

**NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF THE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEES, AUDIT COMMITTEE AND STANDARDS  
COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS ON  
THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER 2011**

**PRESENT:** County Councillor J. G. Morris (Chair)  
County Councillors R G Brown, J H Brunt, Mrs L V Corfield, L R E Davies, Miss M  
Davies, Mrs M McKenzie and Col T J Van Rees.

Officers in Attendance: Jeremy Patterson (Chief Executive), Clarence Meredith  
(Strategic Director – Law and Governance), Janet Kealey (Head of Legal, Scrutiny  
and Democratic Services), Wyn Richards, Lisa Richards and Liz Patterson (Scrutiny  
Team)

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors Mrs S C Davies,  
Miss A Holloway, and Independent Members R. Miller and P Swanson.

**2. Notes of Meeting held on 27 October 2011**

The notes of the meeting held on 27 October 2011 were agreed.

**3. LSB Scrutiny – verbal update**

Modernisation and Improvement Scrutiny Committee will be responsible for  
undertaking scrutiny of the LSB. It is hoped that the Chair and Vice-Chair will  
be invited to attend LSB meetings as Observers. The structure and number of  
partners on the LSB will be issues to be examined as well as its performance in  
delivering the One Powys Plan.

**4. Scrutiny of the Powys Change Programme and scrutiny committee work  
programmes**

The need for improvement in scrutiny in Powys was explained with increasing  
expectations from the Welsh Government and external regulators and focus on  
improved corporate governance.

A number of issues around scrutiny in Powys were discussed including  
possible changes to the committee structure, introduction of a shadow cabinet,  
the timing of any changes to scrutiny.

It was agreed to examine this issues in more detail at the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup>  
January 2011. Officers would bring details of different structures operated in  
England and Wales for consideration.

**4. Work Programmes**

Council had asked that Joint Chairs arrange for scrutiny lto ook at the report  
from the Information Commissioner on Information Management and report

back to the next meeting of Council on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2012. It was agreed that the Chair and Vice-Chair of Modernisation and Improvement Scrutiny Committee would look at this initially and report back to Council in January. That the Modernisation and Improvement Committee could also appoint a politically balanced working group to look at any other management information issues raised by the report should that be necessary.

#### **i) Cabinet**

Noted.

#### **ii) Scrutiny Committees**

##### **Modernisation and Improvement**

LSB scrutiny would be picked up from this committee

##### **Children, Social Care and Health**

This committee was continuing to meet monthly splitting the work programme to focus on either Children's Services, Adults Services or Housing. A pre-meeting was held with briefing notes and potential questions. Members were asking questions but it remained the case that the effectiveness of scrutiny needed to be developed. Members had been appointed to the joint working group with Learning and Leisure on CRB checks.

##### **Learning and Leisure**

The Youth Services Strategy has been deferred until the autumn due to staff changes. The committee has also appointed to the joint working group with Children, Social Care and Health on CRB checks.

##### **Environment, Crime and Disorder**

There was a query as to where Crime and Disorder would be most appropriately be considered. The Committee was looking to conclude the outstanding working groups by May 2012.

##### **Audit**

Noted.

##### **Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs**

Noted.

#### **5. Attendance of performance and accountancy staff at scrutiny committees**

To be discussed at the January meeting.

**6. External visits by Members to other Scrutiny Committees**

Suitable venues to be identified for the January meeting.

**7. Local Government Measure**

It was expected that consultation on the draft guidance would take place in the New Year. It would be difficult for Councils to amend their constitutions for implementation in May 2012.

**8. Joint Working Update**

At the Council meeting held on the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup> December agreement had been given to proceed to the next stage in the joint working with Ceredigion on Social Services. Collaborative working on a regional basis was also being driven by Welsh Government.

**9. Items for next scheduled meeting 5 January 2012**

The meeting was advised that current issues facing the Council include:

- Schools with deficit budgets
- School standards
- Adult Social Care – Inspection Report imminent
- Regeneration – WAO Inspection Report imminent
- Highways

**County Councillor J. G. Morris  
CHAIR**

Meeting closed 4.35pm