

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT COUNCIL
CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS ON TUESDAY, 7 MARCH
2017**

PRESENT

County Councillor KF Tampin (Chair)

County Councillors MC Alexander, PJ Ashton, D Bailey, G R Banks, G J Bowker, G Breeze, R G Brown, J H Brunt, L V Corfield, K W Curry, M J B Davies, S C Davies, D E Davies, L R E Davies, E R Davies, A W Davies, M J Dorrance, V E Evans, W J Evans, D O Evans, L Fitzpatrick, J Gibson-Watt, P Harris, M R Harris, S M Hayes, J C Holmes, G Hopkins, E A Jones, D C Jones, M J Jones, E M Jones, Eldrydd M Jones, D R Jones, J R Jones, W T Jones, F H Jump, H Lewis, S McNicholas, P J Medlicott, DW Meredith, ET Morgan, G Morgan, JG Morris, W J T Powell, WD Powell, D R Price, P C Pritchard, G W Ratcliffe, K M Roberts-Jones, J G Shearer, K S Silk, D A Thomas, W B Thomas, A G Thomas, D G Thomas, R G Thomas, T Turner, T J Van-Rees, G P Vaughan, D H Williams, S L Williams and J M Williams

1.	APOLOGIES
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Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors S Davies, GM Jones, PE Lewis, RH Mills and GD Price and from County Councillor MC Mackenzie who was on other Council business.

2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
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County Councillors MJB Davies and GW Ratcliffe declared personal non-pecuniary interests in item CC31 – 2017 Capital Virement for Primary Schools in the Gwernyfed Catchment as an LEA appointed governor at Llanfaes Primary School.

County Councillors PJ Ashton, LV Corfield, DE Davies, JE Evans, GG Hopkins, WJT Powell, DR Price, TJ Van-Rees declared personal prejudicial interests in item CC38 – 2017 Pay Policy.

County Councillors PJ Ashton, D Bailey, GJ Bowker, JH Brunt, LV Corfield, KW Curry, LRE Davies, SC Davies, MJ Dorrance, JE Evans, CJ Gibson-Watt, SM Hayes, DR Jones, EA Jones, E Michael Jones, MJ Jones, WT Jones, H Lewis, DW Meredith, S McNicholas, G. Morgan, JG Morris, WJT Powell, GW Ratcliffe, KM Roberts-Jones, JG Shearer, KS Silk, AG Thomas, DG Thomas, TG Turner, TJ Van-Rees, GP Vaughan, DH Williams, GIS Williams, JM Williams and S Williams declared personal, non-prejudicial interests in item CC39 – 2017 Wales Investment Pool as members of the Local Government Pension Scheme

County Councillor MJ Dorrance declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in item CC42 – 2017 Welsh Medium Stream at Brecon High School as his partner was an LEA appointed governor at the school. County Councillor GW Ratcliffe

declared a personal and prejudicial interest as he had a relative in the Welsh medium stream in the Brecon area.

3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair and Members welcomed County Councillor Joy Shearer back following her illness.

The Chair also congratulated Llanfyllin YFC for their achievement in winning the All Wales YFC Entertainment Competition and Councillor Gwynfor Thomas who had written and produced the show.

Councillor Shearer also congratulated Gemma Owen of Aberafesp YFC who had been announced as best junior YFC member in Wales. The Chair would be writing to Miss Owen and to Llanfyllin YFC.

The Chair advised that amongst the events he had attended were the Rourke's Draft concert, the opening of new facilities at Llanidloes Sports Centre and the Brecknockshire and Radnorshire Sports Awards.

4. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader noted that despite facing some the biggest funding cuts in Wales the Council had continued to perform well. There had been changes in the way the Council worked with greater emphasis on partnership working and integration with Powys Teaching Health Board. The Council had invested heavily in capital projects with £130m invested in new schools.

As this was the last meeting before the local government elections the Leader wished all members well and thanked them for the honour of being Leader of Powys County Council.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BRIEFING

The Chief Executive did not give a briefing on this occasion.

6. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2017-18

All officers present declared an interest in this item and left the meeting while it was being considered with the exception of the Professional Lead – Employment Services and the Trainee Assistant Technician. Mandy Collins the Board Secretary for Powys Teaching Health Board was Acting Monitoring Officer for this item.

County Councillors PJ Ashton, LV Corfield, DE Davies, JE Evans, GG Hopkins, WJT Powell, DR Price, TJ Van-Rees left the meeting whilst this item was being considered having declared personal prejudicial interests in this item.

Council considered the Pay Policy Statement for 2017-18.

The recommendation was moved by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and seconded by County Councillor SM Hayes and passed by 44 votes to 2 with 2 abstentions.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
To approve the pay policy statement filed with the signed minutes.	Ensure compliance with section 38 (1) of the Localism Act 2011.

7.	CAPITAL VIREMENTS REQUIRING COUNCIL APPROVAL
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7.1 Capital Virement for Brecon Cultural Hub

Council was asked to roll forward £2.3m to 2017/18 to continue with the project.

The recommendation was moved by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and seconded by County Councillor Rosemarie Harris and passed by 53 votes to 5.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
The Capital Virement to roll forward £2.3m of the Brecon Cultural Hub budget into 2017/18 is approved.	To allow the costs of Service Reform and Transformation to be funded from capital receipts instead of revenue.

7.2 Capital Virement for Capitalisation Direction

Council was asked to the powers given to the authority under the Local Government Act 2003 sections 16(2)(b) and 20 Treatment of Certain Costs as Capital Expenditure to create a Capitalisation Directions to use capital receipts, from the sale of land and building assets, to fund the identified costs of Service Reform and Transformation.

The recommendation was moved by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and seconded by County Councillor WB Thomas and passed by 53 votes to 1 with 3 abstentions.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
The capital virement to create a budget of £1.981m for the Capitalisation Direction for 2016/17 is approved.	To allow the costs of Service Reform and Transformation to be funded from capital receipts instead of revenue.

7.3 Capital Virement for Street Lighting

Council was asked to approve the roll forward of £1m in the Street Lighting Efficiency budget due to the delay in the supply of Street Lighting LED lanterns.

The recommendation was moved by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and seconded by County Councillor RG Brown and passed by 57 votes to 0.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
That the Capital Virement to roll forward £1m of the Street Lighting Efficiency budget into 2017/18 is approved.	Delay in supply of LED lanterns.

7.4 Capital Virement for Primary Schools in Gwernyfed Catchment

Council was asked to approve the roll forward of £1.564m into the 2017/18 budget for the Gwernyfed Primary Schools Catchment Project as there had been delays due to approval of the business cases during the year. Work had commenced on some of the site.

The recommendation was moved by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and seconded by County Councillor EA Jones and passed by 55 votes to 1.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
The Capital Virement to roll forward £1.564m of the Gwernyfed Catchment budget into 2017/18 is approved.	Delay in the project spend.

7.5 Capital Virement for Welsh Housing Quality Standard

Council was asked to remove £2.137m from the Welsh Housing Quality Standard budget for 2016/17 because of delays and changes to the numerous project that make up the overall budget.

The recommendation was moved by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and seconded by County Councillor MR Harris and passed by 54 votes to 0.

RESOLVED:	Reason for Decision:
The Capital Virement to remove £2.137m from 2016/17 of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard budget is approved.	Delay in the project spend.

7.6 Capital Virement for New Build

Council was asked to roll forward £850k for the budget for the Repurchase/New Build of Council Houses to 2017/18 to continue with the project and there had been delays to the project earlier in the year.

The recommendation was moved by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and seconded by County Councillor MR Harris and passed by 53 votes to 0 with 1 abstention.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
The Capital Virement to roll forward £850k of the Repurchase / New Build budget into 2017/18 is approved.	To allow the costs of Service Reform and Transformation to be funded from capital receipts instead of revenue.

8	COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION FOR 2017-2018
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Council considered the Council Tax resolution for 2017/18 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. As agreed at Council on 23rd February 2017, the report contained a 3.9% increase in Council Tax for the financial year 2017-18.

The recommendation was moved by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and seconded by EA Jones and passed by 35 votes to 17 with 3 abstentions.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
<p>1. THAT the amounts contained in paragraph 2.1 in the report be accepted by the Council for the year 2017/2018 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 -</p> <p>2. THAT, the Council in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, hereby sets the amounts contained in paragraph 2.3 of the report as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2017/2018 for each of the categories of dwellings shown.</p>	To meet the legal requirements of the Council to set an amount of Council Tax.

9	CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN
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Council considered the update for the Corporate Improvement Plan 2016-20.

The recommendation was moved by the Leader and seconded by County Councillor WT Jones and passed by 53 votes to 1 with 1 abstention.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
That the Corporate Improvement Plan 2016/20 - 2017 Update is approved.	This CIP clearly defines the council's vision, priorities and intended outcomes, clearly making links to the One Powys Plan, the MTFS and emerging workforce strategy. To facilitate effective engagement with staff, elected members, the public and stakeholders such as regulators.

County Councillors KM Roberts-Jones and JM Williams joined the meeting at 11.20 a.m. having been on other Council business.

10	REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION
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Council considered changes to Sections 4, 5, 7 and 12 of the Constitution recommended by the Democratic Services Committee. The changes in respect of Cabinet procedures were in response to a Wales Audit Office report that had expressed concern regarding the operation of the Cabinet and in particular the right to speak at Cabinet meetings by Scrutiny Chairs and Opposition Group Leaders.

County Councillor CJ Gibson-Watt moved a number of amendments seconded by County Councillor JG Morris arguing that the recommendations gave the Cabinet considerable extra powers while weakening Scrutiny.

Amendment A) below was passed by 40 votes to 13 with 2 abstentions.

RESOLVED that in addition to the production of a full forward work plan for Cabinet for 8 months in advance, as in proposed Amendment 5.22.14 of the Constitution, any emergency items to be considered by Cabinet must be subject to informing the Chairs (or Vice-Chairs if the Chair is unavailable) of the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

Amendment B) that the Chairs (or Vice-Chairs if the Chairs cannot attend) of the main Scrutiny Committees sit on the Commissioning and Procurement Board as non-voting members able to make comment was lost upon being put to the vote by 18 votes to 39 with 1 abstention.

Amendment C) below was passed by 45 votes to 14 with 1 abstention.

RESOLVED that the Chairs (or Vice-Chairs if the Chairs cannot attend) of the main Scrutiny Committees sit on the Strategic Overview Board

Amendment D) below was passed by 50 votes to 6 with 1 abstention.

RESOLVED that in Section 5.26 (Rights of Scrutiny Chairs to speak at Meeting) the following is added:

“Cabinet agendas should clearly state which items have been subject to scrutiny by the relevant Scrutiny Committee prior to consideration by Cabinet; and minutes of Cabinet meetings should clearly state why recommendations from the relevant Scrutiny Committee have been accepted or rejected.”

An amendment moved by County Councillor MC Alexander and seconded by County Councillor L Fitzpatrick to defer consideration of the changes to the Constitution until the election of the new Council was defeated by 16 votes to 44 upon being put to the vote.

The substantive motion was moved by County Councillor MR Harris and seconded by County Councillor WJT Powell as passed by 52 votes to 2 with 4 abstentions.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
<p>(i) that Sections 4, 5, and 12 of the Constitution as amended be approved to take effect from the 7th March, 2017.</p> <p>(ii) that Section 7 of the Constitution as amended be approved to take effect from 18th May, 2017.</p> <p>(iii) that in addition to the production of a full forward work plan for Cabinet for 8 months in advance, as in proposed Amendment 5.22.14 of the Constitution, any emergency items to be considered by Cabinet must be subject to informing the Chairs (or Vice-Chairs if the Chair is</p>	<p>To update Sections of the Constitution in response to the WAO review of the Council’s governance arrangements, and as part of the ongoing review of the Constitution.</p>

<p>unavailable) of the relevant Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>(iv) that the Chairs (or Vice-Chairs if the Chairs cannot attend) of the main Scrutiny Committees sit on the Strategic Overview Board.</p> <p>(v) that in Section 5.26 (Rights of Scrutiny Chairs to speak at Meeting) the following is added:</p> <p>“Cabinet agendas should clearly state which items have been subject to scrutiny by the relevant Scrutiny Committee prior to consideration by Cabinet; and minutes of Cabinet meetings should clearly state why recommendations from the relevant Scrutiny Committee have been accepted or rejected.”</p>	
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11	RECOMMENDATION FROM DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE
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Council considered the recommendation of the Democratic Services Committee that the Area (Shire) Committees should be abolished from the Annual Meeting in May 2017.

Members expressed differing views with some questioning the value of the meetings and should be replaced by more localised service-based meetings and others arguing that they should be retained in their present format.

An amendment moved by County Councillor LV Corfield and seconded by County Councillor GR Banks that Shire Committees cease meeting on a regular basis but that the Shire Chairs and Vice-Chairs be given authority to convene meetings to consider matters of significant local concern was lost by 24 votes to 32 with 1 abstention.

An amendment moved by County Councillor GW Ratcliffe and seconded by County Councillor MC Dorrance that Shire Committees be abolished and replaced by locality meetings focusing on operational issues was lost by 21 votes to 32 with 3 abstentions.

An amendment moved by County Councillor GJ Bowker and seconded by County Councillor JM Williams to defer consideration until the new Council was in place was lost by 24 votes to 29 with 1 abstention.

Council voted on the recommendation of the Democratic Services Committee, voting 27 for, 27 against with 2 abstentions. On the Chair's casting vote the recommendation was lost.

The meeting adjourned at 13.04 and reconvened at 14.00.

PRESENT

County Councillor KF Tampin

County Councillors MC Alexander, PJ Ashton, D Bailey, G R Banks, G J Bowker, G Breeze, R G Brown, J H Brunt, L V Corfield, K W Curry, M J B Davies, S C Davies, D E Davies, L R E Davies, E R Davies, A W Davies, M J Dorrance, V E Evans, W J Evans, D O Evans, L Fitzpatrick, J Gibson-Watt, P Harris, M R Harris, S M Hayes, J C Holmes, G Hopkins, E A Jones, D C Jones, M J Jones, E M Jones, Eldrydd M Jones, D R Jones, J R Jones, W T Jones, F H Jump, H Lewis, S McNicholas, P J Medicott, DW Meredith, ET Morgan, G Morgan, JG Morris, W J T Powell, WD Powell, D R Price, P C Pritchard, G W Ratcliffe, K M Roberts-Jones, J G Shearer, K S Silk, D A Thomas, W B Thomas, A G Thomas, D G Thomas, R G Thomas, T Turner, T J Van-Rees, G P Vaughan, D H Williams, S L Williams and J M Williams

12	WELSH MEDIUM STREAM AT BRECON HIGH SCHOOL
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County Councillor GW Ratcliffe declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and left the meeting.

The Monitoring Officer advised that Cabinet members would not be able to vote on this item.

Council considered the report of the Portfolio Holder for Education on responses received to the formal consultation to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School from the 31st August 2017, with Brecon High School becoming an English-medium school from the 1st September 2017. The Portfolio Holder advised that a total of 237 written responses were received to the consultation, including responses submitted using the online response form and other written responses. 71 responses were received from one individual respondent, and another 26 were received from another individual respondent. In addition, during the consultation period, individuals were encouraged to e-mail the council with the statement 'All I want for Christmas is for the Welsh stream to stay open in Brecon High School'. 39 responses were received which only included this statement. In addition to the written responses, a copy of an online petition was received, which was signed by 236 people and included 67 written comments. The issues raised during the consultation period, including those raised in written responses and those raised in the consultation meetings were listed in the Consultation Report (Appendix B), along with the authority's response to these issues.

County Councillor David Meredith said that two previous consultations had not helped pupil numbers at the school, not had the decision to grant free transport

to pupils wishing to transfer to Builth Wells High School. He noted that it cost £38,000 to transport pupils to Pontypool, money which could have been used to fund the school properly. He said that pupils from Ysgol y Bannau would prefer to go to Brecon and that removing the Welsh stream from Brecon High school would have a negative impact on Ysgol y Bannau and on the Welsh language in the area. He said that the timing of the consultation had been unfortunate as it had come about as the school had come out of special measures. He noted the projected £58k saving was outweighed by the current £116k cost of transporting pupils when the school only needed £47k to bring it up to Category 2B status.

County Councillor Matthew Dorrance agreed that there was a need to reorganise schools but said that it should be done fairly. He asked where the 173 pupils from Sennybridge and Ysgol y Bannau would go and said it was their right to be educated in their own community. He said that there was no evidence that Builth Wells was better placed to deliver Welsh-medium education and he asked the Cabinet to explain how the proposal would meet the goals of the Well-Being and Future Generations Act.

The Portfolio Holder for Education advised that pupil number at Ysgol y Bannau had not increased over the last ten years and he reminded members that Brecon offered 4 subjects in the medium of Welsh compared to 12 at Builth Wells. The transport appeal granted in 2011 had set the precedent when provision in Brecon was judged to be insufficient. He argued that children were being failed by not being sent to a school with a wider range of subjects.

County Councillor James Gibson-Watt argued that the decision to have a Welsh-medium stream in Brecon was made when Ysgol y Bannau was sited next door. Pupil number had been stable until 2014/15 when the actions of the Council had contributed to a fall in numbers and he warned that the proposal would impact on Ysgol y Bannau and Sennybridge. The proposal would mean no Welsh-medium secondary education in the county south of Builth Wells which made it look like the Council was not interested in promoting Welsh-medium education. He also warned of the impact on the budget of Brecon High School.

County Councillor Liam Fitzpatrick argued that this was an issue for the whole area and that it was wrong that there would be no Welsh language secondary education in the south of the county.

County Councillor Melanie Davies said that this was the wrong way forward for the Council and that it was important to keep the Welsh-medium stream in Brecon High School.

County Councillor Timothy Van-Rees said that this issue had been debated for years. He referred to the report and said that the evidence presented in the report made an overwhelming case to have the Welsh-medium stream based at Builth wells High School. He noted the strong Welsh language stream at Builth Wells CP School and in Llandrindod Wells and Rhayader.

County Councillor Sandra Davies said the Labour group supported Welsh-medium education in Brecon and throughout the county and referred to the two key priorities in the Corporate Improvement Plan, Supporting People in the Community and Learning.

County Councillor Gillian Thomas said that the flawed consultation in 2014/15 had resulted in pupils opting to go to Builth leading to lower numbers in the Welsh stream in Brecon. She agreed with having one high school providing Welsh language secondary education in Brecknockshire but said that with Ysgol y Bannau in Brecon it made no sense to have it at Builth. She noted that pupils would be travelling 30 miles one way from Sennybridge to Builth Wells. She noted the duties placed on the Council to promote the use and development of the Welsh language and provide services and education locally and said that the proposal would have a detrimental impact on the Welsh language in the area. She noted that the report referred to a saving of £58k but did not mention the additional costs of over £100,000 transporting pupils from Brecon catchment to Builth and £20,000 to Ystalyfera. The report also took no account of Estyn ratings with Builth Wells being in special measures and Brecon out of special measures.

County Councillor Paul Ashton also referred to the distance that pupils would have to travel and to the fact that Ysgol y Bannau was situated next door to Brecon High School.

County Councillor Aled Davies supported the comments of local members. He argued that the Welsh language was being treated less favourably and that it was wrong that the multi million pound investment in Brecon High School should just be for English language pupils. He said that uncertainty over the school had driven pupils away but that it had now turned the corner coming out of special measures which would attract more pupils. He said that the Council must play its part in meeting the ambition of the Welsh Government to have a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

County Councillor Evan Morgan said that had Powys fulfilled its promise to provide the funding to bring the school up to Category 2b status, 30 pupils from the Sennybridge area would not have left to go to Ystalyfera. He said that the provision of a new building was the opportunity to create a centre of excellence and provide a wider range of subjects.

County Councillor Gwilym Vaughan said that a decision on this issue should have been taken years ago. He argued that 4 subjects did not constitute a Welsh language education and said that if Brecon High school was to have a Welsh language stream pupils must have access to a full complement of subjects.

Councillor DR Price left the meeting at 14.44.

It was proposed by County Councillor Matthew Dorrance and seconded by County Councillor Aled Davies that Council should vote on the recommendation in the report. Council was reminded that this would be an advisory vote and that Cabinet members would not be voting as they would be deciding the issue on 14 March.

There were 8 votes for the recommendations in the report and 32 votes against.

RESOLVED not support the recommendation to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School from 31st August 2017.

13	APPOINTMENT OF LAY MEMBER TO AUDIT COMMITTEE
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Council considered the appointment of a lay member to the Audit Committee as required by the Local Government Measure 2011.

The recommendation was moved by the Chair of the Audit Committee, County Councillor JG Morris and seconded by County Councillor TJ Van-Rees and passed by 42 votes to 0 with 2 abstentions.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
That the current Audit Committee Lay Member be reappointed for a second and final term of office from the AGM on 18th May, 2017 for a period of 5 years until the next Council elections in May 2022.	To facilitate the appointment of the Audit Committee Lay Member from May 2017 to enable the Committee to function following the Council elections in May 2017.

14	POPULATION ASSESSMENT FOR POWYS
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Council received the population assessment for the county. The assessment was required by The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and would help the Council plan its services. It would be included in the induction pack for newly elected members. The work of the officers who had produced the assessment was commended.

The recommendation was moved by County Councillor SM Hayes and seconded by County Councillor RG Brown and passed by 45 votes to 0.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
That the Population Assessment in the Appendix attached to the report is approved.	The population assessment provides an essential foundation for developing the statutory area plan by 31st March 2018. Approval by full council is a statutory requirement of the Act.

15	WALES INVESTMENT POOL - INTER AUTHORITY AGREEMENT AND JOINT GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
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Council considered the Inter-Authority Agreement for each of the eight Welsh local authorities responsible for administering a pension fund. The Government had agreed that the 8 Welsh Pension Funds could pool together and establish a Joint Governance Committee to be administered by Carmarthenshire County

Council with the Chair of the Pensions and Investment Committee as the Council's representative.

The recommendations were moved by County Councillor TJ Van-Rees and seconded by County Councillor DR Jones and passed by 39 votes to 0 with 1 abstention.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
<p>1. To note the content of the draft Inter Authority Agreement attached at Appendix B and delegates authority to the Section 151 Officer and/or Solicitor to the Council (in consultation with the Chair of the Pensions Committee) to approve and sign the final version of the IAA.</p> <p>2. To approve the establishment of a joint committee (hereinafter referred to as the Joint Governance Committee) on conclusion of the IAA referred to in recommendation 1 above and on the basis of the terms of reference attached.</p> <p>3. To delegate the exercise of certain functions to the Joint Governance Committee as set out in the terms of reference of the IAA and to note those functions that are reserved to Council.</p> <p>4. To approve the appointment of the Chair of the Pensions and Investment Committee or his/her nominated Deputy to the Joint Governance Committee as the Powys County Council representative on the JGC.</p> <p>5. To delegate to the nominated representative of the Powys County Council authority to act within the terms of reference of the Joint Governance Committee to enable the exercise of any delegated function.</p> <p>6. To approve that Carmarthenshire County Council (Dyfed Pension Fund) acts as Host Council with the responsibilities set out in the Inter Authority Agreement.</p> <p>7. To delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council to agree any further minor amendments to the IAA.</p>	<p>(a) To ensure compliance with the Submission by the Wales Pool to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in response to the publication in November 2015: LGPS: Investment Reform Criteria and Guidance.</p> <p>(b) To establish administrative and governance arrangements to manage the pooling arrangements in accordance with the Council's Financial Governance and Pension Fund Administering Authority responsibilities</p>

County Councillor P Harris left at 15.00.

16	TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY
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Council considered the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy.

The recommendation was moved by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and seconded by the Leader and passed by 42 votes to 0 with 2 abstentions. County Councillor WJ Evans confirmed his support although his vote had not registered.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
That Council approves the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy	Statutory Requirement

17	PRESENTATION BY THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION
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Julie May – Lead commissioner, Steve Halsall – Chief Executive, Matt Redmond – Deputy Chief Executive and Farhan Khan Review Officer of the Boundary Commission gave a presentation on the review of Council wards which would run from 8 March to 31 May. They set out the review process and explained the statutory criteria of electoral equality, community identity and effective and convenient local government. They were required to work towards one councillor to every 1,616 electors which would mean a Council of 66 Councillors.

Councillors MJB Davies, DW Meredith and TG Turner left at 15.35.
Councillors SC Davies, L Fitzpatrick, S McNicholas and KS Silk left at 15.50.

18	QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION
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18.1 Question to the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Communications from County Councillor William Powell

Will the Cabinet Member please confirm how regularly Powys County Council reviews its consultation methodology? In particular, how does the Authority ensure that it harnesses fully the network of Town and Community Councils, in engaging the maximum numbers of residents, in any given consultation?

Answer from the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Communications

As a County Council we work to the National Principles around Public Engagement for Wales. These principles act as our guiding methodology whenever looking to engage and consult on council business whether this is a new policy or a proposed service change. Whenever a service wishes or needs to engage residents on a particular issue they are advised to consider carefully who their key stakeholders are and to ensure they invite them to have their say on the issue at hand. Town and community councils are often either contacted directly by the service to give their views or pro-actively contribute their views when they see publicity about an issue which affects their community. However, this isn't always the case and there is scope to better harness the network of Town and Community Councils to ensure we reach a wider audience. We would welcome a conversation on how we can improve engagement across the county.

There was no supplementary question.

18.2 Question to the Portfolio Holder for Finance from County Councillor William Powell

Will the Cabinet Member please update Council on the profile of spend of EU/RDP monies in the County, now that they are time limited and finite? Also, what strategies are in place to secure replacement funds wherever possible - and to assess the emerging effect of 'Brexit' on the vibrancy of the wider Powys economy?

Answer from the Portfolio Holder for Finance

Point 1 - Will the Cabinet Member please update Council on the profile of spend of EU/RDP monies in the County, now that they are time limited and finite?

Regeneration Service Projects – current position:

Fund	Project Title	Total Value	Length of Project	Comments
European Social Fund (ESF)	Cynnydd (Youth Service project: 11-16 year olds)	£1.9 million (£950K EU)	3 years	Approval by WEFO anticipated soon
European Social Fund (ESF)	Workways+ Powys (support to individuals 54 years + back into employment)	£695,823 (£348K EU)	3 years (2017 – 2020)	Newly approved project
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)	LEADER 2014 - 2020: Powys Implementation**	£3,430,470	7 years (2015-2021)	Programme officially opened for funding

				applications 1/2/16
<p>** The LEADER approach is associated with local empowerment through local strategy development and resource allocation. The main tool for the application of this approach to area development and involving local representatives in decision-making is the LEADER Local Action Group (LAG).</p> <p>LEADER is a form of Community-Led Local Development (CLLD). Through a process of stakeholder engagement, building the capacity of target groups and co-operation, the problems faced and opportunities available to an area are recognised and potential solutions are piloted.</p> <p>Innovative activities under LEADER must be consistent with at least one of the five LEADER themes for Wales:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adding value to local identity and natural cultural resources • facilitating pre-commercial development, business partnerships and short supply chains • exploring new ways of providing non-statutory local services • renewable energy at community level • exploitation of digital technology <p>Please see our website for more information: www.arwain.wales</p>				
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)	LEADER 2014-2020: Powys Co-operation***	£400,000	7 years (2015-2021)	Programme officially opened for funding applications 1/2/16
<p>*** LEADER is a community-led local development (CLLD) method which has been used for over 20 years to engage local actors in the design and delivery of strategies, decision-making and resource allocation for the development of their rural areas.</p> <p>Co-operation is one of the 7 key principles of the LEADER approach. EAFRD and the EMFF also have specific provisions for CLLD Co-operation.</p> <p>The support for Co-operation is a mandatory element of the LEADER measure in all Rural Development Programmes (RDPs).</p> <p>Co-operation of a Local Action Group (LAG) area with other geographical areas can be a key component of a LAG's Local Development Strategy or an additional asset to this strategy. Co-operation can evolve in stages from exchange of experience, to the transfer of promising practice to a common activity. Co-operation with other territories implementing LEADER or other forms of Community Led Local Development (CLLD) can also be a strategic tool which the Local Action Group can use to reach the critical mass needed for some projects or to pool complementary resources and expertise.</p>				

In addition to inter-territorial co-operation (between LAGs within a Member State), transnational co-operation gives supplementary European added value to local development.

Co-operation is a way to widen local views and bring new knowledge to the area in order to improve local strategies. It can boost the innovative character of local development actions and contribute to increased competitiveness of the area through e.g. capacity building, bringing in new business partners and the diffusion of innovation, know-how and new skills.

Point 2 - What strategies are in place to secure replacement funds wherever possible - and to assess the emerging effect of 'Brexit' on the vibrancy of the wider Powys economy?

The Regeneration service is not aware of any specific strategies that address the issue of securing replacement funds in the future. Currently there is no dedicated resource/function within the Council to lead on Brexit related activity, to undertake the work to assess the impact of Brexit on the Powys economy, or to inform the Council's response/approach to Brexit. There is currently minimal capacity for existing staff to fulfil this function on top of existing service delivery commitments and future plans.

However, the Regeneration Service is working closely with the Mid Wales Regional Engagement Officer (Powys and Ceredigion) as we jointly endeavour to keep abreast of the fluid and fast changing emerging position on future regional policy, regarding local government's engagement in the Brexit process and post EU membership. There is a growing amount of information in circulation that we receive through wide and varied sources on a Wales, UK and EU level that we are striving to keep on top of and share.

Brexit is a much wider issue than just European funding and should be considered at a corporate level, thus embracing all service areas in a more well-rounded view by the Council. The amount of policy areas and legislation that Brexit affects is massive. For information attached is a House of Commons briefing paper (please see attached) that details the variety of policy areas that will need reviewing in light of Brexit.

Through the Growing Mid Wales (GMW) Partnership, we are engaging with the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) and Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) on work currently being undertaken to inform the future of regional policy in Wales (please see attached WLGA briefing paper). This was discussed at the WLGA Coordinating Committee on the 24th February and we have been informed of a consultation on future regional policy that is expected to be announced by the Welsh Government (WG) before Easter.

The GMW Partnership is also working with key partners including WG Economy and Wales Office, on trying to establish Wales' position in the context of the proposed UK Government Industrial Strategy and how it relates to the £23 billion productivity investment fund mentioned in the last Autumn Statement. There is a risk Wales will arrive 'late to the table' with the Industrial Strategy if there is a delay in WG and UK Government establishing how Wales fits into it.

In terms of the Powys economy we are at risk of the additional wider impacts of Brexit, the weakening pound and increased inflation. The Powys economy may be at greater risk due to the reliance on sectors such as agriculture and the

public sector, which is likely to suffer in the future due to a reduced tax base. It is estimated that approximately £80million of CAP Pillar One funding is paid directly to farmers in Powys per year. As Powys has the highest proportion of SMEs of any local authority in Wales this sector may not be as resilient to the future economic challenges we are facing.

With regards to the amount of EU funding spent in Wales by pan-Wales European Structural & Investment Funded (ESIF) projects, such as Business Wales (European Regional Development Fund - ERDF) and the Apprenticeship Scheme (European Social Fund - ESF). It is extremely hard to disentangle the figures on a pan-Wales basis.

It is important to draw attention to the recent External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee's report on the Implications for Wales of leaving the European Union, especially recommendations one and four (please see attached, Implications for Wales of leaving the EU). The WG has produced a lot of evidence on the potential impacts of Brexit across different sectors and it would be useful, as well as transparent, for the WG to share this evidence with Local Authorities to inform their work and plan for future scenarios accordingly.

There was no supplementary question.

18.3 Question to the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for HR from County Councillor Gary Price

Can you provide me with the number of Senior Managers, Heads of Service, Directors, Strategic Directors and Chief Executive employed per Grade/SCP by Powys County Council for each year of this Council term?

Answer from the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for HR

The table illustrates the number of occupied Senior Manager & Chief Officer positions, per grade and scale point, during each year of the current Council term.

You will note that the numbers decrease year on year, apart from year ending 31 March 2016, where there is an increase, before once again decreasing during the current financial year.

The 2015/16 growth is attributed to an increase of 6 Senior Manager posts through Service Area restructures, which were evaluated through the Job Evaluation process maintaining compliance with Single Status, plus an additional 3 Heads of Service being appointed (Head of ICT, Head of Operations Adults Services and Head of Transformation Adult Services).

During the current financial year, the number of roles has decreased by 6 with reductions of 3 Senior Managers, 1 Heads of Service, 1 Director and a Strategic Director.

In summary, during the current Council term, the number of Senior Manager and Chief Officers has decreased by 12.5% from 48 to 42.

There was no supplementary question.

18.4 Question to the Leader from County Councillor Gary Price

You have endeavoured to be a champion of openness and transparency whilst being Leader of Powys County Council. Can you therefore explain why the use of a code name (project Alpha) has been used recently?

Answer from the Leader

The phrase "Project Alpha" is being used to discuss confidential issues within the property office and in correspondence regarding the potential purchase of a piece of land. It is acknowledged by the Council that some issues need to be kept confidential during commercially sensitive purchase negotiations. This is to ensure that the Council's negotiating position is not divulged and so we can be assured that we gain the very best value for money for local residents. When the matter is concluded I will be very happy to inform the Council of the outcome.

There was no supplementary question.

18.5 Question to the Portfolio Holder for Property, Buildings and Housing from County Councillor Matthew Dorrance

The Cultural Hub Development is great news for Brecon and very welcome investment but my community are rightly concerned about the Council's plans for the current Library building.

Will the Cabinet Member inform Council what the administration is planning to do with the site when the Library moves to the new location?

Answer from the Portfolio Holder for Property, Buildings and Housing

Work on Brecon's Cultural Hub is underway and is scheduled to open in the summer of 2018. Once work on the new cultural facility has been completed, Brecon Library will be moving to the new site.

Interest has been shown in the current library building but Powys County Council is exploring a number of options regarding its future. Regeneration will be at the forefront of the council's mind when exploring these options.

In response to Councillor Dorrance's supplementary question about the options for the site, the Portfolio Holder advised that that there was some interest but nothing concrete that she could share with the local members at this stage.

18.6 Question to the Portfolio Holder for Property, Buildings and Housing from County Councillor Matthew Dorrance

Will the Cabinet Member provide a statement on Homelessness in Powys?

Answer from the Portfolio Holder for Property, Buildings and Housing

The introduction of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 in April 2015 extended the duties of local authorities to prevent homelessness and the increased the timescale to intervene from 28 days to 56 days before people who approach the council for assistance may become homeless. The council now has a duty to prevent or relieve homelessness to all who approach us but still retains its Section 75 duty to accommodate applicants who are entitled to assistance, homeless, in priority need, not homeless intentionally and have a local connection.

The new system is very complex to administer and recording of homelessness has become more complicated since the introduction of the 2014 Act. The fact that the council is required to work with applicants to prevent and alleviate homelessness rather than simply accept a duty to accommodate, means that cases take a greater amount of officer time to administer.

In addition, legislative change and the introduction of new recording systems means that not all the data is comparable with data collected prior to April 2015.

Data that is comparable is the number of homeless presentations. There was a 32% increase in presentations between financial years 2014-15 and 2015-16 across Powys. This was not unexpected as the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 extended entitlement, particularly to single people. However, it should be noted that in the first three quarters of 2016-17, the number of homelessness presentations would appear to have reduced, when compared with 2015-16. It should be noted however that the number of persons in temporary accommodation to whom the Council owes a full duty remains constant see table 3 below.

Table 1

	2014/15		2015/16		2016/17	
	Persons presenting as homeless and triggering homelessness application	Of which are single persons	Persons presenting as homeless or threatened with homelessness and triggering a s62 assessment	Of which are single persons	Persons presenting as homeless or threatened with homelessness and triggering a s62 assessment	Of which are single persons
Qtr 1	82	44	108	72	109	55
Qtr 2	61	30	158	94	108	66
Qtr 3	95	59	136	83	103	65
Qtr 4	179	116	162	89		

The impact across the county varied considerably, between 2014/15 to 2015/16 homeless presentations increased by 107% in Brecon, 39% in Welshpool, 30% increase in Newtown and 13% increase in Llandrindod Wells. During the same

period there was a 3% reduction in homelessness presentations in Ystradgynlais.

The north of the county tends to experience the greatest number of homelessness presentations. Table 2 below shows the proportion of homelessness presentations in Welshpool, Newtown, Llandrindod Wells, Brecon and Ystradgynlais

Table 2. Proportion of homelessness presentations by housing area

Housing area office	2014-15	2015-16	1st 3 quarters 2016-17
Welshpool	31	33	43
Newtown	30	30	28
Llandrindod Wells	19	17	14
Brecon	10	15	12
Ystradgynlais	7	5	3

The numbers of households in temporary accommodation would appear at the present time to fairly constant, shown in table 3 below, although the number of families with dependent children has increased.

Table 3. Households in temporary accommodation

	2015/16		2016/17	
	Persons accommodated in temp acc at the end of the qtr (snapshot)	Of which are families with children	Persons accommodated in temp acc at the end of the qtr (snapshot)	Of which are families with children
Qtr 1	50	11	36	10
Qtr 2	46	5	43	15
Qtr 3	30	2	40	11
Qtr 4	35	6		

The main change in the legislation is that the council is now required to prevent homelessness from occurring or relieve homelessness by securing alternative accommodation, rather than accommodate applicants who pass the homelessness tests of eligibility, homeless, not intentionally homeless and ion priority need. Table 4 below shows data in respect of the authority's performance in respect of its S.66 duty to prevent homelessness. In 2015/16, the s66 duty came to an end in 214 cases and out of those we successfully prevented homelessness in 152 (71%) of cases. In the first three quarters of 2016-17, the s66 duty came to an end in 124 cases and out of those we successfully prevented homelessness in 79 (64%) of cases.

Table 4. Successful prevention of homelessness

	2015/16		2016/17	

	Outcomes: Successful prevention of homelessness (S66 duty)		Outcomes: Successful prevention of homelessness (S66 duty)	
Qtr 1	6 cases out of 8	75%	38 cases out of 57	67%
Qtr 2	38 cases out of 53	72%	24 cases out of 39	62%
Qtr 3	50 cases out of 66	76%	17 cases out of 28	61%
Qtr 4	58 cases out of 87	67%		

Table 5 shows the authorities performance in respect of the relief of homelessness in the two years since the legislation was introduced. In 2015-16 the S73 duty came to an end in 175 cases and we successfully relieved homelessness in 85 (49%) of cases. In the first three quarters of 2016-17 the S73 duty came to an end in 195 cases and we successfully relieved homelessness in 88 (45%) of cases.

Table 5 Successful relief of homelessness

	2015/16		2016/17	
	Outcomes: Successful relief of homelessness (s73 duty)		Outcomes: Successful relief of homelessness (s73 duty)	
Qtr 1	5 cases out of 9	56%	24 cases out of 62	39%
Qtr 2	25 cases out of 41	61%	27 cases out of 60	45%
Qtr 3	16 cases out of 42	38%	37 cases out of 73	51%
Qtr 4	39 cases out of 83	47%		

One of the major differences between the old homelessness legislative regime and the regime introduced by the 2014 Act is the number of households that the authority housed as homeless. In the last year prior to the 2014 Act taking effect the council accommodated 93 applicants under its S.193 duty. In 2015-16 the council accommodated 33 applicants under its S.75 duty (persons would also have been accommodated as part of S66 and S73 discharge also).

In answer to Councillor Dorrance's supplementary question the about the reason for a 107% increase in homelessness in Brecon and what was being don't to address it the Portfolio Holder explained that the increase was due to three families becoming homeless but that this number had since reduced. Whilst she was not personally aware of the reasons she did assure Council that the service worked closely with people to help them. She noted that the introduction of universal credit was likely to lead to more problems with homelessness.

Personal Statement by the Leader

The Leader of Council, County Councillor WB Thomas advised that he would not be standing for election at the forthcoming local government elections. He

thanked Council for the honour of being elected the Leader of Powys County Council.

**County Councillor KF Tampin
Chair**