

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER -
COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON TUESDAY, 10 JULY 2018**

PRESENT

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)

County Councillors A W Davies, MC Alexander, P Davies, J Evans, S M Hayes,
R Powell and M Weale

In attendance: County Councillor P Roberts

1.	MINUTES
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The Leader was authorised to sign the minutes of the last meeting held on 19 June 2018 as a correct record.

2.	APOLOGIES
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There were no apologies for absence.

3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
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There were no declarations of interest reported.

4.	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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The Director of Social Services presented the report for 2017/18 noting that she had not been Director during this time and acknowledging the contributions of her predecessors. The report recognised that it had been a very challenging year for social services but also noted that thanks to the hard work of staff, corporate colleagues, partner organisations and political support some significant improvements were beginning to be delivered. The report also set out the priorities for 2018/19. advised that her next report would be co-designed with service users and partner organisations.

The Leader joined the Portfolio Holders and Director in thanking the staff for their work and in looking forward to further improvements with a stable leadership team in place.

5.	FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND FORECAST AS AT 31ST MAY 2018
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The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport presented the report for the period ended 31 May. This was the first report of the new financial year and included details of 3 Welsh Government grants and a number of virements.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision
1. That the contents of the report are noted by Cabinet.	To monitor the council's financial performance and ensure that spending remains within approved limits and that the 3% minimum general fund reserve is maintained.
2. To approve the virements and accept the grants detailed in paragraphs 5.1.1. and 5.1.2 of the report.	

6. CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD TO 31ST MAY 2018

Cabinet received details of the capital programme for 2018/19 which, after accounting for virements rolled forward from the last financial year was £106.353m. The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport asked for Finance to be kept informed of any slippage in the programme.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision
That the contents of the report are noted by Cabinet.	To outline capital budget provision as at 31st May 2018.

7. SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA REVIEW

The Portfolio Holder for Learning and the Welsh Language explained that the new funding formula for schools had been developed by a Formula Review Group, with support from officers in Education and Finance and an external expert. School leaders had been consulted throughout the process. Whilst the new formula would not provide any additional funds it would help establish the cost of provision and ensure that funds were distributed fairly. A consultation would run between 17 September and 26 October and would inform recommendations for the formula for 2019/20, to come to Cabinet in November.

County Councillor Pete Roberts expanded on the views of the Learning Skills and Economy Scrutiny Committee as reported in the paper circulated with the agenda. The Committee had been concerned that the report lacked detail in some areas but had been reassured by the commitment given to them that there would be a further opportunity for scrutiny in September before the consultation started.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
That Cabinet approves the overall design of a revised funding formula for schools.	To inform the next stage of detailed formula development.
That Cabinet delegates the decision to proceed with full consultation with all schools to the Portfolio Holders for Learning and Welsh Language and for Finance.	To ensure the project timeline provides for adequate consultation and a clear recommendation for budget setting.

8.	WELSH GOVERNMENT TARGETED REGENERATION INVESTMENT PROGRAMME
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Cabinet received details of the Welsh Government Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme (TRIP) that supports capital projects promoting economic regeneration in a small number of Regeneration Areas. The programme was being overseen and delivered on a regional basis through the Growing Mid Wales (GMW) Partnership. A draft Regional Regeneration Plan had been prepared to provide a framework for investment under the programme and an evaluation panel had recommended a number of schemes across Ceredigion and Powys for inclusion in the Plan.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
That the Cabinet endorses the draft Regional Regeneration Plan and list of initial projects recommended for prioritisation by the GWM Panel for inclusion in the Plan.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To maximise the opportunity of the investment and benefit that can be secured for Powys and the Mid Wales Region through the TRI Programme. 2. To enable submission of the regeneration proposals for the TRI Programme by the Growing Mid Wales Partnership to Welsh Government.

9.	CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2017-18 QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE REPORT
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Cabinet received details of performance in quarter 4 of 2017-18 against the Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP) 2016-20 which was based on the previous administration's priorities. At the end of March 2018, 75% of planned work contained within the Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP) and supporting plans received a BRAG status of blue or green with 25% indicating amber or red. The overall RAG status of the CIP for the year 2017-18 was amber and out of the 35 measures contained within the CIP only 32% met target. 57% were off target and 34% off target by more than 10%.

Portfolio Holders reported on the remedial actions being taken in their services in response to the missed targets highlighted in the report.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
To approve the Management Team remedial actions for the Critical Items to ensure that performance improves in these areas.	To ensure effective evaluation of progress in implementing the Council's Corporate Improvement Plan for the year 2017-18 and remedial action is understood and implemented

10. DRAFT RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Cabinet was asked to consider approving the Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan to go out for consultation before coming back to Cabinet and then full Council for formal approval. Officers answered questions from members on the challenges of managing the largest rights of way network in the UK at a time of reduced funding and highlighted the role of volunteers.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
<p>To approve the Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan in Appendix 1 to be subjected to the statutory 12 week public consultation.</p> <p>A report will be presented to Cabinet following consultation in due course.</p>	<p>For the Council to uphold its statutory duty to review the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.</p>

11. TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2017/18

Cabinet received and considered the Treasury Management report for 2017/18. The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport advised that in view of historically low interest rates the Council's cash reserves had been run down and the cash used to repay debts or support capital expenditure.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision
To note the contents of the report.	Statutory requirement

12. SCHOOLS SERVICE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Cabinet considered the new schools safeguarding policy and safeguarding audit for schools. Cabinet was advised that the schools service was following up on any issues identified in the audit and would be providing guidance and training to the schools including on emerging risks. The service would also be producing an action plan and reality checking the audit.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
<p>Cabinet to note the new Safeguarding Policy and the findings of the Safeguarding Audit.</p>	<p>Agree for the service to implement the plan and keep them updated on progress.</p>

13. COMMISSIONING COMMERCIAL AND PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

Cabinet considered the Commissioning Commercial and Procurement Strategy. Cabinet welcomed the Strategy and the support it could give to developing the

local economy by contracting with local companies wherever this is practicable and within the requirements of public procurement legislation and value for money. The figure for local spending, excluding large capital projects, was approximately 37% having been at 32% for some time. It was agreed to include this figure in future performance reports to monitor the effectiveness of the policy.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
To approve the Commissioning Commercial and Procurement Strategy.	The Council's Commissioning and Procurement Strategy will play a pivotal role in the achievement of the Powys Vision 2025. This Strategy will create the framework within which the Council will work to turn its Vision into practice.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence.

15. DELEGATED DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Cabinet noted the delegated decisions taken since the last meeting.

16. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Cabinet received details of the forward work programme.

17. EXEMPT ITEMS

RESOLVED to exclude the public for the following item of business on the grounds that there would be disclosure to them of exempt information under category 1 of The Local Authorities (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007).

18. IMPROVEMENT AND ASSURANCE BOARD MINUTES

Cabinet received the minutes of the last meeting of the Improvement and Assurance Board held on 30 May 2018.

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)