

Scrutiny Committee B

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

Meeting Date
Thursday, 12 October 2017

Meeting Time
10.00 am

For further information please contact
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County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 5LG

Issue Date 6th
October 2017

AGENDA

1.	APOLOGIES
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To receive apologies for absence.

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

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

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

4.	MINUTES
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To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th June 2017.

(Pages 3 - 14)

5.	JOINT CHAIRS MINUTES
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To receive the notes of the Joint Chairs meetings held on the:

- 20th June 2017
- 11 July 2017
- 19th September 2017

(Pages 15 - 34)

6.	CHAIR'S BRIEFING
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To receive a verbal update from the Chair of Scrutiny Committee B.

Updates from Working Groups

7.	EDUCATION SCRUTINY GROUP
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To receive an update from the Education Scrutiny Group.

(Pages 35 - 36)

8.	JOINT AUDIT/EDUCATION SCRUTINY GROUP
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To receive an update from the Joint Audit/Education Scrutiny Group on the Financial Viability of Schools.

(Pages 37 - 38)

9.	CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY GROUP
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To receive an update from the Children's Services Scrutiny Group.

(Pages 39 - 40)

10.	LEISURE/CULTURE SCRUTINY GROUP
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To receive an update from the Leisure/Culture Scrutiny Group.

(Pages 41 - 42)

11.	WORK PROGRAMME
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To consider the forward work programme and whether any additional items should be put forward for inclusion.

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE B HELD AT
COMMITTEE ROOM A - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON
WEDNESDAY, 14 JUNE 2017**

PRESENT

County Councillor P Roberts (Chair)

County Councillors G Breeze, B Davies, H Hulme, D R Jones, F H Jump,
S McNicholas, L Roberts, E Roderick, D Rowlands, R G Thomas,
Parent Governor Representatives: N Bufton, Mrs A Davies and S Davies
Church Representative Mrs M Evitts

In attendance

Portfolio Holders M Alexander (Education) and P Davies (Property and Waste)

1. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED that County Councillor David Jones be elected as Vice-Chair for the ensuing year.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors A Jenner and M Mackenzie and from Portfolio Holder R Powell.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

4. DISCLOSURE OF PARTY WHIPS

No disclosures of Party Whips was received.

5. INTRODUCTORY BRIEFINGS

Culture, Leisure, Countryside and Youth Services

The Portfolio Holder for Property and Waste introduced himself explaining that his portfolio included archives and sustainability which was covered by Scrutiny Committee B. He confirmed that he wished to work with scrutiny on common areas of interest.

The Head of Leisure and Recreation gave an overview of his service which covers the following areas:

Libraries

Over the last year the service have been in discussion regarding branch libraries and potential joint arrangements. The service had been given an efficiency target to meet and had been given a further year to negotiate with communities before the savings were required. Scrutiny may wish to consider the work done with communities which has been progressive and attracted the interest of the Minister.

The Library service is much more than a book lending service and in some locations provides a face to face opportunity for the public to access Powys services known as Library Plus.

The Library Service also produce an Annual Report on Standards which has previously been considered by scrutiny and Cabinet prior to forwarding on to the Welsh Government.

Sports Development

This team is largely grant funded from Sports Wales (approx. £500k Grant) and includes of a team based in schools. The focus for sports development is moving beyond grassroots and elite sports towards an active population.

Leisure and Sports Centres

The Council are 2 years into a 15 year contract with Freedom Leisure. There are very substantial contractual obligations on both sides. The Scrutiny Chair is invited to attend quarterly meetings with Freedom Leisure as a Scrutiny observer. In addition there are monthly meetings at a service level between officers and Freedom Leisure. The service are encouraging Freedom Leisure to work closely with Powys Teaching Health Board and the Children's and Young Peoples Partnership.

There is currently a review of provision at Llanfair Caereinion and Staylittie which will be brought back to Cabinet in the autumn.

Arts Service

This service consists of one officer whose role includes the management of a Service Level agreement contract with Powys' Theatres and Powys Dance. There is a small level of support for music development and the officer sources and disseminates grants.

Outdoor Recreation

Some Powys towns have substantial areas of open recreational land (eg Newtown, Brecon and Llandrindod Wells), there are approximately 60 play areas, plus rugby and football pitches that the Council are responsible for. This is another area where community development is being explored, with bowling greens and cricket pitches having been transferred to community groups.

Countryside Service

This area covers registration of common land and village greens, plus management of the public rights of way network (including a service level agreement with Brecon Beacons National Park) with, at 6,500 miles of path, the highest mileage of any UK authority and access land with the largest area in England and Wales. Access land in Powys covers about a third of all access land in Wales.

Museums, Archives and Modern Records

The archive service is about to move into a new building after concern from regulators that the previous accommodation was unsuitable to the extent that the archive was at risk of removal from the authority. The new building provides

double the amount of space for the Council's own paper-based records plus a fit-for-purpose public archives..

Youth Service

At present the service operate from 5 hubs and there is a Youth Worker in each High School. The service have recently received a formal offer of a European Grant under the Social Fund to support young people at the risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).

Catering

All schools (except Llanfyllin High School) have catering provided by the authority. A Cashless System is being rolled out with a side benefit that eligible for free school meals is completely anonymous. The service also runs staff canteens in Llandrindod Wells and Brecon County Buildings and is in discussion with Adult Social Care regarding catering in some Day Centres.

Cleaning

This is provided internally to authority buildings and undertakes to audit external contracts run by a number of schools. are sought. The service also receive and deliver unwanted good quality furniture which is reused by Housing and Social Care.

With regard to the Cashless System is this now available across Powys?

This is being rolled out as quickly as the service have the capacity to install it. Consideration is being given as to whether some schools are too small to make installation cost effective. Consideration is also given to cases schools are formally subject to changes under school modernisation.

Not all correspondence regarding the cashless system has been provided bilingually.

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that the system would be provided fully bilingually by September. It has reached some schools already.

How are items identified for scrutiny?

The Head of Democratic Services advised that potential items for scrutiny are assessed at the meeting of Joint Chairs and Vice-Chairs based on the Cabinet forward work programme.

What is happening in Brecon?

The Brecon Cultural Hub is due for consideration at Scrutiny Committee A on the 15th June 2017.

What joint working projects are ongoing?

The Head of Leisure and Recreation advised that work had progressed regarding a joint library and museum in Llanidloes and other projects are being pursued where it is reasonable to do so for example the potential of joint working with Ystradgynlais Job Centre. The main focus of work however is with Town Councils.

Is it true that the funding for Young Farmers is being reduced by 50%?

The funding will be cut by 50% however, the timescale for this reduction has been delayed by one year and there will be a staggered reduction to allow for a period of adjustment.

What are the proposals for the Youth Service?

This will be brought forward in due course. It is necessary to save a further £220k in 2018-19 (leading to an overall budget reduction of reduction of 50%) and the service are at present identifying options as to how this might be achieved.

How was the new archives building funded?

This was funded via the Capital Programme.

Education

The Senior Manager Schools Transformation gave the following presentation:

There have been a number of changes in the Education Service recently with the Head of Schools moving to Wrexham and a new Director of Education due to start in July. The Acting Head of Schools apologised as he was unable to attend scrutiny today.

Powys have: 11 Secondary School
1 All through School (4-18)
11 Sixth Forms
3 Special Schools
1 PRU (on 2 sites in Brecon and Newtown)
84 Primary Schools

51 Schools have less than 100 pupils of which 19 Schools have less than 50 pupils.

There are 7,500 pupils in Secondary Schools, 10,300 pupils in Primary Schools and 300 pupils in Special Schools.

Pupil numbers have been decreasing but are starting to rise again.

Standards will be brought to scrutiny during the year. There is a varied picture and the authority is on an improvement journey. In the National Categorisation of Schools there have been an increase in the number of school in the top band and a reduction in schools in the bottom band but there is still work to be done.

The following challenges face the Schools Service:

- Falling school rolls has impacted on schools (staffing, curriculum offer etc)
- Financial challenges (School budgets will come to scrutiny)
- Welsh Medium provision – there are 600 learners in the secondary sector across twelve schools
- SEN provision with the new legislation which gives a role for the authority until the pupil is 25
- Leadership in rural schools
- Investment in infrastructure – at present there is an £80million investment programme to 2019 joint funded at 50% by Welsh Government

- Post 16 provision – at present NPTC operate from Brecon and Newtown. There has been a significant decrease in funding for Post 16 provision and there are other providers across the border who are proving attractive to Powys learners

The Schools Service Improvement Plan has four main areas including:

- School Improvement
- ALN
- School Modernisation
- School Infrastructure

The Portfolio Holder gave the following presentation:

Scrutiny is a key partner in overcoming challenges. This is an exciting time and we now have a Minister who understands the issues facing rural schools. Schools rolls have plateaued and in all but two areas numbers are now increasing. The Cabinet will shortly issue a direction of travel. She has six children who have all been through the Powys education system during school transformation and can say that transformation has not impacted on them despite shaking communities. The authority cannot afford anymore grand transformation schemes which cost time, money and credibility.

It is intended to transform the way schools work together by radical co-operation both within Powys and cross-border. There are huge opportunities for using new technologies. She is aware that some learners who have gone to out of county sixth forms have returned to Powys appreciating what Powys schools offered. It is hoped that in five years' time school staff will be of the opinion that Powys is the best place to work.

A paper on school budgets will be brought to scrutiny. The Portfolio Holder is a School Governor and knows how hard it is from that perspective. She observed that two of the smallest Secondary Schools have a surplus budget whilst two of the largest schools have large budget deficits. This would suggest that closing small schools and sending pupils to larger schools is not necessarily the answer.

There is a need to improve Governor Training and look to undertake more peer to peer support.

In respect of Post 16 education the authority want to provide choice but it is the case that the best universities only accept 15 subjects so whilst pupils need to have choice this should be informed choice. The authority need to work closely with FE providers including Hereford and Shrewsbury. There are opportunities to deliver jointly with other providers using technology which would mean small numbers would no longer be a barrier.

What is your view on Welsh Language education as it can have an impact on a schools budget?

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that support for bilingual education would be an early subject for consideration. It is acknowledged that offering more subjects through the medium of Welsh comes at a cost and that there are limitations.

How is the Portfolio Holder intending to address the current crisis in school budgets?

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that whilst some Secondary Schools (eg Ysgol Caereinion) were in budget crisis there were a number of schools with a surplus balance including Llanidloes High School and Gwernyfed High School. The intention to move pupils from a school with a surplus budget to a school with a deficit budget does not necessarily mean the school with a deficit budget will be in a better position. It may be the case that schools with a deficit budget need to undertake a restructure as they may still be operating on a structure which was in place when the school roll was far higher. If the Schools Service are undertaking less revolutionary change and more evolutionary change there should be additional capacity to support schools with budget issues.

Is school modernisation on the backburner?

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that 'old style' modernisation would not be pursued and that the new style of working with communities would mean that more schools could be transformed.

Both Ystradynlais and Welshpool High School are unable to set balanced budgets and despite support simply need more money. When will the Fair Funding Formula be reviewed?

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that it would be necessary to review the Fair Funding Formula as it had to be acknowledged that in order to keep schools in rural areas then these schools will be more expensive. The alternative is to fund town schools properly and rural schools not at all. This is an area of work scrutiny could examine.

The Senior Manager confirmed that the authority had recently received a Rural Schools Grant of £250k. The definition of small schools was interesting as even the town schools have large rural catchments. Schools have been invited to apply for this funding and this will be allocated by the end of the summer term. It is expected that the Rural School Grant will continue.

Why can even large new schools not attract applicants from out of county?

The Senior Manager confirmed that despite national adverts these posts had not attracted many applicants which was surprising.

The Portfolio Holder suggested linking with Teacher Training providers in Bangor and Aberystwyth many help improve the number of applicants interested in Powys.

What is the position with regard to Welsh Language education at Brecon High School?

The Senior Manager advised that the Objection Report would go to Cabinet on 4th July for final consideration.

The Portfolio Holder advised that five Members of Cabinet had been to speak to parents the previous night and the decision would be between a wide range of subject choices and a bus journey or fewer subjects provided locally.

Scrutiny should examine the proposals for Welsh Medium at Brecon High School.

The Head of Democratic Services explained that proposals regarding school modernisation were considered at County Council prior to decision at Cabinet. Scrutiny was involved at the stage of setting the policy but not in regard to

individual proposals as all Members had an opportunity for involvement at Full Council. There would be a further opportunity for local Members to speak at the Cabinet meeting on 4th July.

The Portfolio Holder advised that it was intended to produce a new Welsh Medium policy which scrutiny would have an opportunity to consider.

How can the authority be assured that pupils are registered when they access courses on split sites?

The authority has purchased a new system from Gwynedd which will be rolled out through the summer for implementation in September. This ensures that pupils are registered at their base school and if they are absent then transport arrangements can be cancelled.

How many schools have submitted a balanced budget plans by the 1st May as required by the Scheme for Financing Schools?

The Portfolio Holder advised that 65% of Primary Schools and 50% of Secondary Schools had submitted plans and it was expected that the remaining schools would submit plans shortly.

It was noted that this was now six weeks beyond the deadline and that scrutiny would be examining this at their meeting in July.

The Portfolio Holder confirmed there was no intention of allowing schools to run deficit budgets year on year. Some small schools can balance budgets whilst those larger schools with Bursars are unable to. It will be necessary to ascertain the reason for this.

What work is being undertaken by the service to ensure new builds are energy efficient?

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that new builds are built as close as possible to passive house standards. The potential to borrow to invest for solar panels on schools could be considered to help offset school budget deficits. The Portfolio Holder also expressed concern regarding the effect of bussing pupils long distances.

This may be an item of interest for scrutiny.

Welsh Language

The Welsh Language Officer gave the following presentation. He advised that the Welsh Language Officers were responsible for supporting the Council to work through the medium of Welsh.

There are 24,000 Welsh speakers in Powys across the whole of the county, representing 1 in 5 of the population, although some areas have a higher percentage than others. There is a high percentage of young people who speak Welsh.

The Welsh Language Measure of 2011 set out how organisations must work through the medium of Welsh and how the language should not be treated less favourably. A Welsh Language Commission has been created to promote and improve the opportunities to use Welsh in everyday life and Welsh Language Standards have been set for the authority to implement.

For Powys County Council there are 167 standards ranging from simple to complex to adhere to, covering the following areas:

- Service delivery standards (covering interactions with the public)
- Policy making standards (assessing the impact of policies on the Welsh Language)
- Promotion standards
- Operational standards (facilitating the use of Welsh internally within the Council)
- Record keeping standards

The Council must produce a 5 year strategy for promoting the Welsh Language with a target for increasing the number of Welsh speakers.

There is a legal duty to comply with the Standards and failure to do so could lead to a complaint which, if upheld, could lead to a fine of £5,000 for each breach of a Standard.

More than Just Words is the Welsh Government's strategic framework for the Welsh language in health and social care with a focus on the 'Active Offer', which is offering a Welsh language service to those people who would want to receive it without expecting them to have to ask for it. Powys is taking the approach of matching language needs of clients with language ability of social workers.

The Welsh Language Support and Challenge Group works to ensure the implementation and monitoring of the More than Just Words framework.

Of the people who are defined as speaking Welsh is it known what level their language skills are?

Not with regard to the public but the Council does record the language skill levels of its employees.

The longstanding approach in education of predominately English medium provision has led to a decline in the amount of Welsh speakers in the community over three generations from 90% to 10-20%. To reverse this will need primary schools to become bilingual and equal investment in both languages. Patience will be needed as it will take some time to reverse the decline.

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that actions need to be carried out and not just talked about to enable children to have the same provision in both languages.

This will be a challenge as there is now a cohort of pupils who are learning Welsh but whose parents do not speak the language and whilst pupils access Welsh medium provision in primary school it often stops there.

The Portfolio Holder advised that she had been able to expand the use of the Welsh Language in Young Farmers Clubs.

What will these proposals cost?

The Welsh Language Officer confirmed that it supports departments to provide services in Welsh but the costs of these are provided from individual departmental budgets. It is important when developing new policies that language is considered from the start and that it is not considered as a 'bolt on' which would cost more.

Cllr S McNicholas and Mrs M Evitts left 13.05

Children's Services

The service covers two distinct areas including multi-agency working and early intervention and prevention.

It is largely driven by the requirements of the Social Services and Well-being Act, the Well-being and Future Generations Act and recent legislation on Domestic Violence.

The service work with health, education and social care and aim for a holistic approach.

The multi-agency work includes:

- Families first
- Team around the family (TAF) – 600 staff from health, education and social care trained to work with families providing support tailored to individual situations
- Youth Offending Service (YIS)
- Action for Children
- Counselling (school based and online)
- Healthy activities

A population and wellbeing assessment has been undertaken and a plan will be produced from these findings.

From an operational perspective the authority is moving to a locality model for providing children's services. The focus is on care and support and whilst there are challenges the service is also looking at opportunities. The Social Services and Well-being Act focuses on 'What Matters' and this approach has been integrated.

Children's Services are responsible for Looked After Children (LAC) and information on this service is reported to the Corporate Parenting Group. There are currently 183 LAC the numbers of which have spiked over the last 7-8 months (the figure has been around 150 for some time) and this spike is reflected across Wales. The support provided to LAC can be at a high level and thus high cost. There are currently 108 children on the Child Protection register. This has increased over the last 5 years from a previously stable figure of 80-90.

Children's Services are concerned with children's safeguarding noting that this is 'everybody's business' and Youth Justice. The service is also responsible for children with disabilities together with a local fostering service and involvement with a national adoption service.

Over the next three years the priorities are:

- Better integration
- Early intervention and prevention (which needs to be resourced appropriately)
- Cultural transformation in respect of recent legislation

- Improvement of Powys People Direct (PPD)
- Find savings of £2.2 million

Why are LAC numbers increasing?

There are a number of reasons including a spike in the number of sibling groups and more recently an increase in the number of babies becoming LAC.

With regard to families accessing TAF are there many instances of re-referral's?

The TAF in Powys was originally set up with 12 weeks of support for families but national guidelines suggest that better outcomes are achieved with 6 months of support thus some re-referrals may have arisen due to closing cases too early. Additionally re-referrals may result where the issues a family face at original referral have been resolved but new issues are identified which require additional support. At present there are 311 families on the TAF programme.

What work is being undertaken to improve Powys People Direct (PPD)?

There had been a challenge in getting a Manager to cover both adults and children's services but the service now have a permanent manager. The Social Services and Well-being Act clearly defines what is required in PPD which will help strengthen the service.

What is the biggest issues affecting children in Powys?

There are often multiple issues that affect children and many of these can be issues that affect their parents. A holistic approach is needed.

The meeting broke for lunch at 13.30 and reconvened at 14.00 with the following Members in attendance:

Councillor P Roberts (Chair),
Councillors G Breeze, B Davies, H Hulme, D Jones, E Roderick, D Rowlands,
Parent Governor Representatives: A Davies and S Davies

6. ACRF - DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT
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The Strategic Commissioning and Project Manager introduced the Directors Report explaining the process which was outlined in the papers. The Directors Report goes through a series of challenges and having being considered at Scrutiny Committee A and B would be going to Cabinet then Council.

In previous years scrutiny and audit members have had an opportunity to consider the evidence for the report at a Challenge Day. This was not held this year. What will the process be in future years?

It was felt that the Challenge Day was a useful process when the service did not have such robust governance processes. It was felt that the evidence grids replicated the Service Improvement Plan which had already been subject to scrutiny at Project and Programme boards. The Challenge Day was not a formal requirement of the process and it was decided to share the Heads of Services statements with scrutiny. Unfortunately this coincided with the election and it was not possible for Members to look at these in detail this year.

The comments regarding Powys People Direct do not seem to accurately reflect the position as observed by scrutiny. The abandoned call rates are mentioned but there is no figures relating to their improvement.

The service acknowledge that whilst improvements have been made there is still some way to go with PPD. The abandoned call rates will be included.

Whilst percentage rates are included for many of the figures it is not clear what size of cohort they relate to and therefore the scale or otherwise of an issue. Can these be included?

The service confirmed that the percentage figures come from a national survey of all the children who had be involved with Children's Services for three months or more. This is the first time this survey has been undertaken and will now be undertaken annually. From next year it will be possible to compare Powys' performance with other authorities and look at trends within the authority.

When the Heads of Service statements were sent to Members a query was raised asking why there was no mention of the Strategic Review of the Bannau/Camlas residential units which was noted as an Improvement Objective in last year's report. This should be included in this year's report.

The service are still examining how to generate income from the respite centres at Bannau/Camlas and will reference this work in the Directors Report.

The new format means it is difficult to work out which part of the report relates to Children's and which to Adults. Can further thought be given to how this can be made easier at the early stages.

This will be looked at for the report next year.

The report will now go to Cabinet on 11th July and County Council on 13th July. It will then be published by the end of July.

7. APPOINTMENT TO WORKING GROUPS

The Chair invited all Members to express an interest for the working groups and include their interests and experience. These would be collated and membership confirmed in due course.

Meeting closed 14.45

P Roberts
County Councillor

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE JOINT CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS STEERING GROUP HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON TUESDAY, 20 JUNE 2017

PRESENT:

County Councillors JG Morris, Mr J Brautigam, P Roberts, G I S Williams and E Durrant

Officers: Louise Barry (Interim Chief Social Worker Officer/ Operations Director Social Care), Liz Patterson (Scrutiny Officer), Clive Pinney (Solicitor to the Council), David Powell (Strategic Director - Resources), Lisa Richards (Scrutiny Officer), Wyn Richards (Scrutiny Manager and Head of Democratic Services) and Emma Palmer (Strategic Business Manager)

1.	CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE STEERING GROUP
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- (i) Mr John Brautigam was elected Chair of the Steering Group for the period June 2017 to the first meeting of the Steering Group following the Council AGM in May 2018.
- (i) County Councillor Emily Durrant was elected Vice-Chair of the Steering Group for the period June 2017 to the first meeting of the Steering Group following the Council AGM in May 2018.

2.	APOLOGIES
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Members: County Councillors Matthew Dorrance and David Jones
 Officers: Jeremy Patterson (Chief Executive), Paul Griffiths (Strategic Director – Place).

3.	DRAFT NOTES - FOR CONSIDERATION
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Documents Considered:

- Draft Notes – 28th February, 2017.

Issues Discussed:

- None.

Outcomes:

- Noted.

4.	DISCUSSION WITH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, STRATEGIC DIRECTORS REGARDING POTENTIAL SCRUTINY ITEMS
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Documents Considered:

- None

Issues Discussed:

- Strategic Overview Board (SOB) now has Chairs of Scrutiny present at meetings. Potential items for scrutiny can come from the SOB in terms of key performance and other issues.

- The SOB will act on a more strategic basis now with Heads of Service and Portfolio Holders looking at detailed performance. However where necessary the SOB can look at issues in depth.
- The other main link for scrutiny to generate its work programme is the Cabinet Forward Work Programme. The Steering Group asked whether the SOB had a forward work programme of its own. Members were advised that at present it did not and therefore the focus of scrutiny should be on the Cabinet Forward Work Programme.
- The Chair of the Steering Group asked if he could attend meetings of the SOB. He was advised that this would be possible but it would require an amendment to the Constitution. In the interim it could be agreed informally with the approval of the Chair of the SOB.
- Louise Barry, Interim Chief Social Worker Officer/ Operations Director Social Care commented that there were other avenues of work which it would be helpful to the service if scrutiny could consider such as key performance indicators for adults and children's services. The Steering Group supported this view as long as scrutiny did not get too involved in the operational running of the service areas.
- Members commented that at present there was no direction of travel for the Council from the Leader. However the Steering Group was advised that the Cabinet and Management Team are working to develop the proposed way forward for the Council.

Outcomes:

Action	Completion Date	Action By
Chair of the SOB to be asked if the Chair of the Steering Group could attend meetings in addition to the Scrutiny Chairs and if approved that the Constitution be amended accordingly	11th July, 2017	WR / CP
Interim Chief Social Worker Officer/ Operations Director Social Care to provide detail of areas of work for scrutiny to be considered by Joint Chairs for addition to the Work Programme	11th July, 2017	LB / WR / LR

5.	WORK PROGRAMME
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Documents Considered:

- Draft Cabinet Forward Work Programme
- Draft Scrutiny Forward Work Programme

Issues Discussed:

- Recycling – may be new proposals forthcoming from the Cabinet regarding HWRC's.
- Home to School Transport has been considered by scrutiny.
- School Asset Management Plan – already considered by scrutiny.
- Cedewain / Brynllwarch Special Schools – scrutiny had made some comment in the past. However this should be considered as part of a larger project looking at the financial viability of schools.
- Financial viability of schools is a major issue and risk to the Council. The schools funding formula is being considered by the Cabinet on 10th October, 2017. The annual report on school budgets is being considered by Cabinet on 11th July, 2017. The Steering Group considered that scrutiny should undertake a review of the financial viability of schools which should include such matters as the current deficit position, pupil numbers, trends etc. It was also suggested that it should be a joint review between the Audit Committee and Scrutiny Committee B.
- HTR Commissioning – a number of meetings were being planned for September, 2017 including briefing / training sessions for Members as well as the review of the final commissioning proposals. An external company who had undertaken some work on this subject previously was to be used to provide the training to Members and assist the Scrutiny Committee in undertaking the scrutiny of the proposals. The Head of Democratic Services indicated that he intended to invite the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Audit Committee and Scrutiny Committee B to the training so that knowledge of how to undertake the scrutiny of commissioning proposals could be spread across all scrutiny committees. It was confirmed that the final proposals would be ready by the end of August in preparation for the scrutiny meetings.
- PSB / Integration with Health – It was suggested that a review should be undertaken of an integration project that had worked well. With regard to PSB scrutiny guidance was awaited from Welsh Government in July. The Head of Democratic Services also reported that the Wales Audit Office was intending to undertake a review of PSB scrutiny arrangements in 2018. It had been the intention to undertake this earlier but the WLGA had successfully argued that the guidance should be provided first, followed by a period for Councils to sort out their scrutiny arrangements prior to the review by the WAO.
- Flood Risk Management Plan – is being considered by Cabinet on 5th December, 2017. It was suggested that scrutiny consider this prior to the Cabinet meeting.
- Commissioning and Procurement – a group had been established to look at this.

Outcomes:

Action	Completion Date	Action By
That a joint Working Group to review the financial viability of schools be constituted between the Audit Committee and Scrutiny Committee B.	11th July, 2017	LR / LP
Chairs and Vice-Chairs	September, 2017	WR / LR

of the Audit Committee and Scrutiny Committee B be invited to the training undertaken in respect of HTR Commissioning.		
Joint Chairs to consider including in the Forward Work Programme: (i) Review of positive integration project between the Council and Health; (ii) Review of Flood Risk Management Plan (prior to Cabinet on 5 th December)	July 11 th , 2017	WR

6. OTHER MATTERS

6.1. Review of the Scrutiny Service

Documents Considered:

- None

Issues Considered:

- The Steering Group received an oral presentation by David Powell, Strategic Director – Resources regarding a review he was conducting of the Scrutiny Service. There are 10 aims in the review and it was hoped that the review would be completed by 21st July, 2017. The review would consider what scrutiny was being undertaken at present, what should be undertaken and identifying the gap in provision. In addition the review would look at the resource required to deliver scrutiny to identify whether any additional resources were required. The outcome of the review would be reported to the Management Team.
- The Steering Group asked if it could consider a draft version of the review prior to its completion. The Strategic Director – Resources agreed that this would be possible.

Outcomes:

Action	Completion Date	Action By
Draft Scrutiny Service review report to be considered at the next meeting of the Steering Group	11 th July, 2017	WR / DP

6.2. Membership of the Steering Group

Documents Considered:

- None

Issues Considered:

- The Head of Democratic Services reported that the Steering Group had over the last two years focussed purely on scrutiny matters and it was questioned whether the involvement of the Democratic Services Chair and Vice-Chair was now relevant.
- The previous purpose of inviting the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Democratic Services Committee was in preparation of any changes to the operation of scrutiny which needed to be considered by the Committee as a change to the Constitution. The Head of Democratic Services had consulted the new Chair of the Democratic Services Committee prior to bringing this issue to the Steering Group who had indicated that he would be content not to be involved in the Steering Group. The Chair of the Democratic Services Committee could be invited on an ad-hoc basis to future meetings of the Steering Group if there were any issues which would need to be considered by his committee.
- The Steering Group was advised that this would require an amendment to the Constitution for this change to occur.

Outcomes:

Action	Completion Date	Action By
That Democratic Services Committee be asked to reconsider the composition of the Steering Group's by the deletion of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Democratic Services Committee with a view to the the Council's Constitution be amended accordingly.	December, 2017	WR / CP

7.	PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD
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7.1. PSB Dates - For Information

- 20 July, 2017
- 21 September, 2017
- 26 October, 2017
- 21 December, 2017

8.	DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS - FOR INFORMATION
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The Steering Group was asked to consider whether it wished to consider amending the dates of meetings as the cabinet was now meeting in the mornings, or continue to meet on the same day.

The Steering Group agreed to continue to meet as currently scheduled but that all meetings would commence at 2.00 p.m.

The future meetings are as follows:

- 11 July, 2017
- 19 September, 2017
- 10 October, 2017
- 7 November, 2017
- 5 December, 2017

Chair

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE JOINT CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS STEERING GROUP HELD AT COMMITTEE ROOM A - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON TUESDAY, 11 JULY 2017

PRESENT:

County Councillor Mr J Brautigam (Chair)
County Councillors JG Morris and G I S Williams

Officers: Peter Jones (Professional Lead - Corporate Insight), Clive Pinney (Solicitor to the Council), David Powell (Strategic Director - Resources), Lisa Richards (Scrutiny Officer) and Wyn Richards (Scrutiny Manager and Head of Democratic Services)

1.	APOLOGIES
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Members: County Councillors M J Dorrance, D R Jones and E Durrant (Vice-Chair)
Officers: None.

2.	DRAFT NOTES - FOR CONSIDERATION
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Documents Considered:

- Draft Notes – 20th June, 2017

Issues Discussed:

- None

Outcomes:

- **Noted.**

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

- None

Issues Discussed:

- Finance Scrutiny Panel (FSP) will have work revolving around the Cabinet's 2025 vision. The vision will probably mean the reshaping of the Council's current Corporate Plan programmes. These revised programmes will need to be scrutinised.
- Audit is considering issues such as the Brecon Cultural Hub. The integration project with Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) will need scrutiny with the FSP possibly scrutinising the financial element of the proposals.
- Scrutiny of the White Paper regarding Local Government Reform – how prepared is the Council for the changes. Legislation is expected in 2018 with a Statement from the Cabinet Secretary on the outcome of the consultation expected in July 2017.
- Integration with PTHB – 2 models under consideration (a) continue with current integration process but with more emphasis or (b) health led option (unlikely to be favoured by Welsh Government). The option of an

arms length company has been rejected. The feedback on the options appraisal will be received in October.

- FSP meeting before August but this depends on the timing of the meetings being held by Cabinet as there is a need for Portfolio Holder for Finance to discuss budget and the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). FSP will not be considering budget predictions this year. Also Audit Committee is likely to resurrect the Finance and Performance Working Group. It was suggested that the Strategic Overview Board could be used as a reference point for FSP on financial and performance issues and vice-versa.

Outcomes:

- **Noted.**

4.	REVIEW OF THE SCRUTINY SERVICE - DRAFT REPORT
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Documents Considered:

- Update report on the review by the Strategic Director – Resources.

Issues Discussed:

- Solicitor to the Council tested an assumption that as committees had established a number of working groups the intention was that there would be one meeting of a scrutiny working group per committee per week. Assuming that of the 14 Members on a scrutiny committee 3 only would form a working group and 4 groups, this would mean that Members would only have one additional meeting per month. The Steering Group considered that this would not be onerous for Members.
- However it was stressed that the success of scrutiny depended on Member engagement especially from those Members appointed to scrutiny committees by their political groups. Co-option was allowed onto working groups but there was still a need for committee Members to engage in the process. It was suggested that if members did not attend or engage then this would be discussed with the relevant Group Leader.
- There was also a responsibility for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the committee to encourage other Members to take part in working groups.
- Once the review was completed and submitted to the Strategic Director – Resources the report would be considered by the Management Team in August.

Outcomes:

- **Noted.**

5. DRAFT ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION 2016-17

Documents Considered:

- Draft Annual Performance Evaluation 2016-17

Issues Discussed:

- There is a statutory responsibility to prepare this report. The formal approval process commences in August 2017.
- Comments on the Draft Document:
 - RAG information is sparse until all wales information provided.
 - 2016/17 outcome information should be included in the draft report.
 - Qualitative assessment – no cost benefit analysis. This needs to be built into the planning process, and also a need to integrate financial and performance data. Example – Page 31 – Learning disabilities – scrutiny work showed a disproportionate spending on this service by the Council by comparison to the remainder of Councils in wales. At what cost has improvement been achieved?
 - Is there sufficient challenge of improvement in the document? Is it too positive? Scrutiny does provide an element of challenge. This is a commitment from the One Powys Plan update.
 - Page 37 – Looked After Children – why has there been an increase in numbers. A comment on the increase needs to be included.

Outcomes:

Action	Completion Date	Action By
Additional Information to be included and the document recirculated to the Steering Group for further comments	14/07/17	PJ

6. WORK PROGRAMME

Documents Considered:

- Agenda – requests for items to be included in the Forward Work Programme.
- Cabinet Forward Work Programme
- Scrutiny Forward Work Programme

Issues Discussed:

- Requests for items to be included in the Forward Work Programme:
 - Pre-Scrutiny item – Staylitttle Outdoor Pursuits Centre - agreed
 - Preparation for General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) - agreed
 - Commissioning and Procurement - agreed
 - Review of positive integration between the Council and Health - agreed
 - Review of Flood Risk Management Plan - agreed

- General Data Protection Regulations – coming into force in May 2018 - to be undertaken in 2 sections Oct / 17 and Feb/Mar 18. Need to consider are Council's plans appropriate and progress on implementation.
- Commissioning and Procurement – need to look at major capital projects e.g. Brecon Cultural Hub, (pre establishment of Commercial Services). Need to consider if Commissioning and procurement processes fit for purpose, are processes being applied consistently.
- Commissioning and Procurement Strategy should be scrutinised.
- Also a need to look at the Capital Programme generally – request copy to assess which elements of the programme to scrutinise.
- Commissioning and Procurement Board – agreed to make request to the Chair that scrutiny chairs should be observers at meetings of the Board.
- Louise Barry to be asked which positive integration project should be scrutinised.
- Steering Group noted that the Chair had been requested and agreed to present to future meetings any issues arising from a review of performance and finance by the Strategic Overview Board which could be included in the Forward Work Programme.
- Steering Group expressed concern that the Cabinet Forward Work Programme was not populated fully for 2018. In addition the Cabinet should be asked to inform the Steering Group of any items which it would wish to be scrutinised which could be included in the Forward Work Programme.
- Items from the Cabinet Forward Work Programme identified for Pre-Scrutiny:
 - Domiciliary Care Future Commissioning – Cttee A – Sept 17
 - Home to School Transport – Cttee B – Sept 17
 - New Schools Reorganisation Proposals – Cttee B – Sept 17
 - Residential care Fee Setting – Cttee A / ASG Working Group – Sept 17
 - North Powys Secondary Welsh Medium Review – Cttee B – Sept 17
 - Schools Funding Formula – Cttee B – Oct 17
 - Special Schools Review – Cttee B – Oct 17
 - Staylitttle Outdoor Centre – Cttee B – Oct 17
 - HTR Commissioning – Cttee A – Sept 17
 - Review of CAP Policy – Cttee A - Nov/Dec 17
 - Review of Farms Policy – Cttee A - Nov/Dec 17
 - Commercial Property Policy – Cttee A – Nov/Dec 17
- Scrutiny Manager to add above items to Forward Work Programme and to re-circulate document to the Steering Group. The Chair and Vice-Chair to agree the Forward Work programme with officers.

Outcomes:

Action	Completion Date	Action By
Following items to be added to the Forward Work Programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Scrutiny item – Staylitttle Outdoor Pursuits Centre – 	31 July 17	WR

<p>Cttee B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation for General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) – Cttee A • Commissioning and Procurement – Audit / Cttee A • Review of positive integration between the Council and Health – Cttee A • Review of Flood Risk Management Plan – Cttee A – Nov 17 		
<p>Request to Chair of Commissioning and procurement Board that scrutiny chairs are allowed as observers at meetings of the Board.</p>	<p>31 July 17</p>	<p>WR</p>
<p>Request copy of the Capital Programme for next meeting to assess scrutiny of Programme.</p>	<p>31 July 17</p>	<p>WR</p>
<p>Request positive integration project to scrutinise from Louise Barry</p>	<p>31 July 17</p>	<p>WR</p>
<p>Chair to write to the Leader regarding the need to populate the Cabinet Forward Work Programme for 2018 and to ask the cabinet to identify any items which it wished the Steering Group to consider for inclusion in the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme</p>	<p>31 July 17</p>	<p>JB / WR</p>
<p>Pre-Scrutiny Items identified in the Cabinet Work Programme to be added to the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme.</p>	<p>31 July 17</p>	<p>WR</p>

7. PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

7.1. Draft Notes of Previous Meeting(s)

Documents Considered:

- Draft Notes – 8th June, 2017

Issues Discussed:

- None

Outcomes:

- **Noted.**

7.2. Public Service Board - Vision 2040

Documents Considered:

- PSB Vision 2040.

Issues Discussed:

- Vision is early work for the WellBeing Plan in April 2018.
- Vision is looking forward to 2040 and how decisions taken today will affect the vision / position by 2040.
- Steering Group considered that there is a need to focus on what can be delivered rather than the document being overly aspirational, otherwise the impact could be lost.
- Any comments on the vision to be submitted to Peter Jones.
- Page 113 – need to enlarge on the comment regarding BBNP / NRW visitor centres to include other centres including private ones.

Outcomes:

Action	Completion Date	Action By
Steering Group to send any comments to Peter Jones	31 July 17	Steering Group Members

7.3. PSB Dates - For Information

- 20 July 2017
- 21 September 2017
- 26 October 2017
- 21 December 2017

8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS - FOR INFORMATION
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- 19 September 2017
- 10 October 2017
- 7 November 2017
- 5 December 2017

The Steering Group was also asked to consider if Powys should continue to attend meetings of the Mid Wales Health Care Collaborative. It was suggested that there was little value in Powys being involved in attending these meetings any further as there was little scrutiny being undertaken.

RESOLVED that Powys should no longer be attending meetings of the Mid Wales Health Care Collaborative.

County Councillor Mr J Brautigam (Chair)

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Public Document Pack

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE JOINT CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS STEERING GROUP HELD AT COMMITTEE ROOM A - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON TUESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2017

PRESENT: County Councillor Mr J Brautigam (Chair)
County Councillors D R Jones, JG Morris, G I S Williams and E Durrant

Officers: Jeremy Patterson (Chief Executive), Liz Patterson (Scrutiny Officer), David Powell (Strategic Director - Resources), Lisa Richards (Scrutiny Officer), Wyn Richards (Scrutiny Manager and Head of Democratic Services) and Ian Budd (Director of Education)

1. APOLOGIES

Members: County Councillors Pete Roberts and Matthew Dorrance.
Officers: Clive Pinney (Solicitor to the Council), Peter Jones (Professional Lead – Corporate Insight) and Emma Palmer (Strategic Business Manager to the Chief Executive)

2. DRAFT NOTES - FOR CONSIDERATION

Documents Considered:

- Draft Notes – 11th July, 2017.

Issues Discussed:

- The Scrutiny Manager was asked to follow up the response on Chairs' attendance at the Commissioning and Procurement Board and the report on the Capital Programme.

Outcomes:

Action	Completion Date	Action By
Scrutiny Manager to follow up the response on Chairs' attendance at the Commissioning and Procurement Board and the report on the Capital Programme	10/10/17	WR <u>Update:</u> Chair of Procurement and Commissioning Board discussing with Board on 3/10/17. Capital Strategy and programme – to be considered at Joint Chairs in November.

3. RISK BASED ASSESSMENT OF CORPORATE ARRANGEMENTS

Documents Considered:

- Slides from the Wales Audit Office (WAO) arising from the risk based review of corporate arrangements.

Issues Discussed:

- The WAO review was split into 3 sections and was a light touch approach.

- Slides provide Green / Amber / Red indicators on the following aspects of the Council:
 - Vision and Strategic Direction;
 - Governance and Accountability;
 - Use of Resources;
 - Collaboration and Partnerships;
 - Managing Improvement;
 - Key Corporate Strengths and Challenges.
- The Council's capability in terms of numbers and skill sets is an issue as are the costs of the current social services model which are unsustainable and the schools financing model. However there are some strengths identified by the review.
- The report authors Colin Davies and Justine Morgan have offered to speak to scrutiny and the cabinet about the points raised in the review.
- Powys is driving greater change than anyone else in Wales which has identified needs in terms of capability at officer and Member levels including the need for objective scrutiny.
- WAO were unhappy with the operation of the former Cabinet, the clarity of those meetings and too many operational issues being considered with a need for the Cabinet to be more strategic.
- The roles of the Strategic Overview Board (SOB) and the Commissioning and Procurement Board were also the subject a comment that the Cabinet was scrutinising itself rather than scrutiny undertaking that role. Work programming was also an issue raised.
- The Council has addressed the issues regarding the operation of the Cabinet and there is now scrutiny involvement in the SOB. Work was also being undertaken on behaviours and values for Cabinet and scrutiny.
- The delivery of savings in social services remained a concern.
- In relation to schools financial compliance was being addressed with a follow up on a monthly basis and escalation where needed.
- A review of the social services base budget had been undertaken. Another phase was underway and the service was tasked with an action plan to achieve savings as well as looking at issues such as the costs for services for those under 65 which were out of kilter with the rest of Wales. Consideration was being given to how long it would take to transfer funding from the under 65s to over 65s budget.
- Concern had been expressed by Management Team and the SOB regarding Children's Services with a red RAG status. There were also concerns that changes in Children's Services were not on track.
- Financial resilience – whilst the balance sheet was strong there were risks which underlie this. The Council was 21 out of 22 in terms of delivering savings.

Outcomes:

Action	Completion Date	Action By
Colin Davies and Justine Morgan (WAO) to be invited to attend a meeting of the Joint chairs to discuss the review report.		WR <u>Update:</u> WAO being invited to make presentation to all Members - November

4.	REVIEW OF THE SCRUTINY SERVICE
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Documents Considered:

- Report by the Strategic Director – Resources.

Issues Discussed:

- Members had discussed with representatives of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) regarding honoraria for leaders of working groups. It would be for the Council to submit a case to the IRPW for consideration.
- When establishing reviews Working Groups should set timescales within the scope of the review.

Outcomes:

- **Noted.**

5.	DISCUSSION WITH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, STRATEGIC DIRECTORS REGARDING POTENTIAL SCRUTINY ITEMS
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Documents Considered:

- None

Issues Discussed:

- The Chief Executive outlined an issue with Children’s Services arising from a recent CSSIW (Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales) inspection which would require a programme of work by scrutiny to review the action plan initially followed by scrutiny of individual elements of the action plan.
- A serious concern letter had been received from the Chief Inspector following receipt of the draft report and there was a risk of Ministerial intervention.
- An action plan was being drawn up and an Improvement Board established.
- This had identified a need to strengthen corporate oversight as well as corporate support. Savings and income targets as well as base budgets would need to be reviewed.

Outcomes:

Action	Completion Date	Action By
Scrutiny of the Children’s Services Improvement Plan to be included in the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme	10/10/17	WR

6.	WORK PROGRAMME
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Documents Considered:

- Cabinet Work Programme.
- Scrutiny Work Programme

Issues Discussed:

- Request from Radnorshire and County Councillor Liam Fitzpatrick, Portfolio Holder for Highways that the forthcoming Revised Policy on Car Parking be reviewed by scrutiny – the Steering Group decided that in view of other priorities it did not have the capacity to review this item.
- Request that the Vision 2025 Action Plan be reviewed – accepted.
- Absenteeism in the HTR Service is above the norm and costing around £800k per annum. This needs to be considered under workforce issues. It had also been raised at the meeting of the SOB.
- SOB – there was a need for more challenge across directorates. There was an improvement in the report presented to the SOB on issues.
- 2 issues arising from the SOB which would need to be reviewed – adult services budgets and the delivery of savings. It was suggested that the Audit Committee or the Finance Scrutiny Panel could undertake this review. However both items would need to be considered in light of the revised MTFS.
- It was suggested that minutes of the SOB should be available to all Members of Council.
- The Scrutiny Forward Work Programme (FWP) was a new version where it was being developed alongside a revised Cabinet FWP and also with Management Team and Corporate FWPs with a view that there would be a holistic view of all work programmes by the organisation.

Outcomes:

Action	Completion Date	Action By
That the request for the scrutiny of the revised car parking policy be declined due to other urgent items being included in the Forward Work Programme.	10/10/17	WR
That the Vision 2025 action plan be added to the Forward Work Programme for review.	10/10/17	WR
Adult Services budgets and the Delivery of Savings to be reviewed by the Audit Committee / Finance Scrutiny Panel in light of revised MTFS.	10/10/17	WR
Comments on items to be removed from the Forward Work programme to be send to the Scrutiny Manager	10/10/17	All Steering Group Members.

7.	PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD
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8.	ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SCRUTINY OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD IN POWYS
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Documents Considered:

- Draft document – Arrangements for the Scrutiny of the PSB in Powys
- Welsh Government Guidance regarding the Scrutiny of PSBs
- Short Version of the Guidance regarding the scrutiny of PSBs

Issues Discussed:

- As the Draft document regarding arrangements was handed out at the meeting the Steering Group was asked to send comments to the Scrutiny Manager with the final document being considered for approval at the next meeting.

Outcomes:

Action	Completion Date	Action By
Comments to the Scrutiny Manager on the Draft document	10/10/17	All Steering Group Members
Draft report for further consideration at the next meeting	10/10/17	WR

9.	DRAFT NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)
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Documents Considered:

- 20th July, 2017

Issues Discussed:

- None

Outcomes:

- **Noted.**

10.	PSB DATES - FOR INFORMATION
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- 21 September 2017
- 26 October, 2017
- 21 December, 2017

11.	DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS - FOR INFORMATION
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- 10 October, 2017
- 7 November, 2017
- 5 December, 2017

County Councillor Mr J Brautigam (Chair)

Scrutiny Committee B

12th October 2017

Education Scrutiny Group

Purpose of Report: Progress report

Since the first meeting of Scrutiny Committee B on 14th June 2017 the following work has been undertaken:

Education Scrutiny Group

3rd October 2017 – Home to School Transport

The Group was due to meet to undertake pre-Cabinet scrutiny of the proposed Home to School Transport Policy prior to the consideration of this document at Cabinet on the 10th October 2017. However, this meeting was postponed as the Policy needed further work before it was ready to be brought to Cabinet.

School Scrutiny Panel

It had been intended to undertake training for this group for their role as School Scrutiny Panel Members on the 22nd September 2017. Unfortunately it has proved necessary to rearrange this training which will now take place on the 13th November. The Group will then go on to be briefed on the current position of schools which had been before the School Scrutiny Panel during the previous Council.

ERW

Two Members of the Education Scrutiny Group were invited to the meeting of the ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group. This meeting is held twice a year and is hosted in turn by each of the six authorities within the ERW region. This meeting was hosted by Powys and was held in Brecon on the 29th September 2017. It was chaired by Councillor D Jones as Lead Member of Powys Education Scrutiny Group. A verbal update on the meeting will be given to include:

- Challenge advisor capacity across the region
- Elective Home Education
- Research on the effect of rurality on educational attainment
- Early entry at GCSE

Work Programme

25 th Oct 10.00	WESP (pre-Cabinet scrutiny)
27 th Oct 10.30	Standards, attendance, exclusions, inspection outcomes
13 th Nov 10.00	School Scrutiny Panel Training
13 th Nov 1.00	School Scrutiny Panel

14th Nov 10.00
6th Dec 2.00

School Budgets, Medium Term Financial Plan
Collaborative Working Policy

Report contact: Liz Patterson, Scrutiny Officer
Contact details: 01597 826980, elizabeth.patterson@powys.gov.uk
Sources/background papers:

Membership:

County Councillors: **D. R. Jones** (Vice Chair of Scrutiny Committee B and Lead Member)

B Davies, A Jenner, M. Mackenzie, S. McNicholas, L Roberts, P Roberts,
Parent Governor Representative Mrs A. Davies, Mrs S Davies and N. Bufton.
Church Representative Mrs M. Evitts

Scrutiny Committee B

12th October 2017

Joint Audit and Education Working Group

Purpose of Report: Progress report – Financial Viability of Schools

A joint working group comprising Members of the Audit Committee and Education Working Group of Scrutiny Committee B, was established to consider the Financial Viability of Schools in light of a WAO report, Education Finance Review, which was considered by Audit Committee at its last meeting in July 2017.

A scope was agreed and a number of interviews have taken place over the summer including the Strategic Director Resources, Head of Financial Services, Director of Education, Interim Head of Schools, ALN Manager, WAO, and the Chair and Vice of the Schools Forum. The Group also had discussions with the Head Teacher and Chair of Governors of a school and meetings with other Head Teachers and Chairs of Governors are to be arranged early in the autumn term.

The Group agreed to concentrate on the secondary sector in the first instance but the review may expand as it develops. An interim report is being prepared for consideration by Cabinet.

Report contact: Lisa Richards, or Liz Patterson, Legal, Scrutiny and Democratic Services

Contact details: lisa.richards@powys.gov.uk, 01597 826371
elizabeth.patterson@powys.gov.uk, 01597 826980

Group Membership: County Councillors J G Morris (Lead Member), H Hulme, D R Jones, P Roberts, S McNicholas and Mr J Brautigam

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Scrutiny Committee B

12th October 2017

Children's Scrutiny Group

Purpose of Report: Progress report

Since the first meeting of Scrutiny Committee B on 14th June 2017 the following work has been undertaken:

26th September 2017 – Briefing for Children's Services Scrutiny Members

The Interim Lead – Children's Services met with the group and gave a presentation based on the training that Members had received on Corporate Parenting on the 8th September 2017. The group had the opportunity to go into further depth in different areas of the service which will be of assistance when the scrutiny work programme commences.

One of the areas of concern was Powys People Direct. This is an area that had been looked at jointly by the Adult Social Care and Children's Scrutiny Group during the previous Council. This will be included on the work programme of this group and it would be appropriate that the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Group from Scrutiny Committee B are invited to attend any sessions covering this subject.

Work Programme

Children's Services is awaiting the outcome of a recent inspection by the CSSIW. The Inspection and Improvement Plan will be used by the Children's Scrutiny Group to identify items for and plan timescales for their scrutiny work programme.

The following dates have been identified:

TBC - receipt of CSSIW Inspection Report and Improvement Plan

16th November – 10.00am – subject tbc

14th December – 10.00am – subject tbc

Report contact: Liz Patterson, Scrutiny Officer Contact details: 01597 826980, elizabeth.patterson@powys.gov.uk Sources/background papers:

Membership:

County Councillors: **D Rowlands** (Lead Member)
J Gibson-Watt, D Jones, K Laurie-Parry, S. McNicholas and P Roberts,
County Councillor R Williams (not from Scrutiny Committee B)
Parent Governor Representative Mrs A. Davies

Scrutiny Committee B

12th October 2017

Leisure/Culture Scrutiny Group

Purpose of Report: Progress report

Since the first meeting of Scrutiny Committee B on 14th June 2017 the following work has been undertaken:

18th September 2017 – Staylitttle/Llanfair Caereinion Cabinet Report

This meeting had been set up before the summer and it was therefore disappointing that the Cabinet report was not quite at a stage where it was ready for pre-Cabinet scrutiny. This made scrutiny of the report difficult when the Portfolio Holder could on occasion only comment that she was yet to speak to Cabinet colleagues on the matter and could not always give an answer to questions raised. It is hoped that the process for pre-Cabinet scrutiny will improve and that sufficient time will be included in the process for scrutiny to be effective.

The scrutiny group made two firm recommendations to Cabinet/Management team on the report and it is noted that the report which went to Cabinet had addressed both recommendations. Cabinet will consider this matter at their meeting on the 10th October 2017. The Cabinet decision will be reported verbally.

Report contact: Liz Patterson, Scrutiny Officer
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Contact details: 01597 826980, elizabeth.patterson@powys.gov.uk
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Sources/background papers:

Membership:

County Councillors: **D. R. Jones** (Vice Chair of Scrutiny Committee B and Lead Member)

B Davies, A Jenner, M. Mackenzie, S. McNicholas, L Roberts, P Roberts,
Parent Governor Representative Mrs A. Davies, Mrs S Davies and N. Bufton.
Church Representative Mrs M. Evitts

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