

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BRECKNOCKSHIRE
HELD AT COMMITTEE ROOM, BRECON - NEUADD BRYCHEINIOG ON
WEDNESDAY, 24 JANUARY 2018**

PRESENT: MJ Dorrance – Chairman

County Councillors I McIntosh, M J Dorrance, L Fitzpatrick, JG Morris, WD Powell, D R Price, E Roderick, K S Silk, D H Williams and R Williams

In attendance:

Lucy Bevan – Arts and Culture Commissioning Officer, Ashley Collins - Waste and Recycling Strategy Manager, Dr. Karen Gully - Medical Director and Mandy Mills – Powys teaching Health Board, Councillor Stephen Hayes – Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Adult Social Care, Julie Lewis – Tourism Officer, Nathan Davies – Powys War Memorial Project Officer, Jo Lancey – Area Traffic Officer and Shane Thomas – Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Carlton, SC Davies E Durrant, J Evans, RM Harris, K Laurie-Parry, S Lewis, S. McNicloas, D Meredith, J Pugh, G Ratcliffe, TJ Van-Rees and S Williams.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on Wednesday 11th October 2017 as a correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made in relation to items to be discussed on the agenda.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported on:

- a. **Blaubeuren Twinning** – it would be important to arrive at a decision with regard to future links with Blaubeuren. Members were reminded that the twinning is with Brecknockshire and not a specific town. Members welcomed an options report prepared following a meeting held on 20th December. Members **RESOLVED** to accept Option 2 which would be to change the emphasis of the partnership from the Council to the community, it would be important to advise the Burgermeister at Blaubeuren of the position when confirmed. It was agreed to hold a further meeting with shire members in order to discuss how to move to a community arrangement. Councillor D Price and W Powell volunteered to attend, other members would be invited and welcome. Julie Lewis, Tourism Officer would arrange the meeting, hopefully, before the next shire meeting.

5.	BRECON CULTURAL HUB - Y GAER (9.40 - 10.00)
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Members welcomed Lucy Bevan – Arts and Culture Commissioning Officer to the meeting for this item of business. During discussion and update particular reference was made to:

- a. **Funding** – the project would cost in the region of £10 million, the local authority would be the main funder, however, there would be contributions from other organisations/areas
- b. **Design** – the design had incorporated features from previous builds which, while adding to costs, would greatly add to the look and feel of the facility
- c. **Y Gaer Facilities (Services/Facilities)** – the site would include public space, bookable rooms, a library and a museum. There would also be restaurant/café facilities on site. There would be car parking space and appropriate entry/exit areas
- d. **Captain's Walk** – the area had been included in the project and it would be remodelled. The area belongs to the highways department and the Portfolio Holder for highways supports plans to develop
- e. **Branding/Identity** – the site would have its own identity which would also reflect 'belonging' to Powys. It was agreed to circulate the branding guide to members for review/awareness
- f. **Community Benefits** – opportunities for local benefit would be maximised. Members were informed that it had been recognised that the local economy had been lacking in terms of qualified catering staff. The café facility which would operate from the facility would be run in partnership with Neath and Port Talbot College (students would be able to benefit from use of the facility which would support their studies). There would be opportunities to involve learners in all aspects of the build, design and finish of the facility. Local suppliers would be used where possible for equipment and in the longer term to provide supplies. Lucy would e-mail the Community Development pack to members for their awareness
- g. **Volunteers** – there's a significant bank of volunteers supporting the library and museum (40 volunteers help with the museum, 12 volunteers help with the library). Using volunteers to support the operation of the site would be important and valued
- h. **Construction** – the site is in the build phase which is due to last between 9 – 10 months
- i. **Museum** – the museum would feature the history of wards within Brecknockshire
- j. **Site Visit** – if appropriate the next meeting would be held at Y Gaer to include a tour of the site (it could be that building works may prevent the meeting being held on site)
- k. **Opening** – if the build and fit go to plan the site would open in December, after a short period of operation there would be an official opening in the New Year
- l. **Brecon Library** – options for the current library site would be considered by the property section once it had become vacant. It is likely that the property would be advertise for sale
- m. **Electric Car Charging Facilities** – a member urged consideration of electronic charging meters at the car park in order to provide for future use of electric vehicles. Lucy would raise the issue with the group overseeing the project

It was agreed to provide the presentation to members for their reference.

6. WASTE AND RECYCLING (10.00 - 10.20)

Members welcomed Ashley Collins, Waste and Recycling Strategy Manager to the meeting for this item of business. During discussion and update particular reference was made to:

- a. **Statutory Targets** – Local Authorities are required to deliver on Welsh Government imposed recycling targets. Targets for 2015/16 would be 58% (Powys had exceeded this target), 64% in 2019/20 (Powys had achieved 65% in 2017/18) and 70% in 2024/25
- b. **Brecon Transfer Site** – the Local Authority owns the site which had been leased to Potters. The contract with Potters had come to an end, the Local Authority manage and run the site. It is better for the Local Authority to own its sites as opposed to leasing
- c. **Transfer Sites** – it's the intention to operate a transfer site in each shire
- d. **Awareness Teams** – there are local awareness officers who are able to support members and the public with waste matters on a more local level
- e. **Three Weekly Residual Waste Collections / Weekly Recycling Collections** – three weekly collections had been accepted and embedded. Community acceptance and support had been very important. Weekly collections of recyclable waste continue
- f. **Larger Bins** – larger residual waste collection bins could be obtained on request
- g. **Kerbside Collections** – the Local Authority had adopted the Kerbside Collection Scheme which had been the Welsh Governments preferred option. The scheme had reduced the need for landfill and generated income from recycled waste
- h. **Household Waste Recycling Sites** – sites were a duplicate of the service provided through the Kerbside Collection Scheme, therefore, they were being phased out
- i. **Visibility/May 2017 Elections** – it is recognised that recycling and waste collections were issues raised by the electorate during the 2017 elections. Contacts from members in relation to waste collection matters are recognised as important
- j. **Route Optimisation** – the only change that residents would experience from a programme to optimise routes would be a change of collection day. Changes would be publicised and members informed. Route optimisation would deliver savings and reduce duplicate trips to collection areas. Collection date information can be provided via. a postcode search on the Councils waste management website
- k. **Enforcement** – there had been a stronger stance taken by the Local Authority in relation to enforcement and taking actions against those who fly-tip and/or don't comply with recycling practices
- l. **Public Litter Bins** – there had been occasions when residents had attempted to dispose of household waste by using public litter bins. Where there had been reports they had been investigated and actions taken
- m. **Communication** – members urged good communication between the Council and residents regarding any changes to waste
- n. **Trade Waste** – trade waste can be disposed of under an agreement with the Local Authority (there are charges for trade waste disposal). Some private providers offer the service

Ashley encouraged members to contact him and/or his service direct with any queries regarding waste matters.

7.	WELSH AMBULANCE SERVICE (10.20 - 10.40)
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Due to illness representatives from the Welsh Ambulance Trust could not attend. It was agreed to invite representatives to attend the next meeting to update on the service and activities.

8.	MAJOR TRAUMA CENTRE FOR MID AND SOUTH WALES (10.40 - 11.10)
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Members welcomed Dr. Karen Gully, Medical Director – Powys teaching Health Board and Mandy Mills – Powys teaching Health Board to the meeting for this item of business. During discussion particular reference was made to:

- a. **Major Trauma Incidents** – major trauma incidents per year are small in comparison to presentations to accident and emergency units, however, the need for treatment is often speedy and involves a range of medical disciplines to treat multiple injuries in order to maximise chances of survival
- b. **Trauma Centre** – there's no trauma centre in Wales. There's an established network in north Powys but the absence of a network for mid and south Powys
- c. **Welsh Ambulance Trust Service** – there are good links with the ambulance service who will transport to the most appropriate site
- d. **Options for Consultation** – prior to the consultation exercise there had been significant work in order to arrive at recommendations to consult on (work commenced in 2014). Pre-consultation discussions included engagement, and input from, medical staff, stakeholders and patients. Members were urged to help publicise the consultation and asked to encourage residents to respond
- e. **Trauma Network (Recommended Option)** – the recommended option would be to base the trauma centre at Cardiff District General Hospital. The network supporting Cardiff would be very important, there would be designated roles for other hospital sites in order to support the delivery of provision. The network would deliver a better outcome for the patient from the initial treatment through to rehabilitation and life thereafter
- f. **Assessment** – the initial medical assessment in order to determine treatment would be very important. Dr. Gully agreed to refer the suggestion to include recognise the role that the police play in attending incidents. It was felt that this role was very important and should be referenced
- g. **Current Health Provision** – the trauma network project would have no impact on provision at hospital sites. Requirements to support trauma would be in addition to current provision

Members thanked Karen for her update. Members were urged to respond to the consultation and to help raise awareness in order to maximise input and response. The deadline for responding to the consultation being 5th February 2018.

9.	REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS (11.10 - 12.30)
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Members welcomed the opportunity to receive reports from, and to put questions to, members serving on outside bodies.

Councillor Stephen Hayes – Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Adult Social Care

- a. **Adult Social Care Inspection** – CSSIW are undertaking an inspection of Adult Social Care. The inspection would include review of patient experiences with a focus on the standard of care provided. There would be informal feedback to the portfolio holder and service shortly. It is expected that the public report would be made available in the summer. It would be important to address any actions for improvement
- b. **Delayed Transfers of Care (DTOCs)** – officers are in regular discussions with hospitals in order to ensure timely discharges. In some situations there had been issues regarding discharge being prevented due to packages of care not being in place. Winter has always been a peak time for hospital admissions. Positions are very closely monitored
- c. **Re-ablement** – support depends on individual situations. There had been some misleading reports regarding a six week period for re-ablement. Re-ablement services are often not needed for such long periods after discharge
- d. **Care Homes (BUPA Contract)** – BUPA operate a number of homes under contract to Powys (Powys owns the sites). Recently BUPA had been looking to transfer the contract (initially without notifying the Council), to HC1. It would be a legal requirement for BUPA to honour the contract. The position is being very closely monitored by the Authority
- e. **Budget** – the 2017/18 spend would be in the region of £57 million, 14% of costs (£8 million) would be recovered. The Welsh Government policy commitment to cap contributions towards care costs would have an impact on the budget position. For 2017/18 Council had agreed to identifying a £7.7 million fund which could be accessed to support Adult Social Care pressures, however, to date no funding had been required to support pressures
- f. **Day Centres/Care** – in some areas there had been re-commissioning and change to care services which had resulted in the use of different care providers. There are different arrangements in place for different areas. The Portfolio Holder share area provision detail in order that there's clarity in relation to what is operating where and by which provider
- g. **Adult and Children's Services Budget Positions/Business Plans** – the Portfolio Holder agreed to share business plans which had been accepted and would draw down additional funding to support both areas
- h. **Virtual Wards** – the Portfolio Holder agreed to provide an update/position statement in relation to operating virtual wards. A member queried whether there had been appropriate evaluations and actions thereafter

Members thanked the portfolio holder for attending, taking questions and updating.

Councillor Martin Weale – Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Regeneration and Planning.

Councillor Weale had been unable to attend today's meeting, however, he had arranged for officers to provide briefings/updates in relation to matters within his portfolio. Julie Lewis – Tourism Officer and Nathan Davies – Powys War Memorial Project Officer attended for this item of business:

Powys Economy/Business Support – members were shown a short film which provided information in relation to business support and projects being driven to support regeneration activities. During discussion and update particular reference was made to:

- a. **Internet Connections/Network** – there are areas that are still experiencing poor internet speeds which can impact greatly on businesses. Members expected networks to be upgraded as part of the Superfast Cymru project (funded by the Welsh Government and being undertaken by British Telecom). It would be helpful to keep members updated on progress where there had been issues
- b. **Tourism** – the importance of tourism to economies in Powys is well recognised. It would be important to retain and build on the reputation of Powys as a tourist destination
- c. **Move to Mid Wales** – publicity and schemes focus on promoting Powys as a place to live in and work from, the positives are promoted. Powys has good links with a range of partners who work to ‘sell’ Powys
- d. **Brecon Beacons National Parks (BBNP)** – the value of tourism to the area is very important. Members urged close links with the BBNP. It was suggested that the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration should attend meetings at the BBNP where regeneration is the focus. Councillor John Morris would pursue the matter
- e. **Porta Peaks Project** – members would welcome an update in relation to the Porta Peaks project
- f. **Vision 2025** – it was felt that there should be a review of publicity/promotions/projects/schemes in order to reflect the Cabinet Vision for 2025
- g. **Tri-Town Meetings** – the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration had begun a series of meetings in order to bring local businesses and communities together in Builth Wells, Rhayader and Llandrindod in an attempt to involve them in regenerating the area. There had been some initial success. Members would welcome an update in relation to the pilot and information regarding plans to roll out to other areas
- h. **Brexit** – a member requested details in relation to actions being taken in the light of the withdrawal of the UK from the European Union following the Brexit
- i. **Town Centre Loan Scheme** – there are areas of Brecknockshire (Brecon Town in particular) that had been considered for the Welsh Government town centre loan scheme. Members would welcome an update in relation to the scheme and plans for areas of Powys

Powys War Memorials Project:

- a. **War Memorial Project** – communities have access to a time limited grant which is administered by the Authority. Communities can apply for funding to support projects which recognise conflicts with a focus on WWI and refurbishing war memorials. We are currently in year two of the four year grant period (2014 – 2018). Where memorials recognise more than one conflict they would also be considered for funding. The fund is being allocated on a first come first serve basis
- b. **Funding/Application Process** - up to £5k could be awarded to refurbish WWI war memorials, 10% of the grant award would need to be matched by the local community. The application process had been kept simple and there’s an emphasis on processing applications quickly

- c. **Community Engagement and Events** – funding could also be accessed to support community events which recognise the forces i.e. an area had applied to support a local walk of historical interest which links to the forces. Local cadet squads may be able to access funding
- d. **Mapping** – there are 350 WWI mapped memorials in Powys. Input/information regarding mapped or unmapped sites would be welcome
- e. **Brecknockshire** – a number of projects had received funding i.e. Bwlch, Ystrad and Crickhowell
- f. **Social Media/Website Projects** – funding could also be obtained to support activities to provide information via. social media and/or to operate websites which recognise the services

Members thanked Nathan for his update. Members wanting to discuss matters regarding potential applications were encouraged to contact Nathan direct.

Tourism:

- a. **Value** – in 2016 the value of tourism to the Powys local economy was in the region of £720 million (the second largest value to Powys after farming). 75% of those who visit are from England
- b. **Vision 2025** – promoting Powys and taking advantage of tourism opportunities had been recognised as important in the Cabinet 2025 vision
- c. **Branding** – branding Powys is very important in order to provide an identity
- d. **Events** – the Authority has an events team. Hosting events can be very lucrative. It would be important to maximise publicity
- e. **Visit Wales/Cambrian Way (A470)** – historically funding has been provided to support activities along the Cambrian Way route which sits alongside the A470
- f. **Business Wales** – there are good links between the Authority and Business Wales

10.	REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES (12.30-12.45)
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Members welcomed the opportunity to receive reports from, and to put questions to, members serving on outside bodies. During discussion particular reference was made to:

- a. **Brecknock Play Network** – it was agreed that Councillor Jackie Charlton, the local member for Llangattock should serve as the shire representative. Should the network require additional members it would be for further consideration
- b. **Brecon and Radnor Sports Partnership** – Iain McDonald accepted the nomination to serve on the Brecon and Radnor Sports Partnership
- c. **Evans Trust** – the Trust provides funding to support the studies for pupils of Builth High. It was, therefore, agreed that the local member for Builth Wells should fill the Trustee position or, if he declined, that the position should be offered to those members from the high school catchment area
- d. **Brecon Beacons National Parks Local Development Plan** – it would be important for the Local Authority to feed into the Brecon Beacons Park Local Development Plan consultation. The deadline for response would be 9th February. It was agreed that a shire response would be appropriate and the

Chair would link with the Clerk regarding arrangements for a meeting to discuss the shire's view in order to submit a return

11. ROAD SAFETY AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEMES (12.45 - 1)

Members welcomed Jo Lancey, Area Traffic Officer to the meeting for this item of business.

- a. **Crickhowell Parking Review** – members **RESOLVED** to extend the area for review to include Llangenny Lane.
- b. **Talgarth Variable 20-30 mph Speed Limit** – the Chair reported that he had received a letter from the Town Council expressing some concerns/clarification about matters. The letter was for officer response and not for shire consideration. Members **RESOLVED** to initiate the Traffic Regulation Order consultation procedure and if no substantive objections are received the proposal for Talgarth be implemented.
- c. **Builth Wells Safer Routes to Trunk Road Schools** – members were informed that the local member had welcomed the report (the local member had not been able to attend today's meeting). Members **RESOLVED**:
 - I. To initiate the Traffic Regulation Order consultation procedure in accordance with The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996
 - II. That the consultation procedures be initiated and if no substantive objections are received the proposal be implemented

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members were reminded that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 25th April 2018. Members suggested items for a future meeting to include an update in relation to the Black Mountain's College proposal (before committing funding and support for the proposal it was felt that it would be important for the Authority to take a view on how it would fit with the Authority's plans for the education estate). It was also suggested to receive updates in relation to the future of For Your Information (FYI) community websites which had been flagged as a concern by some members.

**County Councillor MJ Dorrance
Chairman**