

County Council

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

Meeting date
Thursday, 23 February 2017

Meeting time
10.30 am

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

17 February 2017

AGENDA

1.	APOLOGIES	CC14- 2017
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To receive apologies for absence.

2.	MINUTES	CC15- 2017
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To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the last meeting held on 26 January 2017 as a correct record.

(Pages 7 - 24)

3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	CC16- 2017
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To receive any declarations of interest from Members relating to items to be considered on the agenda.

4.	CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	CC17- 2017
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To receive any announcements from the Chair of Council.

5.	LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	CC18- 2017
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To receive any announcements from the Leader.

6.	VIREMENTS REQUIRING APPROVAL BY COUNCIL	CC19- 2017
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To consider a capital virement requiring Council approval.

(Pages 25 - 28)

7.	MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION ANNUAL STATEMENT 2017/18	CC20- 2017
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To consider the Minimum Revenue Provision Annual Statement for 2017/18.

(Pages 29 - 38)

8.	REPORT OF THE FINANCE SCRUTINY PANEL	CC21- 2017
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To consider the report of the Finance Scrutiny Panel to Cabinet on the budget proposals for 2017/18.

(Pages 39 - 40)

9.	BUDGET FOR 2017-18, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2017-2020 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2017-2021	CC22- 2017
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To consider the Budget for 2017-18, Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017-2020 and Capital Programme for 2017-2021.

(Pages 41 - 934)

10.	NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNTY COUNCILLOR PETER MEDLICOTT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WILLIAMS	CC23- 2017
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We, the undersigned, call upon Powys County Council to object to the closure of HSBC bank in Knighton and to the closure of other banks and similar institutions in small towns and communities.

Proposed by County Councillor Peter Medicott

Seconded by County Councillor Michael Williams

11.	NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNTY COUNCILLOR STEPHEN HAYES AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR KATH ROBERTS-JONES	CC24- 2017
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The Treaty of Montgomery

The 750th anniversary of the Treaty of Montgomery, signed on the 29th September 1267, falls this year. The treaty, between Henry III of England and Llywelyn ap Gruffydd (Llywelyn ein Llyw Olaf), formally recognised Llywelyn as Prince of Wales.

Signed at Rhydwhyman, a ford on the River Severn between Montgomery and Berriew, the Treaty of Montgomery is regarded as of historic and national significance as the only time a Welsh born Prince of Wales was formally acknowledged by an English king.

Motion to Council

That Council consider whether, and if so how, it wishes to promote or support appropriate events to mark the 750th anniversary in September 2017 of the historic Treaty of Montgomery.

Proposed by County Councillor Stephen Hayes

Seconded by County Councillor Kath Roberts-Jones

12.	QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION	CC25- 2017
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12.1. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning from County Councillor Matthew Dorrance

The Welsh Labour Government has announced that as part of the third phase of the Vibrant and Viable Places Town Centre Loans Fund a loan of £1,000,000 for proposed activities in Brecon, Llandrindod Wells and Newtown has been offered to the Council.

Will the Cabinet provide details to Council on how it will use the funding, what projects in Brecon will be supported and how it will engage with local members to identify priorities?

(Pages 935 - 936)

12.2. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Finance from County Councillor Matthew Dorrance

A fund to enable local authorities to provide free parking in town centres has been agreed by the Welsh Labour Government. Will the Cabinet detail how it plans to deliver free parking in Powys?

(Pages 937 - 938)

12.3. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Education from County Councillor Gary Price**

In answer to this recently submitted question

Can the Portfolio Holder for Education clarify if a schools Pupil Deprivation Grant is included as part of its Delegated Budget and therefore must comply with the Powys Scheme for the Financing of Schools?

the Portfolio Holder for Education has given the following answer:

“The Pupil Deprivation grant is included as part of a schools delegated budget, the school is bound by the terms and conditions of the grant and the Scheme for Financing schools which contains the following guidance on grants:

2.12 Grants and central funds

The Authority is authorised to make sums available to schools from central funds, in the form of allocations which are additional to and separate from the schools’ budget shares. Such allocations will be subject to conditions setting out the purpose or purposes for which the funds may be used and, while these conditions need not preclude virement (except where the funding is supported by a specific grant which the Authority itself is not permitted to vire), this should not be carried to the point of assimilating the allocations into the school’s budget share.

Schools are required to maintain their accounting records in such a way as to be able to demonstrate that where appropriate the requirement to spend only on the purpose for which funding is given, and not to vire into the budget share, has been complied with.”

Can I therefore ask the Portfolio Holder for Education to clarify that because the Pupil Deprivation Grant is included as part of a Schools delegated budget it must also comply with regulation 5.2 of the scheme of financing schools and therefore cannot use funds to provide a means of transport for a school?

(Pages 939 - 940)

12.4. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Finance from County Councillor Gary Price**

Can the Portfolio Holder for Finance please tell me what the combined total percentage increase in Council Tax and Band D average increase has been for this Council Term?

(Pages 941 - 942)

12.5. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Libraries from County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe**

There is a great deal of local concern and confusion regarding the future funding of the Library Services by the Council.

Regardless of who is to run them and where they are housed can you confirm the level of financing the library service will receive in the future from the Council relative to the present position, and for how long this will be sustained? This is particularly important if Town Councils and community groups are being encouraged to contribute to the running of the libraries as they need guarantees that Powys is committed to maintaining this statutory and vital local provision.

(Pages 943 - 944)

12.6. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Finance from County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe**

As a council we have to pay non-domestic rates on our buildings and under the present rules as well as town and community councils we are not able to apply for rate relief on our properties: this only applies to charities and not for-profit organisations. Non-domestic rates are collected on behalf of Welsh Government. The figures for 2016/17 (current year) are that we will collect £28.1m and we will receive a redistribution amount of £40.5million.

I have been approached by resident raising concerns over the council's proposals to move buildings over to Town and Community Councils and have asked for clarification on the non-domestic rates.

The County Council will identify savings in the budget line for running costs by moving the non-domestic rates over to Town and Community Councils. Whilst doing this the Council is still receiving redistribution of the fund from WG thus having another budget line supported giving the perception that PCC are having 2 savings lines within the budget.

This is at the expense of local communities that are expected to fund the non-domestic rates through their town or community council precept. Thus the perception that this is double taxing local communities who take over local services in rural areas as they have to pay council tax and community tax. This is when the council centralise services to the major towns in our county such as Library services etc and not asking their community councils to contribute leaving it to the smaller communities.

Can the portfolio holder please brief the council on how the council could assist communities that wish to take over services that are subject to Non-Domestic rates?

(Pages 945 - 946)

12.7. **Question to the Portfolio Holders for Adult and Children's Services from County Councillor Gemma Bowker**

Could the portfolio holders for Adult and Children's Services please provide details as to the statutory level of staff cover out of hours and the staffing patterns used by PCC for out of hours cover; and provide information as to whether there have been any occasions over the past 12 months when that cover has fallen below statutory or safe levels?

(Pages 947 - 948)