

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC OVERVIEW BOARD HELD AT
COMMITTEE ROOM A - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON
TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2016**

PRESENT

County Councillor W B Thomas (Chair)

County Councillors R G Brown, J H Brunt, M R Harris, S M Hayes, W T Jones,
W J T Powell and E A York

Jeremy Patterson Chief Executive, David Powell Strategic Director Place, Julie Rowles Joint Director Workforce and Organisation Development, Dylan Owen Head of Transformation for Adult Services for item 4.1, Ian Roberts Head of Schools for item 4.3, Garry Hudson Senior Performance Management Officer, Peter Jones Professional Lead Corporate Insight

1.	APOLOGIES
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Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor EA Jones and from the Strategic Director People.

2.	MINUTES
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The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the last meeting held on 20th September 2016 as a correct record.

3.	INTRODUCTION TO NEW FORMAT
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The Chair explained that the meeting would concentrate on performance, highlighting areas of concern and celebrating good performance. For future meetings budget reports would also be considered and written overviews provided.

4.	CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN TRACKER
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SOB received and considered the Corporate Improvement Tracker. Members were advised that the boxes shaded green related to priorities from the One Powys Plan and those that were white were from the Council's Corporative Improvement Plan. Members had found it difficult to link One Powys Plan priorities to service improvement plans. SOB asked for priorities to be shown in a different colour so they were easier to differentiate

4.1. Support in the Community

Strengthen Joint Working (**Green**): The integrated team had started work in Ystradgynlais in September and a project involving multi agency teams had just started in Brecon and would be rolled out.

Implement Single Point of Access to health and social care services (**Amber**): Powys People Direct had come back under Council control and the Head of Transformation for Adult Services was confident it could be made more efficient.

Some referrals were coming through from the Health Board but there was more work to be done.

Use technology to help people stay independent (Green): the service was about to sign an agreement with Tunstall for the installation and maintenance of equipment for 400 people with the next few months.

Engage our communities (Green): There was ongoing consultation on Day Care. The Council and Health Board had different engagement processes and would be meeting in December with a view to agreeing a common engagement protocol.

Access to short breaks for carers (Red): the service provided 2 types of respite care, a sitting service provided by Crossroads through a service level agreement and accommodation respite provided using vacant beds in Bupa homes. This was not suitable for young adults. The service was working to improve this and did expect to see improvement in the next quarter, but not to amber.

Timely access to services (Amber): the service expected timelines to improve.

Ensure young people becoming adults feel positive and supported (Red): Further information requested by the SOB on this red measure. The Professional Lead Insight would discuss with the Programme Manager.

Response to domestic violence (Amber): the service was looking to develop a home support service and expected to see significant progress over the next 3 – 6 months.

Build programme of apprenticeships (Amber): the Joint Director Workforce and Organisation Development explained that the Council was looking at the Calderdale model where every vacancy not requiring a professional qualification was considered for an apprenticeship. Members asked for a report to Cabinet.

Domiciliary Care Service (Amber): work was ongoing and a further report would be brought to Cabinet. A dynamic purchase system was being considered.

Joint Commissioning Strategy (Amber): most of the strategies had now been signed off so could be reassessed as Green.

Implement Welsh Community Care Information System (Amber): would be implemented in Social Care this calendar year and by the Health Board next so was judged to be on track.

Remodel day time opportunities for older people (Red): the service was currently consulting on this. There were significant risks associated with this project: savings not being made, isolation of clients and costs being shunted between services. The Strategic Director Resources noted that it was critical for the budget setting process to know how much to put in for this service. This would depend on Cabinet decisions due in December.

Reduce residential care admissions (Amber): the service continued to reduce numbers but not by the numbers required so this remained amber.

Identify efficiencies of £3.6m (Red): activities need to be assigned by the time of the next meeting.

Gypsy and Traveller site (Amber): being addressed through the LDP.

Flood Alleviation Schemes (Amber): more detail was needed for the next meeting. Welsh Government funding had been secured but more may be needed in light of recent flooding in Ystradgynlais.

Older Persons Dwellings (Amber): SOB asked for a report for the next meeting.

4.2. Developing the Economy

Improve the supply of affordable and suitable housing (Amber): Right to buy had been suspended and plots of land suitable for development were being identified through the STAMP project.

Develop a thriving economy (Green): supported by a programme of work overseen by the Stronger Communities Programme Board.

Ensure citizens can access travel information more easily (Blue): app launched at the Royal Welsh Show and publicised through material developed by students in Newtown. Change from blue to green.

Welsh Housing Quality Standard (Green): on track and due to complete by 2018. £41m spent to date.

New builds/purchases (amber): There were occasional opportunities to build or buy.

Sustain continued improvement in the process for determining planning applications (Green): The service was now in the top quartile of planning authorities in Wales. 91 per cent of planning applications were determined by the council within the time period required between April and June 2016, compared to 43 per cent during the same time period last year. The percentage of appeals dismissed by Welsh Government Inspectors rose from 65 per cent in 2014/2015 to 73 per cent in 2015/16. Performance figures over 66 per cent in this area is considered by the Welsh Government to be "good".

Local Development Plan (Amber): The inspector had indicated at a meeting in September that she was happy with progress and the service was now waiting for a formal letter confirming this. There was still a risk so the assessment remained amber.

Implement the Council's Key Infrastructure Capital Programme (Amber): there was significant delay on some schemes particularly where land was not in the council's ownership.

Review the workshop portfolio so that they provide an income (Amber): the service was now making an income. There was a high level of take-up and the service was looking to acquire land to build new workshops.

Brecon Cultural Hub (Amber): the project was at an early stage. With officers transferring to the JVC there was a danger of a loss of continuity that would need to be managed.

Regeneration Fund (Amber): The Strategic Director Place was asked to report in further detail in December.

4.3. Learning

Brecon School Campus (Red): significant progress had been made since the end of quarter 1 with Welsh Government approval of the outline business case for a new school in Brecon and capital investment in Gwernyfed. Change from red to amber.

Ensure that a high quality education is accessible to all (Amber): this remained as amber due to the number of schools in special measures. However, each of the schools had made good progress.

Fully implement the ERW school improvement strategy (Amber): the service had been inspected on its support for school improvement in June and assessed as good. It was now able to offer schools support from good performing schools from out of the county. There was still concern that some schools were not improving quickly enough and where this was the case Improvement Boards were established under an independent Chair. This measure would remain amber whilst schools were in special measures. All but 2 schools had shown improvement. Further detail would be provided at the December meeting and schools would be broken down between primary, secondary and special sectors. The Head of Schools would also bring a report on schools causing concern.

Review and reconfigure services from children and young people with additional learning needs (Green): the service was looking to restructure provision for pupils not being educated in schools as the Pupil Referral Units were not thought to be providing value for money. The Head of Schools would provide a progress report to the next meeting.

The other amber projects related to the school modernisation programme and would remain amber until delivered. £1.1m of efficiencies needed to be identified by the time of the next meeting.

There was a theme throughout the document on the difficulty of recruiting to key posts and members asked for a report to Cabinet on the Council's recruitment and retention policy.

4.4. Services Delivered for Less

Remodel the service so that it can deliver effectively within available resources (Red): A decision on day care services would have to be taken before the budget could be modelled. No tier one projects had been identified to meeting the required saving on 3rd party spend.

Establish a LABV (Red): This was behind schedule and members were concerned at the length of time being taken. Bids were being evaluated and the outcome would be reported to Cabinet.

Set up a standalone company to deliver Building Control services (Red): This had been delayed due to a key staff member leaving. The Strategic Director Place advised that this would still deliver savings but that it may not be a standalone service.

Meeting the £5.956m savings target for Highways, Transport and Recycling in the MTFS (Red): Proposals for savings needed to be firmed up. Proposals generating £16m savings would be coming before Cabinet shortly.

Cleaning – Transfer of schools based staff to schools (Red): staff in 8 schools had not transferred. Update at the December meeting.

£10.6m efficiencies (Red): Members asked for more detail at the December meeting.

Review of services at Bannau/Camlas (Amber): more detail was needed for the December meeting.

Remodel the Library Service (Amber): Cabinet considered the report on 4th October and Town and Community Councils given to 31st October to respond.

Meet statutory provisions of rights of way and countryside services (Amber): the service was making use of volunteers and seeking to manage on the least amount without being challenged.

Transfer outdoor recreation and play provision (Amber): A lot of facilities had already been transferred. The Strategic Director Place would talk to Portfolio Holders about the transfer of land.

Remodel the Youth Service (Amber): The Leisure and Recreation Services Manager had been in discussion with a number of organisations including the YFC.

Implement effective business intelligence (Amber): this was rated amber because of the demand for the service outweighed the resource. SOB noted the importance of this for good decision making and asked for it to be kept under review.

Oversee income generation and cost improvement opportunities through the establishment of the Income and Cost Improvement Board (Amber): the Board had been established but as yet was not as effective as it could be. The Strategic Director Resources would report to the next meeting including on opportunities for income generation.

Vehicle replacement programme (Amber): Report to next meeting.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
That Strategic Overview Board note the comments made in respect of each of the projects and receive the Corporate Improvement Plan Quarter 1 Tracker.	To ensure effective evaluation of progress in implementing the Council's Corporate Improvement Plan 2016-19, supported by good practice and simple governance.

5.	POSITION SUMMARY: SERVICE ITEMS NOT COVERED IN THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN	5
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SOB noted that Children's Services were overspending on the Looked After Children budget but was making savings in other areas. The Chief Executive noted the need for a better way of recording savings vired between budgets.

SOB noted the good progress being made in improving recycling rates.

6.	REGULATORY RECOMMENDATION TRACKER	6
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SOB noted that a number of the recommendations related to performance and the statement of accounts so should not appear in the tracker. There were three red measures:

- Scrutiny was due to self-evaluate in the autumn and these measure was expected to change from red.
- Public engagement in Council meetings – a report was due to be considered by full Council on 19th October
- The Council has not run an early departure scheme since the survey was conducted but will give due consideration of conducting an equality impact assessment of future schemes.

The range of recommendations recorded showed the burden of regulation the Council operated under.

7.	LOCAL GOVERNMENT DATA UNIT PERFORMANCE BULLETIN	7
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SOB noted the annual performance data for local authorities in Wales. Powys was ranked 11th of the 22 Welsh Authorities but was the 4th most improved with improvement in 67% of indicators, no change in 10% and declines in 23%.

SOB noted the turnaround in delivering disabled facilities grants which now saw Powys as the second best performing authority in Wales. Members also noted the drop in the number of affordable housing units delivered and asked for more information including on the numbers being delivered in the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. Members were advised that the introduction of locality based children's services teams should help improve some of the statistics regarding looked after children.

The figure quoted for number of days sick leave was wrong and the Joint Director Workforce and Organisation Development was asked to report back with the statistics for each service.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
That Strategic Overview Board receive the LGDU Local Government Performance Bulletin 2015/16 for information.	Supporting good practice and simple governance as required in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

8.	SESSION EVALUATION
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SOB considered the value of the meeting and the structured approach to considering progress on delivering the council's key commitments. All agreed that the meeting had added value and acknowledged the benefit of corporate challenge and ownership.

9.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING
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13th December 2016

10.	RESOURCE PLAN
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SOB considered the resource plan which had been developed to help plan where resources would be needed to deliver projects within the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The Chief Executive advised that Management Team had considered gaps in the plan which would require moving resources around the Council and the need for some short term use of consultants. The plan needed some further refinement to prioritise time critical schemes and those dependent on scarce specialist resources.

County Councillor WT Jones (Chair)