across Wales to increase production, respond to market needs and reduce waste. ii. To demonstrate how the potential impact of the operation will be felt over the whole programme area and beyond, and not just felt in the immediate locality of the operation iii. To clarify the role of BIC Innovation in the project and whether as joint beneficiary. <p>C. Swansea University; EW Operation; ASTUTE East Wales</p> <p>To ask Swansea University in developing the business plan for this proposed operation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To work closely with project staff at partner institutions, especially Aberystwyth University, to ensure local knowledge of potential business-based beneficiaries is fully utilised to ensure impact across the whole of the proposed operational area including that part of the East Wales region in Mid Wales. ii. To ask WEFO in considering the business plan for this proposed operation; iii. To note the GMW Partnership's general support for the proposed operation. <p>D. Cardiff Metropolitan University; Pan-Wales Operation; Next Generation Applied Strategic Innovation;</p> <p>To ask Cardiff Metropolitan University in developing the business plan for this proposed operation;</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To consider potential linkages and complementarity with the approved ERDF operation CEMET, led by University of South Wales, as so to avoid any potential duplication of activity ii. To further identify and strengthen what tangible activities will be delivered as part of the proposed operation, so further assessments on potential impact may be made <p>To ask WEFO when considering the proposed operation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. To take into account the above recommendations when developing and assessing the proposed operation <p>E. Swansea University; WWV Operation; SMARTAQUA</p> <p>To ask WEFO when considering the proposed operation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To take into account the concerns regarding strategic fit and ensuring economic impact within the programme area when developing and assessing the proposed operation <p>F. Economic Prioritisation Framework – interim refresh input (Annex C)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To note the submission of these revisions to WEFO. <p>MS noted that a potential Priority 4 gap filler project – a national radio spectrum engineering centre in partnership with the private sector – had also been discussed at GMW cross sector working group, and had been initially welcomed pending further information.</p> <p>Questions</p> <p>There are opportunities for the Elected Members to become involved in these projects. MS confirmed that agendas and papers are circulated to the full GMW Partnership, and Members are welcome to join the discussions.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Mid Wales Tourism Forum Update and to receive minutes of meeting held on 16 June 2017</p>	
	<p>The Mid Wales Tourism Forum were unable to provide an update. CM highlighted that Visit Wales will be in attendance at the next meeting and a full update will be made available at the next meeting.</p>	

	<p>RLM (on behalf of the Tourism Chair, Steve Hughson) noted the wish to make deeper connections with GMW as the Tourism Sector wishes to support the Partnership.</p> <p>BM and CEaG proposed that AW contact Tourism representatives to invite them to attend GMW.</p> <p>Action: Ann Watkin to liaise with Tourism representatives.</p>	
8.	<p>Update Report of GMW Connectivity and Infrastructure Group</p>	
	<p>There is an 11-week delay on the programme for the rail franchise review.</p> <p>This morning confirmation was received for £3.9million for Bow Street Station. CAW expressed his congratulations.</p> <p>Bids are invited for a bus network fund (£15million over four years).</p> <p>The recommendation was approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To note the report. 	
9.	<p>Endorse GMW response to Welsh Government’s Consultation on “Next Generation Access Broadband” (Closing date extended by two weeks to 27th July 2017)</p>	
	<p>The Partnership agreed to endorse the response to the consultation, previously circulated, and forwarded to WG on 27th July 2017.</p> <p>It was confirmed that any errors identified within the data should be reported directly to, Welsh Government.</p> <p>MW noted that the broadband provision statistics are focused on the take-up of services rather than the availability of the broadband.</p> <p>CM highlighted that the data may be up to seven months behind ‘real time’.</p>	

10.	Growing Mid Wales – Going Forward	
	<p>CS, PG, and AW highlighted their support to the identification of opportunities, and defining the actions needed in order to secure funding for a regionally based programme of investments. It was agreed that more tangible benefits will need to be identified going forward.</p> <p>It was agreed that Powys County Council will lead on this consultancy exercise.</p> <p>JJ requested that the consultant include clarity on the tangible benefits/added value of proposals; CM confirmed this would take place and the consultants would look at the scale and scope of proposed interventions to ensure best value for money.</p> <p>VL asked if further opportunities could be included; CEaG confirmed that the Partnership would be welcome to input further into the proposals.</p> <p>The recommendations were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Note the submissions made to the NAW Economy Infrastructure and Skills Committee iii. the outline proposed consultancy task was agreed, and; iv. the approach outlined was noted and agreed. 	
11.	Any Other Business	
	No issues arising.	
12.	Date of Next Meeting	
	03 November 2017 at 10.30am in the Chamber, Council Offices, Aberaeron. (Please note the change of date.)	

Leader of Ceredigion County Council, Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn, Chair

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Delegated Decision List

6 July	Portfolio Holder for Education	Appointments of School Governors: County Councillor J Pugh Builtth Wells High School, County Councillor A Jenner Buttington/Trewern CP School, County Councillor K Laurie-Parry Archdeacon C in W School, Miss C Rowlands Maesyrrhandir CP School, County Councillor G Breeze Welshpool High School, County Councillor F Jump Gungrog C in W School, County Councillor E Durrant Llangorse C in W School, County Councillor G Jones and Mrs HL Whittall Llanfair Caereinion CP School.
10 July	Portfolio Holder for Education	Appointments of School Governors: Mr G Evans Builtth Wells CP School, County Councillor Claire Mills Newbridge on Wye C in W School.
11 July	Portfolio Holder for Highways	<p>Approval of the Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP) Policy Statement.</p> <p>Adoption of a new HAMP format to be developed in collaboration with other Welsh authorities through the County Surveyors Society (Wales) and for the new format HAMP to be approved in due course by the Portfolio Holder for Highways.</p> <p>Approval to retain the existing approved HAMP until the new document is approved.</p> <p>Approval to review <u>Well-managed Highway Infrastructure - A Code of Practice</u> to assess potential impacts on best practice in association with CSSW.</p>
12 July	Portfolio Holder for Education	Approval to approve the roll forward of budgets in respect of Early Years alteration works at Llanfair Caereinion CP School, Carreghoffa CP School, Llanfyllin CP School, Mount Street Infants, Crickhowell CP School, Cradoc CP School and Ladywell Green Infants School.

20 July	Portfolio Holder for HR ICT & Communications	Approval to roll forward the budget to extend the contract for the iTrent payroll system.
20 July	Portfolio Holder for Education	Appoint of school governors: County Councillors Emily Durrant, James Evans and Karen Laurie-Parry to Gwernyfed High School, County Councillor Rachel Powell and Mrs J Thomas to Llanbister CP School, County Councillor Mark Barnes to Penygloddfa CP School, County Councillor Pete Roberts to Llandrindod Wells CP School and County Councillor Phyl Davies to Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon.
20 July	Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, Youth, Libraries & Leisure Services	Approval of the roll forward of budgets in respect of a soft play rumpus room at Glwyg y Gamlas and replacement kitchen and flooring at Golwg y Bannau.
20 July	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care	Approval to undertake a four week market engagement process to further explore the relative merits of implementing a Dynamic Purchasing System for the future commissioning of domiciliary care services across Powys.
20 July	Portfolio Holder for Property & Waste	Approval to sell 21 square metres of land at Trem-y-Noddfa, Caersws.
20 July	Portfolio Holder for Property & Waste and Portfolio Holder for Housing & Countryside Services	Approval to dispose of land at Garth Owen, Newtown.
25 July	Portfolio Holder for Finance	Determination of charitable and hardship rate relief applications.
26 July	Portfolio Holder for Education	Approval to fund a careers festival on an annual basis and to use £30,000 from the EIG grant for 2018.

26 July	Portfolio Holder for Property & Waste	<p>Disposal of Old Hall Community Centre, Llanidloes: To agree a departure from the Corporate Asset Policy. To approve Option 2 as the preferred method of sale i.e. inviting the neighbouring owner to make an offer and then also offering it on the open market for a period of at least four weeks.</p> <p>To grant delegated authority to the Head of Service to accept an offer at the end of the marketing period which exceeds the sum in the report.</p>
8 August	Portfolio Holder for Education	Approved the following appointments of School Governors: Mrs EM Jones to Banw CP School, Mr R Jones-Perrott to Llansantffraid C in W School, County Councillor Matthew Dorrance to Ysgol y Bannau, Mr K Williams to Montgomery C in W School, County Councillor Beverley Baynham to Presteigne CP School, County Councillor Neil Morrison to Ysgol Cedewain and County Councillor Jonathan Wilkinson to Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion.
8 August	Portfolio Holder for Education	Approved the following appointments of School Governors: County Councillors Diane Poston-Jones, Elwyn Vaughan and Les George to Federasiwm Carno, Glantwymyn a Llanbrynmair.
21 August	Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, Youth, Libraries & Leisure Services	Approval to submit the Welsh Public Library Standards; Annual Return for 2016/17 to Welsh Government.
25 August	Portfolio Holder for Housing and Countryside Services	Letting of the tenancy of the county farm at Cefnhilin, Berriew
4 September	Portfolio Holder for Property & Waste and Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care	Approval to utilise Welsh Government Capital funds once secured to purchase and refurbish a freehold property in Welshpool.
8 September	Portfolio Holder for Housing and Countryside Services	Letting of the tenancy of the county farm at Nantddu, Penybont.

Title	Description	Lead	Portfolio Holder	Cabinet Date	Cabinet/Man Portfolio	Decision Maker
Fleet Workshop Investment		Stephen Offley	Cllr Liam Fitzpatrick	10/10/17	26/09/17	Cabinet
Route Optimisation		Ian Harris	Cllr Phyl Davies	10/10/17	26/09/17	Cabinet
Grass Cutting / Street Cleansing Review		Adrian Jervis	Cllr Liam Fitzpatrick	10/10/17	26/09/17	Cabinet
Parking Policy		Tony Caine	Cllr Liam Fitzpatrick	10/10/17	26/09/17	Cabinet
Annual Performance Evaluation		Peter Jones	Cllr Rosemarie Harris	10/10/17	26/09/17	Cabinet
County Farms Estate Maintenance		Natasha Morgan	Cllr Jonathan Wilkinson	10/10/17	26/09/17	Cabinet
Review of the Schools Funding Formula	Findings, impacts and recommendations for changes to the schools funding formula following the fundamental review that is taking place.	Marie James	Cllr Myfanwy Alexander	10/10/17	26/09/17	Cabinet
Llanbister and Llanfihangel Rhydithon CP Schools	Consideration of consultation reports re new recommendations for Llanbister and Llanfihangel Rhydithon CP Schools	Marianne Evans	Cllr Myfanwy Alexander	10/10/17	26/09/17	Cabinet
Office Accommodation - North Powys Review	To consider proposals for north offices	Natasha Morgan	Cllr Phyl Davies	10/10/17	26/09/17	Cabinet
Financial Overview and Forecast		Jane Thomas	Cllr Aled Davies	10/10/17	26/09/17	Cabinet
Staylittle Outdoor Centre		Jenny Ashton	Cllr Phyl Davies	10/10/17	26/09/17	Cabinet
Youth Service		Stuart Mackintosh	Cllr Rachel Powell	10/10/17	26/09/17	Cabinet
Action Plan for the development of New Homes		Dafydd Evans	Cllr Jonathan Wilkinson	10/10/17	26/09/17	Cabinet

Evaluation of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme		Simon Inkson	Cllr Jonathan Wilkinson	10/10/17	26/09/17	Cabinet
21st Century Schools Consideration of Band B Strategic Outline Programme		Marianne Evans	Cllr Myfanwy Alexander	07/11/17	24/10/17	Cabinet
Consideration of initial Business Case re North Powys Secondary Welsh-medium Review		Marianne Evans	Cllr Myfanwy Alexander	07/11/17	24/10/17	Cabinet
Treasury Management Report for Quarter 2		Ann Owen	Cllr Aled Davies	07/11/17	24/10/17	Cabinet
Cemeteries Review Outcomes	To determine whether or not we wish to change our policy on the provision of burial grounds and associated services.	Nia Hughes	Cllr Jonathan Wilkinson	07/11/17	24/10/17	Cabinet
HTR Commissioning Project Full Business Case	The FBC will be confirming the feasibility or not for us to progress with the development and implementation of the Wholly Owned Company for the HTR service.	Lisa Griffiths	Cllr Liam Fitzpatrick	07/11/17	24/10/17	Cabinet
Children's and Adult Services Quarterly Safeguarding Report	Safeguarding report for 2nd quarter	Karen Arthur	Cllr Rachel Powell	07/11/17	24/10/17	Cabinet
Financial Overview and Forecast Report		Jane Thomas	Cllr Aled Davies	07/11/17	24/10/17	Cabinet
Traffic Regulation Orders		Tony Caine	Cllr Liam Fitzpatrick	07/11/17	24/10/17	Cabinet
Development of sites for Gypsies and Travellers		Dafydd Evans	Cllr Jonathan Wilkinson	07/11/17	24/10/17	Cabinet
WHQS Progress Report		Simon Inkson	Cllr Jonathan Wilkinson	07/11/17	24/10/17	Cabinet
Home to School Transport Policy		Gareth Jones	Cllr Myfanwy Alexander	07/11/17	24/10/17	Cabinet
Supply teachers pay and conditions		Gareth Jones	Cllr Myfanwy Alexander	07/11/17	24/10/17	Cabinet

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan		Marianne Evans	Cllr Myfanwy Alexander	07/11/17	24/10/17	Cabinet
Council Tax Base	To agree the Council Tax base	Andrew Griffiths	Cllr Aled Davies	21/11/17		Cabinet
Residential care fee setting arrangement		Lee Anderson	Cllr Stephen Hayes	05/12/17	21/11/17	Cabinet
Integration Options Appraisal		Jeremy Patterson	Cllr Rosemarie Harris	05/12/17	21/11/17	Cabinet
Financial Overview and Forecast		Jane Thomas	Cllr Aled Davies	05/12/17	21/11/17	Cabinet
Moelfre City		Alastair Knox	Cllr Liam Fitzpatrick	05/12/17	21/11/17	Cabinet
Flood Risk Management Plan	Policy to be adopted	Alastair Knox	Cllr Liam Fitzpatrick	05/12/17	21/11/17	Cabinet
Budget for 2018/19		David Powell	Cllr Aled Davies	09/01/18		Cabinet
Adoption of Additional Land Drainage Bye-laws	To consider adopting bye-laws	Alastair Knox	Cllr Liam Fitzpatrick	30/01/18	16/01/18	Cabinet
Sustainable Drainage Approval Body	Statutory new function currently out for consultation	Alastair Knox	Cllr Liam Fitzpatrick	30/01/18	16/01/18	Cabinet
Toilet Strategies	As required by the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017	Shaun James	Cllr Liam Fitzpatrick	20/02/18	06/02/18	Cabinet
Public Conveniences	Continue funding and / or move to Freehold transfer	Alastair Knox	Cllr Liam Fitzpatrick	20/02/18	06/02/18	Cabinet
Licensing Conditions for Taxi Cabs		Susan Jones	Cllr Jonathan Wilkinson		27/10/17	Portfolio Holder
Approval of Health & Safety and Animal Feed Plans		Beverley Cadwallac	Cllr Jonathan Wilkinson		27/10/17	Portfolio Holder
Re-modelling of Workshops		Natasha Morgan	Cllr Phyl Davies		27/10/17	Portfolio Holder

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