

County Council

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

Meeting Date
Thursday, 19 October 2017

Meeting Time
10.30 am

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

13 October 2017

AGENDA

1.	APOLOGIES
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To receive apologies for absence.

2.	MINUTES
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To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the last meeting as a correct record.
(Pages 11 - 66)

3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
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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
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To receive any announcements from the Chair of Council.

5.	QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
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5.1. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Countryside Services from Linda Savage**

Can the Portfolio Holder assure me and the tenants of Newtown Allotments that our allotment site is not suitable for a housing development and should be retained for allotment use only?

(Pages 67 - 68)

5.2. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning from James Anderson

Further to the Council's proactive move in encouraging residents to ask questions, I would like to ask a question to Cllr Martin Weale (Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning)

Many residents have enjoyed and have spent considerable time and energies supporting the Council to develop the draft Powys Local Development Plan as an evidence based plan against which to consider planning applications. Whilst the draft LDP contains sufficient land allocation and development proposals to meet Powys' projected housing needs throughout the lifetime of the plan, a review of 'Major Development' Planning Applications on the Council's web pages shows that a relatively high proportion of current planning applications from across the county are seeking to develop Greenfield sites over and above LDP land allocations.

In considering planning applications outside of proposed LDP developments, individual isolated site consideration does not sound as though it is likely to engender effective strategic planning. What is the Council's strategic response in continuing to support future generations to ensure that the legacy of approved housing developments remains positive and does not inadvertently lead to any over- development of open countryside or to the distension of any local communities that could see some community members become poorly located inhibiting their ease of access to existing services?

(Pages 69 - 70)

6.	DISCUSSION ON CHILDREN'S SERVICES
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<p>The following items will be taken in the afternoon after the discussion on Children's Services</p>
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7.	LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
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To receive any announcements from the Leader.

8.	CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BRIEFING
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To receive a briefing from the Chief Executive.

9.	CAPITAL VIREMENTS REQUIRING COUNCIL APPROVAL
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To consider virements requiring Council approval.

9.1. Virement for Strategic Salt Reserve

(Pages 71 - 74)

9.2. 21st Century Schools

(Pages 75 - 80)

9.3. Abermule Business Park

(Pages 81 - 84)

9.4. Machynlleth Gypsy Site

(Pages 85 - 88)

9.5. Crickhowell High School

(Pages 89 - 92)

10.	DRAFT ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION 2016 - 17 (ONE POWYS PLAN AND POWYS CC CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN)
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To consider the draft Annual Performance Evaluation for 2016/17.

(Pages 93 - 174)

11.	ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SCRUTINY OF THE POWYS PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD
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To consider a report by the Solicitor to the Council.

(Pages 175 - 182)

12.	APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF DISABILITY POWYS
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To appointment one member to the Board of Disability Powys. Disability Powys is a self-advocative organisation representing the needs of disabled people living in, and coming into the county. They lobby and assist the development of better services for disabled people and improve the understanding of disability issues within Powys. The Board meet around 6 or 7 times a year, generally for 2 hourly meetings in Llandrindod Wells.

13.	NOTICE OF MOTION - MOBILE CONNECTIVITY COVERAGE
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We must get the coverage and connectivity in Rural Wales it needs to support our economy and our communities in the 21st Century.

This Council therefore, calls on the Welsh Government to take immediate action on putting planning reforms in place to enable improved mobile connectivity coverage as the basis of a modern, vibrant economy. This to include allowing masts in Wales to be 25m (82ft) height rather than the 15m (50ft) as at present thus assisting the development of an entrepreneurial economy in Powys and Rural Wales.

Proposer County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan
Seconder County Councillor Bryn Davies

14.	NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCIL PROCUREMENT
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The Council recognizes the importance of enterprise and a strong economy as the basis for the viability of our communities. Due to the importance of the public sector in Powys in terms of employment and expenditure within the local economy, we are calling on the Council to commit to increasing the percentage of its expenditure within the County and Wales. Procurement levels from service providers in Powys should be increased from 28% in 2015-16 to 40%; and from providers in Wales from 55% to 75%. This would be synonymous with an annual investment of £18 million to the economy of Powys. The Portfolio Holder for the Economy should give an annual report to the Council outlining progress made in reaching these targets.

Proposer County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan
Seconder County Councillor Bryn Davies

15.	NOTICE OF MOTION - TACKLING FUEL POVERTY
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Council Notes

1. Household energy bills are increasing year on year, while the effective income of households is flat lining or decreasing.
2. A recent report by moneysupermarket.com has shown that 5 of the "Big 6" energy providers (npower, E.ON, Scottish Power, SSE and EDF) have announced price rises for those on standard variable tariffs.
3. 66% of energy customers are on standard variable tariffs according to Ofgem, with most of those having never switched suppliers.
4. The average price rise in 2017 is £96.95 leaving the average annual energy bill at £1258.55.
5. Many other local authorities successfully run similar collective energy switch schemes.
6. An all-Wales scheme, Cyd Cymru Wales Together, already exists (<https://cydcymru-collective.com/>)

7. In the Wellbeing assessment undertaken by Powys it found that 16% of households are in fuel poverty, defined as a household that spends at least 10% of their income on fuel.
8. A 2008 report found that in Mid Wales 34.9% of households were in fuel poverty.
9. Over half of households in Powys aren't connected to the gas network, therefore relying on oil and solid fuel which have a much higher cost to the consumer.
10. Ceredigion run successful "Fuel clubs", where communities bulk buy oil for heating.

Council Resolves

1. That Council believes that
 - a. It must do as much as it can to help residents in fuel poverty to mitigate this situation;
 - b. Residents of Powys would benefit greatly from reduced energy bills through a Powys County Council run collective energy switch scheme;
 - c. The authority can join in with other authorities and organisations in Wales through the Cyd Cymru scheme;
 - d. The Ceredigion run schemes provide a best practice model for the running of such fuel clubs;
 - e. The authority can exert its power of collective bargaining for both dual fuel and oil purchasing schemes
2. To instruct officers to explore the feasibility of implementing its own or joining the Cyd Cymru scheme.
3. To instruct officers to explore the feasibility of implementing an oil purchasing scheme across Powys.
4. To work with local housing associations, Powys Teaching Health Board, voluntary groups, care homes and households across Powys to increase awareness and encourage them to sign up to these schemes

Proposer: County Councillor Huw Williams

Seconder: County Councillor Sarah Williams

16.	QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION
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16.1. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services from County Councillor Huw Williams**

How many children in need, children whose names are on the child protection register, looked after children and care leavers are currently recorded in Powys? How many looked after children are placed outside of Powys?

(To Follow)

16.2. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services from County Councillor Huw Williams**

Work for front line staff in Children Services is emotionally demanding, intense and occasionally high risk. Staff sickness leave is reported to have been, at times, between 25% and 50% during the last year. There seems to be a correlation between sickness levels and the increased demand placed on workers in support of young people. Every young person is allocated a social worker and lack of continuity is damaging. What support is being offered to these members of staff in terms of supervision, resources and better staffing levels, so, they can properly and safely support our vulnerable young people?

(To Follow)

16.3. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning from County Councillor Roger Williams**

What assessment has the Council made of the Aarhus Convention?

(Pages 183 - 184)

16.4. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Countryside Services from County Councillor Roger Williams**

How many applications for public footpath diversions has the Council currently registered and how many are for diversions out of working farmyards?

(Pages 185 - 186)

16.5. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services from County Councillor James Gibson-Watt**

In the light of reports consistently reaching council members about the difficulties that service users in the county are facing making contact with relevant Adult Social Care staff, could the portfolio holder please provide a breakdown of vacant posts in the Adult Social Care service, by area and county-wide?

(Pages 187 - 188)

16.6. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Highways from County Councillor David Selby**

Could the Portfolio Holder indicate what steps he is taking to improve Council grass cutting services for next year?

(Pages 189 - 190)

16.7. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Education from County Councillor Arwel Jones**

Could the Portfolio Holder please advise me of the number of pupils who are educated through the medium of Welsh at Brecon High School and Builth Wells High School as at September 2017 and also the intake into the two streams again as at September 2017?

(Pages 191 - 192)

16.8. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Housing & Countryside Services from County Councillor Matthew Dorrance**

What consideration has the Cabinet given to the impact of changes by the UK Tory Government to the Local Housing Allowance on homelessness levels in Powys?

(Pages 193 - 194)

16.9. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Education from County Councillor Matthew Dorrance**

What assessment has the Cabinet made of Stonewall Cymru's 2017 School Report?

(Pages 195 - 196)

16.10. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Housing & Countryside Services from County Councillor Lucy Roberts**

We have a problem in the county in that there are not enough 'affordable' properties being built to cater for our young people. We know that in Powys earnings are traditionally low. We also have a vision to of keeping our young people in the county and even attracting more to move in. I don't believe this will happen while we don't have suitable housing. Many young people still have the ambition of being able to buy their own properties, but certainly within my ward most of the houses that are being built are executive homes well out of their price range. Even the so called 'affordable' houses are way out of the reach of most. I am aware of a planning application locally which has gone in as 'affordable', but as a detached house with three bedrooms and a double garage will probably go on the market for at least £250,000. Is there anything that we can do as a County Council to improve this situation?

(Pages 197 - 198)

16.11. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Highways from County Councillor Lucy Roberts**

While I totally understand the lack of funding for Highways, and the need to prioritise the most heavily used roads, I have a concern about the long term future of many of the unclassified lanes. The ever increasing size and weight of agricultural machinery is breaking the back of some of the lanes and others are losing their surface and becoming increasingly rough. We are not just talking about pot holes here. Is there any long term plan for the maintenance of these roads or will residents have to accept that, at some time in the future four wheel drive vehicles might become a necessity?

(Pages 199 - 200)

16.12. Question to the Leader from County Councillor Jackie Charlton

I would like to ask a question of Rosemarie Harris as Leader about the Welsh Government White Paper 'Services fit for the future' which outlines changes to the way that quality and governance will be measured and delivered in future. One of the proposals is around 'co-production' (another way of saying partnerships) especially between professionals and those people using different services.

An element of this is to find a more co-operative and efficient way of delivering a framework with checks and balances for patients and clients of the two areas of delivery, health and social care.

The proposal of most interest to me as a councillor and member of Powys Community Health Council is to replace existing Community Health Councils with a new 'independent body' that will be charged with bringing together inspection/regulation and hearing the citizens voice. Powys Community Health Council is responding independently therefore the Health Board and presumably Powys County Council will have responded too.

My questions:-

1. I would like to know what Powys County Council have said in response to this consultation which ended on 29 September 2017.
2. Secondly, the notion that inspection and regulation is the same as hearing the citizen voice is very troubling. They are not the same. What is your view as a past Chair of the Community Health Council and as Leader of Powys County Council which delivers social care and aspires to future integration with Powys Local Health Board in future?

(To Follow)

16.13. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Property and Waste from County Councillor William Powell

What assessment has been made of the relevance of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to Powys County Council's policies around asset management and disposal? In particular, will the Cabinet Member look to refreshing the Council's current approach, so as to involve Town and Community councils more fully at an earlier stage in the process?

Localism is central to the new Welsh Government legislation and therefore, when decisions are being made about the disposal and re-purposing of assets, it would be not only courteous and transparent but also common sense to draw upon the local knowledge and expertise available in our communities.

(Pages 201 - 202)

16.14. Question to the Portfolio Holder for HR from County Councillor Gwilym Williams

Can the portfolio holder inform me how many staff have left Powys County Council across all departments and gone to the health board since we are now working more closely together? Could this figure be since the beginning of the partnership about October last year with the health board?

(Pages 203 - 204)

16.15. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Highways from County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe

Over the last couple of years the cabinet has supported free parking in pay and display carparks across the county to support local traders on the run up to Christmas. Will the new cabinet be introducing a similar scheme this year?

(Pages 205 - 206)

16.16. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Finance from County Councillor David Jones

On the County Council's Garth small holding estate in Guilsfield there are two houses that have been unoccupied for some time. One for three years and one for two years. How much has the council tax fund actually received for these two properties up to the 30th September this year?

(Pages 207 - 208)

16.17. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Countryside Services from County Councillor David Jones

On the County Council's Garth small holdings estate there is a range of Victorian farm buildings that have long been redundant. Over the years the county council has put in two planning applications on these buildings but both have been withdrawn at a late stage. How much has the small holdings dept. paid out on two planning applications, two Listed Building applications, professional fees and officer time to no avail?

(Pages 209 - 210)